Town of Lisbon

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MEMO

To: Town Council
From: Glenn Michalowski, Town Manager
Subject: Department of Maine Marine Resources - Mill St Project
Date: September 17, 2024

Summary

Casey Clark of the Department of Maine Marine Resources will report out on the Mill St Project.
The former textile mill at the Mill Street site, often referred to as Joliet Mill, operated for at least 75 years and had buildings that spanned the Sabattus River. Since 2003, several investigations and removals have been performed at the site including removing mercury contaminated sediments from the former filtration building. In 2012 or 2013, the dam failed due to debris that had accumulated on the gate structure and heavy rains from a tropical storm. In 2018, Maine DOT replaced the Mill Street bridge and the town water line, which had been on the river bed, was hung under the new bridge. In 2019, Maine DMR removed the remaining spillway from the dam, which allowed for Maine DEP to remove mercury from contaminated sediments from the river bed including in areas adjacent to the former water line.

The river channel at this site has been heavily modified and likely moved several hundred feet south from its natural alignment. Today the channel is forced to pass over a three foot-tall rock ledge and the channel cannot be restored to its historical location due to proximity to the bridge just upstream. Very few fish can ascend the site (less than 10% based on visual observations in 2021-2022) and the site is not passable during most spring flow conditions. To address this passage issue and further cleanup the site, Maine DMR has mobilized at the site to remove the remaining concrete from the river channel and remove some bedrock from the riverbed to create appropriate water depth for fish to pass the site. The final site may also include a rock weir below the existing ledges to create a single step downstream of the ledges and direct flow to the main channel downstream of the site. The work started September 3rd and we expect the project to be complete by September 30th. The contractor onsite is Linkel Environmental Construction from Topsham, Maine and they will be working regular work hours (approximately 7-5) Monday-Friday.

Recommendation

Attachments

1. Sabattus_MillSt_DesignMemo_04.15.24_reduced