

# **Watershed Committee Information Meeting**

## **Wednesday, February 15, 2023 - 7PM at the Town Hall**

The Watershed Committee will have an information meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 7PM at the Town Hall to report their progress and thought process moving forward to protect the Lake Spofford Watershed. Items to be discussed include: 1) Water Testing results and plans, 2) Grants for work or planning around Lake Spofford, 3) Short-term Recommendations to the Selectman, and 4) Longer-term thoughts on recommendations to changes in the Town Building and zoning ordinances.

Below is a summary of the short and longer-term directions that the committee is considering that will be discussed in further detail at the information meeting. Your input is welcome.

### **Recommended short-term changes (2023)**

1. Changes to Building Permit (Whole Town)
  - Include total amount of land being disturbed.
  - A question asking if all required State and Federal Permits have been applied for and received.
  - Require a copy of all the required State and Federal permits for the building permit application.
  - Ask if the work on their property is within 250 feet of Spofford Lake or the Town Protected Shoreland Brooks, Rivers, and Streams called out in section 209.1 of the Zoning Ordinances.
2. Correct Building Ordinance 13.08 in Building Ordinance (2011)
  - Correct reference to existing regulations.

### **Longer-term Directions**

1. Establish a Watershed District.
2. In watershed district, require permitting for
  - New Driveway Installations and Driveway Modifications
  - Alteration to Property that changes runoff of water from owner's property.
3. Modify Town Ordinances to encourage the use of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques while also requiring oversight when impervious surfaces exceed more than 20% of ground coverage.
  - Examples of LID strategies are pervious pavement, rain gardens, green roofs, bioretention basins and swales, filtration trenches, and other functionally similar Best Management Practices (BMPs) located near the stormwater runoff source.
  - A professionally engineered solution using LID techniques is required when impervious surfaces and LID surfaces combine to exceed the 20% limit of impervious surfaces on a property.
4. Modify Section 209.1 in Zoning Ordinances 2022 to make it possible for Town oversight of existing Regulations.
  - Require a permit for any work within 250 feet of the mentioned water bodies. These water bodies are Catsbane Brook, Gulf Brook, Patridge Brook, Very Brook, Hubbard Brook, Town Brook, or CT River for section 209.1 of the Towns Zoning Ordinance.