

## **I have a beaver dam on my property, what should I do?**

As Wetlands Enforcement Officer, I have received calls from worried residents asking what the town can do to help if they have a beaver dam on their property.

If a beaver dam is on private property, the Town has no jurisdiction over it.

Beavers are nature's creatures. We cannot regulate their activity. We can only regulate the way people respond to the beaver activity. If people do any work within 100 feet of the inland wetlands, they need to contact the Land Use Office to see if they require inland wetlands permits.



When beavers create a dam, often this causes flooding on nearby properties. People often call to have the beavers trapped. Beavers are not rehomed when they are trapped. They are euthanized. While beaver trapping offers immediate relief from flooding from beaver activity, if the conditions are favorable for beavers, more will return, and the problem will continue, making this only a short-term solution.

Beaver deceivers/water leveling systems provide long-term solutions, 8-10 years, that allow beavers and people to peacefully co-exist. A pipe is installed into the beaver dam which allows water to flow, releasing the blockage. The other end of the pipe is farther out into the water. That part of the pipe has a cage around it, so the beavers cannot clog it with leaves and sticks. The beavers can continue their activity, and they will no longer cause any damming or flooding in that area.

Beavers are considered a "keystone" species. The removal of beavers from their natural setting leads to a decrease in habitat quality. Their presence in nature greatly affects other wildlife. Beavers create biodiversity and improve water quality.

There are professionals trained to install these beaver deceiver/water leveling systems, and there is grant money available to pay for them. If you are interested in learning more about

these systems, please contact the Land Use Office for more information about them and any necessary permitting.

As always, please contact us with any questions. We're here to help.

Kathy King, Certified Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Officer