

**September 20, 2024**

**Dear Neighbor of the Bel Air Dam,**

Because you live near the Bel Air Dam off of Wahconah Street in Pittsfield and/or have expressed an interest in learning more about the City's efforts to address the dam's issues, Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity is bringing you this update. The following information was provided by AECOM, the engineering firm working with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Office of Dam Safety (ODS), and the City of Pittsfield to address the dam's deficiencies.

### **1. Project Info Website is LIVE**

All project information is available at [www.belairdamremoval.com](http://www.belairdamremoval.com). This link provides past public meeting presentations, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), upcoming project "events" such as permit hearings, and contact information.



Please visit this website to learn more about the project, or to share a question with project managers. Your feedback is important.

### **2. Current Project Status**

Since the last community meeting in December 2023, the project team has been working diligently on the project design and plans. Project staff are currently working to secure the necessary local, state, and federal permits required. All permit applications are available here: [News – Bel Air Dam \(belairdamremoval.com\)](http://News - Bel Air Dam (belairdamremoval.com)).

Many permits offer a public comment period. Currently, there is an open comment period for a Notice of Intent to the Pittsfield Conservation Commission; **this is expected to remain open through October 3, 2024. There is also an open comment period for a Chapter 91 permit through September 23, 2024.**



The final design for the project is expected to go to bid this fall.

### **3. Community Information Session**

DCR and community partners hosted a community meeting in December 2023 with

strong attendance. At this meeting, we heard many concerns, which have been incorporated into the project design.

As we near the end of the design phase, we're planning to host another community information session on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Polish Falcon Club located at 32 Bel Air Ave in Pittsfield. Light refreshments will be served.

At this meeting we will:

- Share updates on the project design – dam removal, sediment removal, and habitat and stream restoration.
- Discuss community impacts anticipated during construction, and mitigation measures such as traffic changes, air quality monitoring, and plans for contaminated materials.
- Hear additional concerns and questions, with ample time for discussion and information sharing.
- Identify how the project managers and community members can identify urgent concerns during construction, and how concerns will be addressed.

Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity is happy to be a resource for you, our neighbors in the community, by connecting you with key information about the neighborhoods we live in. If you have any questions that aren't addressed in the website above that AECOM has created, feel free to reach out to our Community Navigators with questions or concerns. Email: [connecting@berkshirehabitat.org](mailto:connecting@berkshirehabitat.org) or call: 413.442.3181 extension 0.

Working together to make a difference,

Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity