

Atlantic Salmon Federation Vice President of U.S. Programs Andy Goode sent Alna selectmen the following email on Dec. 30:

“This is just a little follow-up from the Selectmen’s meeting earlier this month where we discussed the Head Tide Dam.

“ASF would be willing to participate and pay for any needed consultant costs if you would like to continue with the committee whether it stays the same or you choose to reconfigure it. As we discussed my concern is if the committee is told it cannot consider any modification to the (dam’s) two current openings then they may feel too constrained and not feel such a committee is justified. I realize you are concerned with any recommendation that would result in a violation of the deed covenant. I have thought that possibly a ‘package’ of improvements or benefits that include improved fish passage, better public safety, and increased future resiliency is something the community might be able to get behind and at the same time not violate the spirit of the gift of the dam to the town. I fully realize this is up to your judgment. I am willing to consider improvements to fish passage that would not meet the standards the state and federal fisheries agencies want but in talking to a variety of people with fish passage expertise over the past two weeks they are hard pressed to suggest anything that does not involve some modification of the two current openings.

“If you decide a committee is warranted you might have it concentrate on one or more items such as improved fish passage, structural longevity (how does the town ensure any part of it won’t fail or continue to deteriorate), public safety (i.e. railings, paths etc.), and community engagement.

“There is no silver bullet solution. Maybe we try to focus on further documenting the problem with individual fish species during the May 1 to June 15 migratory window. Maybe we take a year and focus on community engagement. I’ll wait for your further guidance on how best to proceed.

“Thank you for your time on this matter.”