Since the Yarmouth Town Council last discussed dam removal, the Royal River Alliance, its allies, and state and federal agencies have invested effort and money to significantly simplify the dialog at the Bridge Street dam. The current Council's job is easier than the job of previous Councils, with respect to Bridge Street dialog. Original source documents for the statements below are all at https://rrct.org/water-quality-royal-estuary-bay-and-tributaries/

- Hydropower generation has been taken off the table at Bridge Street/Sparhawk. In April 2020 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) took action removing all hydropower scenarios. Municipal and Sparhawk leases for dam operation and hydropower no longer complicate dialog. Notice of planned litigation that led to FERC action no longer complicates dialog.
- The fish ladder at Bridge Street has been deemed obsolete and beyond repair. In September 2019, the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR, the owner of the fish ladder) wrote, "DMR would like to clarify that we do not recommend nor intend upon repairing or fixing the existing fishways."
- The sediment behind the Bridge Street dam is clean. In November 2017, The Nature Conservancy and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection concluded that the sediment that would be mobilized by Bridge Street dam removal is clean --- cleaner than the sediment in the harbor.
- The quantity of sediment behind the Bridge Street dam is known, and manageable. In June 2015, studies concluded that at most 5,000 cubic yards of sediment behind the Bridge Street dam would be mobilized by its removal, as a one-time impact
- The cost of "nature-like" or other new technical fish ladders is more than the cost of removal of the entirely obsolete dam. In January 2018, the consulting firm Inter-fluve concluded that dam removal is by far both the cheapest and most effective option at Bridge Street to provide for the passage of fish.
- Keeping the dam will cost the taxpayers of Yarmouth more than removing the dam. Inter-fluve's January 2018 report estimates that the long-term costs of keeping the dam are roughly the same as the costs of dam removal, even with no action (continued failure) on fish passage. 2020 FERC action additionally assigned the costs of the penstock to the municipality. While no funds are available to help the municipal taxpayers manage the obsolete dam, ample available funding sources such as the Maine Natural Resource Compensation Program (MNRCP) would pay 100% of costs of dam removal (except permitting.) In 2020 the taxpayers of Yarmouth paid into the MNRCP pool fund (school expansion wetland impacts) but the town has made no proposal to compete for use of available pooled funds for wetland benefits such as dam removal.
- Middle Falls is not a barrier for fish, with a bit more effort. The United States Fish & Wildlife Service in October 2017 concluded that with a few days of stone work by a small crew, the Factory Channel bypass of Middle Falls would support fish passage. A September 2018 report describes earlier stone work already completed removing obstructions in Factory Channel. Some fish at some water levels can swim up Middle Falls itself.
- Fisheries and habitat and water quality opportunities -- including Casco Bay water quality and fisheries habitat -- are now clearly predicted by experts. In April 2020, the United States Army Corps of Engineers simplified previous habitat analysis by expertly and simply concluding that Royal River restoration would benefit "blueback herring, alewives, American shad, American eel, sea run brook trout, brown trout, and sea lamprey. Restoring fish passage on the Royal River will also benefit mammals and avian predators that prey upon fish species that include bears, foxes, eagles, ospreys

and loons. Likewise, water quality conditions may be expected to improve due the resumption of historic flushing patterns. The federally listed threatened Atlantic Sturgeon, the endangered Shortnose Sturgeon, and the endangered Atlantic salmon are recorded to occur within the Royal River. Restoring the Royal River will likely support the federally listed threatened Atlantic Sturgeon and endangered Shortnose Sturgeon overwintering habitat for adults, reproductive and nursery habitat for egg and juvenile life stages."

- Sea-run Brook Trout exist in a stream that feeds Yarmouth Harbor. Maine Audubon, Trout Unlimited, and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife's Coastal Stream Survey in 2019 and also in earlier years documented brook trout in a stream that feeds Yarmouth Harbor.

While not all species of fish will benefit from Bridge Street dam removal with no action at East Elm Street's dam, the recreational fishery in the Royal River Park will be transformed by Bridge Street dam removal alone. Improving the recreational fishery along the park would be a significant community benefit. This will set the stage for future analysis of more complex options including fish passage and ecology at East Elm Street.