

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

You Last Paid Dues in

JOIN THE FHRA MEMBERSHIP – THIS FORM IS FOR 2021 MEMBERSHIP



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Fall, 2021

Message from the President – Bob Kamay

Where did the summer go? 2021 has not been the best summer on record but living on the lake has more than made up for it. The holiday season is just around the corner and the circle of lake life is coming to its seasonal end. Storage of boats, removal of docks, and winterizing homes is the part we look least forward to, but I honestly cannot imagine wanting to live anywhere else.

I am happy to announce that Christine Huijing has volunteered to become our new Vice President. Christine is currently Acting Vice President, and the position will be formally voted on at our next Member's Meeting in May. Christine lives on the North Basin, is passionate about the health of our lake, and is a welcomed addition to the FHRA Board of Directors. Please see her contribution to our newsletter. Additionally, Bryan Haughey, Holland's Emergency Management Director (and Chief of Police), has written an article in pursuit of a state grant on behalf of the town that is also focused on maintaining the health of our lake. For additional information, please go to the Town of Holland website and search Environmental Hazard Mitigation project.

This summer's heavy rains have brought to light a variety of issues we will be working in the off-season. Of special concern is the high level of nutrients being washed into the lake resulting in algae blooms and a beach closure due to high bacteria levels. We will be making recommendations for preventive measures that we all can participate in to make a difference.

In early November, I had the pleasure to meet new members, the Nielsen Family, who graciously donated their time and equipment to help with the south basin boat launch. In compliance with DEP guidelines, the launch was returned to its

YOUR 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.

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~

original condition to allow for easier launching and loading of watercraft. The Nielsen's are relatively new to the reservoir, and they validate my theory that the lake attracts the nicest people. Sincere thanks from the FHRA.

I could not be happier with our FHRA Board of Directors. They are continuously looking after our lake interests on your behalf and are more than happy to address any questions or concerns you may have. Do not hesitate to contact us.

Acting Vice President's Report – Christine Huijing

On October 6, 2021, after two days of rain, I walked down the steps to our Hamilton Reservoir waterfront and saw blue green algae or cyanobacteria, bloom. Blooms were seen that day in both the north and south basins.

Harmful cyanobacteria blooms have been increasing in Massachusetts' lakes. This bacteria is naturally occurring in fresh water and not usually harmful, but when conditions are right, these harmful blooms grow quickly and can cause significant illness in humans and can kill pets. They are also an indication of the declining health of a lake.

Two conditions that can make a lake favorable to these harmful algal blooms are warm weather and excess nutrients. Two of the most common excess nutrients are phosphorus and nitrogen, found in farm and lawn fertilizer runoff, decaying plants from yard waste and weed treatments, and animal and human waste. Since this algal bloom followed two days of rain, it's probable that the increase in runoff of yard fertilizers and animal waste from wildlife and pet dogs and chickens, in addition to leakage from malfunctioning septic systems and leach fields around the lake were the most significant causes of this harmful algal bloom. Some of the beaches on our lake were also closed for a week earlier in the summer due to high levels of e. coli, a fecal bacteria. Storm water runoff from streets and driveways is also harmful and should be diverted toward vegetated areas to be naturally filtered.

These algal blooms cannot be treated when they are active, and the lake should not be used when there is an active algal bloom. Potential treatment to neutralize the levels of phosphorus in the lake are extremely expensive and could cause other problems for the lake. Preventative measures are required to keep us from jeopardizing the health, as well as our use and enjoyment, of this beautiful lake.

As an example of what could easily happen in Hamilton Reservoir, Lake Cochituate, situated to our east in the towns of Framingham, Natick and Wayland, Ma., has been closed to swimming and recreation due to high levels of cyanobacteria since July 14th. Residents and visitors lost the use of the lake for the entire season. If this problem continues in Hamilton Reservoir, it could not only affect the health, use and enjoyment of our lake, but lakefront property values, currently at an all-time high, could plummet.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Discontinue use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus on lakefront properties and properties near the lake. Ensure

that pet waste from dogs, cats, chickens, etc. is disposed of in the garbage, rather than left on lakefront, or nearby properties. The runoff of this waste greatly increases the e. coli. and other harmful bacteria levels in the lake. Have your septic system and leach field tested to be sure they are not contributing to harmful bacteria levels in the lake. Do not discard yard waste in the lake as it adds to the plant decay that accumulates on the lakebed and increases nutrient levels that make the lake more susceptible to algae blooms.

Do not use soaps/detergents containing phosphates and prevent any cleaning supplies from running off into the lake.

The Friends of Hamilton Reservoir Association will be coordinating efforts with the Lake Oversight Committee, the Conservation Commission, the Board of Health, and Bryan Haughey, Town of Holland Emergency Management Director, to monitor the lake on an ongoing basis.

PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO HELP US PROTECT THE HEALTH OF OUR BEAUTIFUL LAKE!

Treasurer's Report – Marian Poe-Heineman

The following balances are as of 09/30/21:

Operating Account \$ 17,672.84

Lake Preservation Fund \$121,792.83

South Basin Boat Launch \$ 31,325.22

Total Funds \$170,790.89

Results for 1Q (7/1/21 through 9/30/21)

As in the past, notification was given to the Town, the Association, and all other required parties prior to each treatment. In addition to this notification, the shorelines of the reservoir were thoroughly posted by the HRA with printed signs, warning of the pending treatment and any use or re-entry restrictions.

Note: Solitude's end of year summary report was not completed prior to this printing. Once this report is in, it will be

Operating Account:

Total Revenue \$ 4,554.89 Total Expenses \$ 1,033.31 Excess Revenues > Expenses \$ 3,521.58

South Basin Boat Launch:

Lake Preservation Interest \$ 81.60

Total Excess Revenue > Expenses for all Accounts \$ 3,473.24

Environment & Safety – Alex Wisz

In 2021, 3 herbicide treatment events were conducted:

June 17: Diquat herbicide was applied in the MA portion of the lake for Milfoil

August 2: 1) Diquat/Nautique in the MA portion of the lake for Tapegrass. The second treatment was conducted with Nautique (Chelated copper) herbicides targeting areas of nuisance Tapegrass, Pondweeds and any re-growth or new areas of milfoil that was observed, and 2) ProcellaCOR in the CT portion of the lake for Milfoil

October 5: ProcellaCOR in the private pond above the lake in CT for Milfoil

Board members include Doug Cayer, Chair; Lynn Johnson, Secretary; Dori-Ann Ference, Planning Board Rep; Sam Spratlin, Conservation, Dawn Kamay and Robert Kamay, Adhoc Members. To communicate with the Committee, send email to Town of Holland Lake Oversight Committee at hollandloc@hollandma.org.

added to our future newsletter or FHRA report. Members brought up issues with weeds near their docks on the North Basin primarily on Craig Rd and Collette Drive. It was identified as Fanwort and will be address in a spring survey.

Planned treatments for 2022: Treatments for next year will be the same with the addition of an application for the Fanwort in the North Basin. Once a plan of action is formulated, we will pass along more details. Solitude was very slow in providing updates and their communication was less than acceptable so we may investigate other alternatives.

Membership Report – Ellen Spratlin

- Total Number of households on the FHRA Membership list 308
- 2021 Households not paid 36
- 2021 Total Members Paid 272

The committee is currently conducting an outreach campaign to bring awareness to non-members about the benefits of joining the FHRA. Additionally, the team has created welcome bags with donations solicited from local businesses to hand out to new residents.

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.

Weed Treatment - LOC, working closely the Select Board, approved a short-term contract with Solitude for weed treatment for the latter half of 2021. As we are still evaluating the effectiveness of the new ProcellaCOR treatment for Milfoil, we needed time to plan a strategy before committing to a plan for next spring. We will be requesting proposals from several vendors to address our weed treatment needs for Spring of 2022. Though Milfoil is our most pervasive weed, we continue to monitor and plan treatments for Water Shield and Tape Grass.

Total Revenue \$ 0 Total Expenses \$ 129.94 Excess Revenues>Expenses \$ 129.94 with the Highway Department after the drawdown to arrange to have this Dam Inspection – LOC, with BOS support, contracted with Fuss & O'Neil to complete vegetation removed. As part of this effort, we have begun talks with McClure the overdue inspection of our Dam. We received a Fair Rating, consistent with Rating Engineering to create an Operations Manual and have updated the Emergency Action Plan. we received previously. The greatest areas of concern are the overgrowth of Plan. vegetation near the spillway and the absence of an Operations Manual. We will work