



Friends of HRA Inc.  
27 Sturbridge Rd., Unit 17  
Holland, MA 01521  
Tel. 413 668 6851  
[www.hamiltonreservoir.com](http://www.hamiltonreservoir.com)

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## October 2016

**President message:** Autumn is one of my favorite times of the year. Amazingly, the trees are starting to turn already, the flamingoes are back in their pens, and we are starting to prepare for the fall lake chores.

I want to personally THANK our Board and all the people that volunteered their time this past year. Thank you to those that donated to our "Preservation Fund" whether it was with an extra gift with your membership dues or donations from the "You've Been Flocked" fundraiser, or for attending the Pancake Breakfast, and even for filling kiosks with literature – THANK YOU.

This has been a record year for membership 288 members and a record year for donations. There are a few people out there that HAVE NOT paid 2016 dues, if you are wondering, please contact me. Did you know we have a member that doesn't even live in Holland, but fishes here and loves Hamilton Reservoir? Lake Oversight Committee (LOC) is working hard on research for feasibility studies of the Lake (first step in dredging and/or storm water projects). People are coming forward with fundraising ideas, and volunteering to participate. It feels good to see the momentum and I am hoping we can make Hamilton Reservoir a healthier and safer body of water for everyone in Holland.

Remember if you see things around the Lake or around Town that just don't seem right or may be in violation of Wetlands Protection Act or not, please let our Town officials know. Get involved.

### Drawdown

Hamilton Reservoir drawdown is currently scheduled to begin the Tuesday after Columbus Day, October 11, 2016. If for any reason the date is pushed out, we will send out an email. The water will be let out at a rate of two (2) inches per day until a maximum of twenty four (24) inches down is reached. The goal is to hold the lake at that level until one month after a hard freeze. Connecticut is having a drawdown of Mashapaug Lake which flows into Hamilton Reservoir beginning approximately November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Docks

The Town of Holland Bylaws states that you must have your docks removed by October 31<sup>st</sup>. There are a few grandfathered docks left but most of our docks no longer have that status and must be removed. This keeps them from breaking loose with the ice and floating in the spring. It's the law.

### Membership

We are working on updating and cleaning up our data base of members. If you have an email and haven't been receiving emails from Chris McCooe or Hamilton Reservoir then we NEED your email. If you don't have one, we will continue to mail a hard copy of the newsletter. If the note on above your name & address doesn't indicate you last paid dues in 2016 – then you're membership is NOT current, please send in 2016 dues.

The Membership Chair is hoping to canvas property owners around the Lake who have not joined us. If you are interested in helping Jessica, let her know. The goal of your board is to have 400 FHRA members ... we CAN do that if we all help. Jessica can be reached by phone at 774 200-0600 or [jesschaffee@gmail.com](mailto:jesschaffee@gmail.com).

## **Donations**

For all of those who generously donated to the Friends of the Hamilton Reservoir, THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Our "Preservation Fund" is growing. We will be moving that \$35,000 to an interest bearing account this month.

Remember, we are a 501c3 (non profit) and that means your donations are TAX Deductible. It is getting close to the end of the year and we are hoping those of you who have not already donated will consider making a donation. Remember, at tax time you can deduct that amount. Also, many of our members work for companies with matching gift programs (ask your Human Resource department). Please, if your company matches your donation, remember to fill out the form your company provides and mail it to us at Friends of HRA, Inc. 27 Sturbridge Rd. Unit 17, Holland, MA 01521. We fill out the second portion of the form and mail it in. That doubles the amount of money we get.

## **Environmental Update**

Erin Franzo, VP of Environment attended COLAP with Kathy McKenna and Bill Terbush earlier this year. The good news is that they learned that residents of Hamilton Reservoir and the FHRA are doing what we should be doing to take care of the lake. Early identification of weeds and treatment were discussed and at times specialty consultations may be needed, such as we do with our lake management company Solitude. Ms. Franzo asks members to let FHRA know if they have any weed identification questions or any questions regarding the lake. We would be happy to assist. She reiterated the importance of not moving invasive weeds that are attached to boats into our lake or other lakes. She also reminded us that algae can be avoided if large boats stay away from shallow muck. Regarding the Water Shed, we can improve quality by: 1. Never dumping into lake; 2. No fertilizing within 30 feet of shore and when fertilizing use low phosphate fertilizer; 3. Pick up animal waste; 4. Consult with Conservation Committee when planning any activity within 100 feet of the lake, 200 feet from a stream or brook; 5. Curve paths to reduce runoff; 6. Do not feed ducks or other waterfowl; and 7. DO NOT use powerful outboard motors in shallow areas. (Great presentation, we received several compliments on it, thank you)

Members asked if skimming and picking up loose weeds in front of property was helpful and Ms. Franzo stated yes. She also stated if anyone is interested in attending COLAP next year to please reach out to us. Ms. Franzo congratulated Todd Tisdale for winning the 2016 COLAP Photo Contest.

## **Weed Treatment**

The Tape Grass Treatment for 38.5 acres was done on both basins Wednesday on August 31, 2016. The Town is also being more proactive in effort to preserve lake and will be doing Reverse 911/Code Red to residents with treatment reminders and do's and don'ts during treatments. Remember the Warning signs are posted and the use of the WATER refers to the LAKE Water – not your drinking (well) water.

## **Conservation Committee**

Marcia Beale, Conservation Commission chairperson, spoke at our FHRA August meeting. Ms. Beale stated that any project to be done within 100 feet of lake or 200 feet of stream needs to be brought to Conservation Committee before being started. The Conservation Committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month at 6:30 pm at Town Hall. She also said that the Conservation Committee needs one (2) more members. Anyone interested should come and visit one of their meetings or call Conservation at Town Hall.

## **Elections**

At the August FHRA meeting, the resignations of Treasurer Adam Wilbur and Membership Chair Dori Ference were announced and accepted with great sadness and unending thanks and gratitude for their outstanding service. Jessica Chaffee was nominated and accepted as Membership Chair and Paula Braun was nominated and accepted as Treasurer. The other 3 board members nominated and accepted to remain in their board positions: Christine McCooe, President, Erin Franzo, VP Environment, Lynn Arnold, LOC Representative and Kim Hermanson, Secretary. Elections will occur again next August 2017.

**Mark your calendars**

Our next members meeting will be Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 2017. The August 2017 members meeting will be Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> 2017. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake Breakfast will be on Sunday June 11, 2017. Photo deadline for 2018 FHRA Calendar is early July 2017. Send your photos to [dference2002@yahoo.com](mailto:dference2002@yahoo.com). Tentative date for the FHRA Canoe and Kayak Race is September 3, 2017 – more information at the May meeting.

**JOIN THE MEMBERSHIP**

YOUR 2016 membership dues IS just \$35 per family

I/we would like to join the Hamilton Reservoir Association by contributing a total of:

\$100 (dues + \$65 donation)       \$50 (dues +\$15 donation)       \$35 (dues only)

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(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Holland Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Your dues and donations will be received by Friends of Hamilton Reservoir, Inc. a 501(c)3 organization



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If you are unsure if your 2016 dues has been paid, please call Chris at 508 361 3216 or email me.