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May 10, 2021

Judy Rosovsky, Chair

Richmond Conservation Commission

Town of Richmond

P.O. Box 285

Richmond, VT 05477

Dear Judy,

In 2017, the Richmond Conservation Commission recommended and the Selectboard approved making a four-year pledge of \$150,000 from the Conservation Reserve Fund to the campaign to raise \$750,000 to save Gillett Pond by replacing its failing dam.

Having made considerable progress toward the necessary funding and permitting for the dam, Richmond Land Trust is asking the Town of Richmond to renew its pledge, the largest amount received or pledged to date. This level of Town support for the project has been key to much of our success so far in making sure Gillett Pond remains the irreplaceable community resource it has been for generations of our residents and others in our area.

Through those efforts, the Friends of Gillett Pond and Richmond Land Trust have now raised a total of \$500,000 in gifts and pledges, largely through major donations sought on a one-by-one, face-to-face effort in Richmond and Huntington. The Town of Huntington has pledged \$75,000 toward the Gillett Pond Campaign. In addition, RLT has received a major gift of land that expands the protective zone around the Pond.

During the past year, private fundraising has been challenged by the personal contact restrictions brought on by the pandemic, however we are approaching the point where a feasible public effort can be made to raise the final \$250,000. We also continue to explore all sources of grant funding, including funds that could be available through Federal COVID relief packages.



Critically, all necessary federal, state and local permits for the dam reconstruction have been obtained and stand ready to allow us to begin the project. The current dam, built well over 100 years ago, has managed to stay intact over the last four years but it could still fail at any time. Based on fluctuating water levels, the dam appears to be leaking more than ever, making the Pond, its aquatic life and year-round recreational opportunities much more vulnerable to dry periods, such as those of last summer.

The support of both Richmond's and Huntington's governments for the project has greatly helped us in our work to raise the additional funds we need to save Gillett Pond. We respectfully ask the Richmond Conservation Commission to pass this request on to the Selectboard with the recommendation that the Town renew its pledge of \$150,000 through July of 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fritz Martin", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Fritz Martin, Chair  
Gillett Pond Fundraising Committee

Richmond Conservation Commission

May 11 2021 meeting

Motion to recommend that the Richmond Selectboard approve the renewal of the Conservation Reserve Fund application for the Gillett Dam project, in the original amount of \$150,000, with a new sunset date of May 2024.

This project meets Conservation Reserve Fund criteria A1, A2, A4, A7, B1, B4, B7 and B8.

The motion passed unanimously