



Friends of HRA Inc.  
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## Fall 2020

### **Message from the President – Christine McCooe**

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 a vaccine will be available by the end of the year. Included in this newsletter are the Board reports that we would have discussed at the August meeting.

Also, I am very pleased to announce the following recent appointments to the BOD: Robert Kamay, Vice President to the President; Marion Poe-Heineman, Treasurer; Donna Maryyanek, Events; and Bo Maryyanek, Events and Lynn Johnson, LOC Officer. I would also like to express my deep gratitude and admiration to Paula Braun who will be stepping down as Treasurer. Paula joined the board in 2016 and has been an integral part of our board. I wish her all my best as she starts a new chapter in her life as a full-fledged retiree.

Lastly and most importantly, I want to **THANK YOU** for your membership, support, dues/donations, and your time. We are one lake - let us work together to preserve this precious body of water - OUR Lake. We have power in numbers! We are the ears and eyes of the lake, everyone can help make it a better place – concerns can be directed to us, but sometimes contacting Town Officials has more impact.

### **Message from the Vice President, Robert Kamay, regarding South Basin Launch**

Shortly, we will be preparing for the end of the summer season and removing our boats for winter storage. Especially during the final weekends prior to the drawn down it is important that we are respectful of the residents on the streets used to access the south basin boat launch. The easiest way to back trailers onto the ramp is to enter using Ardmore Street. These are narrow streets and one-way traffic prevents trailers with wide loads having to encroach on homeowners' lawns to allow passage. Additionally, approaching the launch using Ardmore allows additional space to maneuver a vehicle and trailer onto the paved launching area. Entering from the opposite direction makes for a much more challenging experience, with the potential for property damage to your equipment and/or surrounding homeowners' property. Barclay Street should only be used for exiting after having used the launch.

Please make sure to remove your boats prior to the drawn down. Much effort and expense has gone into repairing the lakebed at the end of the launch. Vehicles should never need to back onto the lakebed because of late boat removals. Please pass the word to others who may not be reading this message, your assistance and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

## **Membership Report - Cheri Fisher**

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

**2020: 228 members    2019: 44 members    2018: 36 members    2017: 17 members    2016: 16 members**

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. Additionally, we have started to include dock information and boating regulations to our new member packet. 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 to Cheri Fisher at fotobird24@yahoo.com.

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.

## **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 Select Board, 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. In addition to maintaining an aggressive weed treatment program, the committee has focused its efforts on storm water management. To that end, the Committee has collaborated with the Town Grant writer and the Highway Department, to apply for a 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant. The funds, if awarded, will be used on the south basin, to address the storm water drainage from the top of Mountain Road and the intersection of Old County Road then down Mountain Road for 1300 feet down to Sandy Beach Road and down Sandy Beach road for about 100 feet. As we move through the remainder of 2020, we hope to expand a sub-committee that will evaluate the causeway and culvert to determine if changes and improvements are warranted.

The Reservoir is constantly changing due to storm events, other nearby lake drawdowns, environmental issues, and other factors. We continue to work with other town boards and departments to address these changes.

Board members include Christine McCooe, Chair, Dori-Ann Ference, Co-Chair, Lynn Johnson, Secretary, Larry Mandell, BOS, Sam Spratlin, Conservation, Al Johnson, Planning Board and Doug Cayer.

## **Environment & Safety - Tom Wilhelm**

*SOLitude* performed 2 weed treatments for us in 2020.

- June 17 was for the treatment of *Variable Watermilfoil*. We perform this treatment annually every June to keep this highly invasive weed under control. The next treatment is planned for June 2021.
- August 11 was to treat for a continued growth of *Tape Grass* and *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.
- September 14, treatment of *Watershield* (the patches of small plants on the surface that look like lily pads).

We do not know why 2020 continued to be a bad year for these 2 weeds after last year's treatment but hopefully this treatment will help keep it under control for several more years.

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

- Do not drive your boats, jet skis, or other vessels 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 and at beaches regarding weed treatments and stay off the lake for 24 hours afterwards. The water needs to stay calm during that period of time for the treatment to be effective.
- Recruit and/or communicate to your new neighbors or non-members reminding them of Lake Rules, Dock Rules and Weed Treatment days.

We have received numerous complaints about unsafe boating from residents around both basins, particularly the South Basin this year. It appears that people are either unaware of or not following the laws. Please familiarize yourself with them and share them with anyone you know who uses any watercraft on the lake. A quick summary is:

- Unmotorized craft and swimmers always have the right of way and should be given a wide berth.
- There is an implied no wake zone (headway speed) within 50 feet of the shore and in all coves and inlets.
- There is a maximum of 2 people being towed behind a boat, both tubers and skiers must be wearing life jacket (preserver), and there must be a spotter (someone not driving the boat) of at least 12 years old watching from within the boat at all times (Holland Ski Club has an exemption to this rule).

Please report any violations to the Holland Police Department and try to provide the registration number and/or boat description. If you know the address of the offending boat, that information is very useful as well. Unfortunately, the FHRA is unable to help with any of this other than providing education to the general public and directing complaints back to the HPD.

**Treasurer’s Report - Paula Braun**

The following balances ending are as of 06/30/20:

- Main Checking Account           \$42,965.37
- 2nd Savings Account           \$53,158.07 (Money Market)
- South Basin Boat Launch       \$31,647.87
- Preservation Fund #1\*           \$0
- Preservation Fund #2\*           \$0
- Preservation Fund #3       \$20,165.96 (1.75% CD) (Up 11/20)
- Total Funds                       \$147,937.27

\*Preservation Funds #1 & #2 were closed, and balances added to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Savings Account.

The BOD also voted on the full year (FY) 2021 budgets that are subject to potential future changes.

**FY21 Budget**

Expected Revenue                       \$18,000           Expected Costs                       \$(6,785)

**FY21 South Basin Boat Launch**

Expected Cost                           \$(1,860)

<b>Mark Your Calendar</b>		
<b>Due to Covid-19 restrictions, some events may be cancelled, and we’ll notify you.</b>		
Scavenger Hunt	09/05/20 9:00 a.m. Registration 25 Shore Drive – Boat Dock	South Basin \$10.00/Adults; \$5.00/Children
Weed Treatment for Watershield	09/14/20	No boating, fishing, swimming until 9/15 No watering of livestock until 09/16 No drinking, cooking w/lake water until 09/17 No irrigation until 09/18
FHRA Members Meeting	05/15/21	Holland Community Center
FHRA Members Meeting	08/21/21	Holland Community Center



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FHRA MEMBERS MEETING

August 24, 2019

Holland Community Center

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## JOIN THE FHRA MEMBERSHIP – THIS FORM IS FOR 2020 MEMBERSHIP

### YOUR 2020/2021 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](http://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 try to attend Select Board, Conservation, Lake Oversight Committee & other Town meetings – the lake people need to be heard. FHRA needs your help expressing your concerns. You can find agendas on the Town Web Site~*

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***You Last Paid Dues in***