

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VILLAGE OF RHINEBECK TO UNDERTAKE REPAIRS OF ASHER DAM

Mayor Jim Reardon announced today that the Village of Rhinebeck will be undertaking repairs of Asher Dam at Crystal Lake. Reardon states "There was significant damage to Asher Dam as a result of tropical storms Irene and Lee". There are two valves located at the base of the dam that are used to control the water levels at the lake. Debris that washed over the spillway during the storms damaged one of the valves and it is non functional and the other while still operational did incur damage.

Reardon states "In order to operate these valves we are required to enter the water. This of course is a very dangerous situation and cannot be accomplished during high water flows. We have designed a new system that will re-route the valves to the side of the stream and away from the spillway. Once this is done there will be no further risk of damage and we will not have to enter the Landsman Kill in order to actuate the valves. The end result will be much safer, more manageable and allow us to effectively manage the water levels at the Lake".

A test has been conducted whereby the water level in Crystal Lake was dropped 36" over a 26 hour period. Reardon says "We are now allowing the Lake to recover and I am continually monitoring the rate of recovery. This will allow us to determine how much we need to lower the water level in order to allow the contractors enough time to affect the repair before the water once again falls over the spillway".

In closing Reardon states, "In another week to ten days this project will be completed and we will be able to manage the water level at the Lake and as a result we should see a marked improvement in the drainage issues upstream from Crystal Lake. We would like to thank everyone for their cooperation while this work is under way".