



Friends of HRA Inc.
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Holland, MA 01521

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www.hamiltonreservoir.com

Spring 2020

Message from President: I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well, during this very difficult time. Please continue to respect social distancing and being safe. We can only hope and pray that we'll be enjoying our Lake by June!

The Board of Directors (BOD) of Friends of HRA, Inc. decided that in the best interest of our members we are canceling our May 9, 2020 members meeting. Included in this newsletter are Board's reports that we would have been discussed at the May meeting. At this time, we are hoping to have our August meeting and other events. We will contact you if any of these events are cancelled. Because the Aqua Rider's summer show was changed to August 22nd; we have changed our **Members Meeting from August 22, 2020 to August 29, 2020 -8:30 am.**

The BOD decided to add a Vice President to the President position to the board. This position would basically shadow me for 1-2 years, then move into the President's position. Please let me know if you're interested or would like to discuss further. Email: mccooehanson@gmail.com. I am very serious about leaving my position as President in an effort to fully retire. We need new blood! We would hate to see all the work the FHRA has accomplished over the years go to waste. We have a great BOD and volunteers that help with getting things done.

We have 6 FHRA members on the Town's Lake Oversight Committee (LOC). LOC meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Town Hall at 6:45 pm. Please plan to attend one of the meetings. While Town Hall is closed and you want the call-in information, let me know and I will forward you. LOC is looking for a small committee of FHRA members to work with LOC and the Town on a plan to have work done on the Mashapaug culvert and causeway. This work was one of two important projects that came out of the Feasibility Study. The second project was a Stormwater Management plan. Our Town's Grant writer is working on 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant. If you have any experience in these two areas, please contact me. It's important to the Lake and us to continue keeping it healthy.

Also, some of our BY-LAWS may be updated which requires the membership to vote on. So, please plan to attend the August 29th meeting.

Additionally, if you are not current on your membership dues, please send in your dues and donations as soon as possible. ***The "last date you paid your dues"*** can be found above your address on the last page of this newsletter.

Lastly and most importantly, I want to **THANK YOU ALL** for your membership, support, dues/donations and your time. We are one lake - let's work together to preserve this precious body of water - OUR Lake. We have power in numbers!

Membership Report - Cheri Fisher

Hope this finds all our current and new members well. Here are our most up to date paid membership details:

2020 - 22 members paid

2019 -179 members paid

2018 – 80 members paid

It is good to see our numbers grow. We will continue this next year to reach out to those who have either lapsed in their membership or may not know we are here. It is important for all residents living by or on the lake to help support the efforts made to keep the lake safe and healthy.

If you have ideas on how we might be able to reach out to more potential members, or would like to help, please reach out and let me know. Having just started with this board last May I am very interested to hear your thoughts on current membership, what you like, what you don't like and of course any ideas you might have. Email me at: fotobird24@yahoo.com.

Lake Oversight Committee (LOC) - Lynn Johnson

The Lake Oversight Committee (LOC) is an advisory committee reporting directly to the Select Board. We are comprised of representatives of the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Friends of the Hamilton Reservoir Association (FHRA) and ad hoc members. Our mission is to facilitate lake and watershed maintenance, safety and preservation.

The LOC works to identify and find solutions for existing problems and future needs to ensure that Hamilton Reservoir continues to be an asset to be enjoyed by present and future generations. Over this past year (and continuing into 2020) these activities have included:

- **Causeway/Culvert Repair:** We have begun working with National Grid to address utility pole issues on the causeway that present safety concerns for those that are walking and fishing on stretch of road. National Grid agreed to perform an Engineering study at no cost to the Town. The Town would be responsible for implementation. With the long-term objective of implementing structural and aesthetic improvements to the causeway.
- **Draw Down:** The LOC is drafting a draw-down procedure. These revised procedures will improve coordination and communication with the residents and provide a clear timeline for people planning lake-front maintenance activity as well as notifying residents about the draw-down impact on well water.
- **Spillway/Dam:** According to the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, the spillway requires specific ongoing maintenance. Based on the next required inspection scheduled for this year, we will be working with various community stakeholders in order to implement any recommendations.
- **Request for Proposal (RFP) (Feasibility Study) for Dredging:** Has been completed and a preliminary review was presented to FHRA and the Select Board. We are currently working with the town Grant Writer to identify potential funding sources for this project.
- **Invasive Weed (Fan Wort):** Discovered in the lake by Solitude (2017) was removed again in 2018 & 2019, diver hand-pulled the weed and disposal of it. Milfoil will be treated in June 2020 and other weeds in the fall.
- **Storm Water Management:** The LOC is currently working with the Grant Writer to finalize an application through a grant program that is authorized under Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act.
- **Weed Treatment:** We are currently in the process of negotiating a contract for the necessary annual weed treatments needed in order to maintain the lake. The final contact will be negotiated with the objective of maximizing the service that the contractor will provide to the town at reasonable cost.
- **Lake Patrol/Lake By-Laws:** We are in the process of reviewing Lake and Dock By-Laws, with the objective of making recommendation for amendments to these by-laws that will provide greater protection for those engaged in activity on the lake. We continue to work with the Police Department regarding the Lake Patrol schedule in order to assure police coverage that will maximize resources and better ensure enforcement of the lake by-laws.
- **Wash-off Station:** Consideration of putting into place a wash-off station at the public boat launch.

Currently, the LOC meets in Community Room at Town Hall on the first and third Tuesday of every month at the Town Hall at 6:45 pm directly after the Select Board meeting. The public is welcome. Please consider joining the Committee and/or visiting one or more of our meetings.

Board members include:

Christine McCooe, Chair
Larry Mandell, BOS

Dori-Ann Ference, Co-Chair
Sam Spratlin, Conservation

Lynn Johnson, Secretary
Marcia Lee
Al Johnson, Planning Board

Environment & Safety - Tom Wilhelm

Weed Treatments

SOLitude performed 3 weed treatments for us in 2019.

The first, on June 12, was for the treatment of *Variable Watermilfoil*. We perform this treatment annually every June to keep this invasive weed under control. ***The next treatment is planned for June 17, 2020. Stay off the lake that day.***

The second, on August 27, was to treat for a large, unexpected growth of *Ribbon Pondweed* and *Tape Grass*. We don't know why 2019 was such a bad year for these 2 weeds and hopefully this treatment will keep it under control for several more years.

Finally, on September 25 there was a treatment for *Watershield* (the patches of small plants on the surface that look like lily pads) in specific areas that were encroaching on beaches and water traffic patterns.

What can you do to help control the weeds in Hamilton Reservoir:

- Don't drive your boats through patches of weeds
- If you see weeds floating on the surface or on your beach, remove them
- Remove weeds from your propeller after each outing
- Pull up weeds or rake them out of your waterfront making sure to get the roots as well
- Discard of all weeds in your trash or a compost area that is far away from the water
- Pay attention to the emails and signs posted along the road & at beaches regarding weed treatments & stay off the lake for 24 hours. The water needs to be calm during that period of time for the treatment to be effective.

Blue-Green Algae

Blue-Green Algae has received a lot of attention in the media over the past several years. Every summer you hear of beaches being closed because of it. So, what exactly is Blue-Green Algae and why does it close beaches? First, it's not an Algae at all, algae is a plant. Blue-Green Algae is actually a *Cyanobacteria*, which was one of the first life signs in Earth's evolution. It is naturally found in almost all bodies of water along the bottom. It stores sugars as food reserves which is better metabolized at warmer temperatures. This causes gas pocket to form in the cells that causes the sheets of bacteria to raise to the surface causing a Blue-Green Algae bloom. Some, but not all, of these blooms can be toxic to humans, pets, and wildlife. Testing takes place to determine if the particular bloom is toxic, and if so, at what levels. Beaches are typically shut down during this determination time and beyond if found to be at dangerous levels.

Hamilton Reservoir has all but one of the conditions that cause blooms. The conditions are High Nutrient Loads, Warm Water, Anoxic Conditions (Sediment Nutrients), and Low "Flushing" rates. Due to the good current we have in the lake, we have High "Flushing" rates. However, some of the coves and inlets may be more susceptible due to the lower currents found there.

So, what can you do about it? If you see a bloom, you can report it to the Holland Board of Health at (413) 245-7108 ext. 112, or use an app called "*BloomWatch*". Also, repairs to the culvert in the Causeway, drainage repairs, and dredging are the long-term solution to the problem. Contact the town Selectmen and voice your support for moving those projects forward with appropriate funding. While the cost of bloom control is significant, the cost of not controlling the blooms may be higher.

Asian Clams Asian Clams (not to be confused with the much larger native clams and mussels found in Hamilton Reservoir) have now been found in our lake. These highly invasive and destructive clams are small, averaging less than

1.5", and are light green/ light brown in color with distinctive elevated concentric ridges on their shell. They form dense clusters, often over 6000 animals per square meter. These heavy clusters can cover the deepest areas of a waterbody and threaten the native mussels and other water life. These clusters of shells can be removed manually by labor intensive scraping but although this removes the mussels, microscopic veliger's (infant stage) will remain in the water and will re-colonize the area. **They will also damage equipment which includes boat motors, intake pipes, and irrigation systems** by populating and building clusters inside them, causing plugging and overheating.

How did they get here? Most likely off the bottom of boats and trailers being launched at Hamilton Reservoir after being in an infected waterway prior.

So, what can you do about them? If you find clusters, remove and destroy them. If you have an outboard motor, raise it when not in use. If you have an inboard or inboard/outboard, raise the boat out of the water when not in use. And **ALWAYS** thoroughly clean your boat and trailer after removing and before launching it between bodies of water.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™



Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
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When you leave a body of water:

- **CLEAN, DRAIN** and **DRY** anything that came into contact with water and remove all plants and other debris from boats, trailers, equipment, etc.
- **NEVER** release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came from that body of water.

IT'S THE LAW!
Up to \$5,000 fine MGL c. 21 s. 37B
302 CMR 18

To Report Violations: Contact your Local Harbormaster or
Massachusetts Environmental Police at (800) 632-8075
www.mass.gov/lakesandponds

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

A. Clean, Drain, Dry. All visible plants, mud, or other debris should be removed. All drain plugs should be pulled with any standing water allowed to fully drain. The watercraft and equipment should then be allowed to fully dry for 1 week during July and August, 2 weeks in June and September, and 4 weeks before and after these dates. Dry times should be longer if weather has been unseasonably cool or wet.

Note: Vessels that have been exposed to freezing temperatures for the winter are considered to be decontaminated.

OR

B. Clean, Drain, Decontaminate. After cleaning and draining, use an approved decontamination method or combination of methods on all vessel parts in contact with water and carpeted trailer bunks:

Steam or Scalding Hot Wash (>140 degrees): To achieve this temperature at the surface being cleaned, water temperature must be as close to 155 degrees as possible at the nozzle (Note: Caution should be taken as this temperature may cause scalding to exposed skin). Keep contact for 10 seconds or more. High pressure spray is best to clean the outside surfaces of vessels and low pressure should be used to flush live wells, bilges, ballasts, and engines. Run the water through the craft's cooling system for at least 10 seconds at 140 degrees. Use "ears" for outboards, or garden hose for personal watercraft and inboards as you would normally for winterization or running while out of water.

Note: All decontamination procedures should be implemented away from water bodies and storm drains draining to watercourses.

Cleaning Solutions

Disinfectant	Concentration	Contact Time
Steam/Scalding hot wash	>140°F	10 Seconds
Chlorine/Bleach Solution	1 oz. per gallon water	10 Minutes
Lysol	1% Solution	10 Minutes
Vinegar	as sold - 100%	20 Minutes
Freezing	< 32°F	24 Hours



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To report a AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES sighting or for more information, contact Massachusetts DCR Lakes and Ponds Program at 617-626-1250 or www.mass.gov/lakesandponds

Treasurer's Report - Paula Braun

The following balances ending are as of 3/31/2020:

- Main Checking Account \$31,117.48
- 2nd Savings Account \$ 2,501.24 (Money Market)
- South Basin Boat Launch \$32,012.87
- Preservation Fund #1 \$12,907.73 (1.5% CD) (Up 6/20)
- Preservation Fund #2 \$37,609.95 (2.4% CD) (Up 6/20)
- Preservation Fund #3 \$20,107.62 (1.75% CD) (Up 11/20)
- Total Funds \$136,256.89

2020 Calendars

The Hamilton Reservoir photo calendars are still available for \$12.00. If you would like a calendar, please contact Kelly Bedard at (860) 690-5088.

Please submit your lake photos by July 10, 2020 for the 2021 calendars to mccoehanson@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, some events may be cancelled, and we'll notify you when we know more.

Milfoil Treatment MA & CT	06/12/20, Friday	Please stay off the lake on the day of treatment for at least 24 hours.
Carl Beane Softball Game	06/13/20 8:00 a.m. Hitchcock Field (across from Holland Elementary)	We have a team, come watch us win!!
FHRA Pancake Breakfast	06/14/20 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Holland Community Center	Volunteers needed
FHRA Poke Run & Picnic	07/25/20 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on the lake 3:00 pm -6 :00 p.m. Picnic and prizes at Holland Gun Club, Union Rd. (at end of dirt road)	Volunteers needed
Aqua Riders Ski Show	08/22/20, 10:00 a.m. Aqua Riders Beach on North basin	
FHRA Member Meeting	08/29/20, 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Holland Community Center	Helpers needed for setup
Paddle Skedaddle	08/30/20, 8:30 a.m. registration 10:00 a.m. race Aqua Riders Beach on North basin	Canoe, kayak, paddle board race

Note: Trails Committee has cancelled all Spring events. If you're looking for a new place to explore, maps are available on Trails website (<https://town.holland.ma.us/trails-committee>). Also cancelled is Road Race May 23.

HAMILTON RESERVIOR – EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION – Please read and learn more!

BOAT REGULATIONS: There is a lot of confusion, misinformation, and lack of knowledge regarding the boating regulations for Hamilton Reservoir. There are 3 statutes that govern the laws, the overriding one is the US Coast Guard boating regulations, followed by the state of Massachusetts, and finally the Town of Holland's. Each build upon the other, in the order listed, so Holland's regulations are IN ADDITION to Massachusetts regulations, which are in addition to the US Coast Guard's. Report any violations to the Holland Police Department at 413-245-0117 or 911. Please try to get the registration number off the offending boat's hull if possible and a description of the vessel and or where they live on the lake. Copy and paste the links below to learn more.

US Coast Guard <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/NavRules/>

MA Boating Law https://www.usps.org/e_stuff/documents/massachusetts-boating-law.pdf

Town of Holland https://town.holland.ma.us/sites/hollandma/files/pages/recreational_use_of_inland_waters_chapter_12_0.pdf

AQUATIC WEEDS: There are several types of aquatic weeds/plants in Hamilton Reservoir, some native while others are invasive, and some are beneficial while others are harmful. The following Guide to Aquatic Weeds in Massachusetts should help you determine which is which, as well as help us determine what, if any, treatment will be needed.

Aquatic Weeds in MA http://lakemirimichi.org/Assets/Aquatic%20life/A%20Guide%20to%20Aquatic%20Plants_Booklet.PDF

LAWN CARE: Here are the best practices for lawn care and fertilizing which will protect the lake while giving you a full, green lawn and saving you money at the same time:

- Create a vegetative buffer along the shoreline – leave a 10' wide unmowed/unmaintained strip and make this strip a "fertilizer-free" zone
- Don't throw or discharge grass clippings, yard waste, or leaves into the lake, compost yard waste and/or consider a mulching lawn mower
- Test your soil so you only add the nutrients you need – use phosphorus free fertilizer and slow release nitrogen
- Apply during the appropriate season
- Fill fertilizer spreaders on hard surfaces to clean up spills easily – never wash spills into storm drains
- Avoid using fertilizer on slopes
- Lightly water after applying

Any questions, please call (413) 668-6851 or email us at hamiltonreservoir@gmail.com



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FHRA MEMBERS MEETING

August 24, 2019

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JOIN THE FHRA MEMBERSHIP – THIS FORM IS FOR 2020 MEMBERSHIP

YOUR 2020 membership dues are just \$50 per family

I/we would like to join the Hamilton Reservoir Association or renew by contributing a total of:
___\$100 (dues + \$50 donation) ___\$75 (dues +\$25 donation) ___\$50 (dues only 2019)

Payment Method:

Option #1 Online: You can pay your dues online at: www.hamiltonreservoir.com.

Option #2 Check: I/we have enclosed a check in the full amount. Please make checks payable to Friends of HRA, Inc. and mail to 27 Sturbridge Rd., Unit 17, Holland, MA 01521.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Lake address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

Email: _____

Your dues and donations will be received by Friends of Hamilton Reservoir, Inc. a 501(c)3 organization. Remember to ask your employer about non-profit gift matching.

If any of your information has changed, Name, Mailing Address, etc., please use this form when sending in your dues or donations. If we do NOT have your email, send that information to us. We communicate by email during the year.

PLEASE ATTEND OUR MEMBERS MEETING AUGUST 29, 2020: 8:30 refreshments, 9 am business meeting at Holland Community Center – let your non-member neighbors or new people to Hamilton Reservoir to join us. We are ALL one lake, let's work together.

*Friends of the HRA, Inc.
27 Sturbridge Rd., Unit 17
Holland, MA 01521*

You Last Paid Dues in