

Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond

83 Dunaskin Rd., Centerville, Massachusetts 02632

February 8, 2002

Dear *Paula* :

The members of the Steering Committee would like to extend their thanks for your support of the *Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond*. You have been joined by over one hundred other concerned residents who live in proximity to Long Pond and thereby the Committee has been transformed from a small group of neighbors into a viable organization. As such, we strongly believe the *Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond* will receive a level of recognition far greater than we could ever achieve as individuals. Clearly, it will help us realize our goal of preserving Long Pond for ourselves, our children and future generations.

We continue to make progress in our efforts to move forward with a plan to control the severe outbreak of hydrilla in Long Pond. At the February 7th meeting of the Town Council, a public hearing will be convened to discuss the request of John Klimm, our Town Manager, for an appropriation of \$60,000 to fund the necessary studies, permitting and corrective measures for Long Pond. If the funding request is approved, a Request for Proposals will be issued by the Town asking qualified contractors to propose specific remedial plans and to provide the costs for executing the proposed plans.

As we indicated in our first newsletter, we expect the proposed corrective measures to include one or more applications of a herbicide called Sonar. The Steering Committee, the Town Conservation department, and the Town Board of Health have studied the safety and health implications of using Sonar and have concluded there is no meaningful risk in such an undertaking. The Federal EPA and all 50 states agree and have approved the use of Sonar in ponds and lakes for the control of invasive aquatic weeds such as hydrilla. It has been thoroughly tested and utilized throughout the country for some 12 or 15 years and was applied successfully in Bearses Pond just last year. If you feel you'd like more info on Sonar, please contact a steering committee member or search for "sepro sonar" on the internet, where you will find a considerable amount of documented information.

Jerry Gilmore, Chairman of the Steering Committee, will speak on behalf of the *Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond* at the February 7 public hearing in support of the Town Manager's request for funds. We expect the Town Council Meeting and the public hearing to be televised live on Channel 18, starting at 7 PM but if you would like to attend in person, please do so.

We are in the process of making a few minor changes to our organization's by-laws. When finalized, we will be sending a copy to you, probably with our next newsletter. We also plan to provide you with a list of our current members. If for any reason, you do not want your name published, please let someone on the Steering Committee know and we will respect your wishes.

Thanks again for your support.

The Steering Subcommittee for
The Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond

Jerry Gilmore
Dick Teel
Ron Sirch
Barbara Enos
Bob Enos
Kallie Garoufes
Tony Antin
Ted Schilling, Esq.
David Dunbar
David Elmer, MD

p.s.

ACTION ITEM

Barbara and Bob Enos have just returned from a meeting of the Massachusetts Congress of Lake and Pond Associations (COLAP), a statewide organization concerned with the environmental, aesthetic, recreational and economic values of lakes and ponds. As a result of our attendance there, we have been made aware of a bill pending in the legislature that we would like to support. H. 4603 is "An Act Providing for Capital Facility Improvements and Repairs for the Commonwealth." We want to be particularly supportive of the provisions that will provide funding for the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative (MWI) and for the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Lakes and Ponds Program. One of MWI's priorities is to "leverage local and federal resources for invasive weed control." DEM's Lakes and Ponds Program focuses on "enhancing the ecological and recreational values of water bodies across the Commonwealth."

If you would like to indicate your support for this bill, particularly the portions of it that support MWI and the lakes and ponds programs, we urge you to call or write your State Representative and State Senator as follows:

Senator Robert O'Leary, Room 413-E, State House, Boston MA 02133 (617-722-1570)

State Representative Demetrius Atsalis, Room 167, State House, Boston MA 02133
(617-722-2692)

Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond

83 Dunaskin Rd., Centerville, Massachusetts 02632

February 20, 2002

President Blazis:

Vice President Brown:

Councilors Barry, Clark, Elrick, Joakim, Jones, Loughnane, Milne, Reidell and Richardson:

The Steering Committee of the *Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond* (CPLP) would like to respectfully offer our input to the Council's deliberations on the proposed funding for combating the outbreak of hydrilla in Long Pond. We do this on behalf of and in support of our membership base of 207 persons who own or rent homes that are in proximity to Long Pond.

Although we are concerned that the Council's focus of discussion has moved from the Town Manager's funding request to a debate over the merits of Sonar, we nevertheless feel compelled to comment on several Sonar-related issues. First we would like to make a point that CPLP members have an intense interest in assuring that any recommended corrective action is safe and environmentally sound. Along with our children and grandchildren, we swim, fish and boat in the pond. Several of our members have private wells very close to the edge of the pond. These wells provide water to their homes for all household purposes, including drinking. We are obligated, therefore, to conduct honest and comprehensive research that can be relied upon and to seek out reliable experts to validate our findings. At this point, we can honestly say that in the course of our research, we have yet to find anything relative to the professional application of Sonar that leaves us concerned. We'd like to share just a few of the highlights of our research with the members of the Council:

- Sonar has been registered for use by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and by all 50 states.
- Sonar's excellent track record now extends over a 15-year period. It is not a newly introduced nor unproven product.
- The application rate of Sonar, if used in Long Pond for hydrilla control, is expected to be 20 parts per billion. Yes, 20 parts of sonar to 1 billion parts of water. There will be NO restrictions for swimming, fishing or drinking, even immediately after application.
- At 20 parts per billion, Sonar will control hydrilla slowly and will allow other beneficial native vegetation to reestablish without oxygen deprivation or fish kill. After 15 years of Sonar applications by professionals, there has yet to be a documented fish kill.
- For the purpose of Sonar product registration, EPA determined that 150 parts per billion is an acceptable level for potable water following Sonar use. This level provides a 1000-fold safety factor between the no effect level (NOEL) in experimental animals and the estimated human exposure via drinking water.

- The ¼ mile rule is applicable to lakes and reservoirs serving as sources of potable water and therefore does not apply to Long Pond. Furthermore, the ¼ mile rule is not applicable if Sonar concentrations are at or below 20 parts per billion nor does it apply to ground water wells.
- Sonar does not travel well through sediment blocks; therefore the private wells near the pond will not be affected. This was verified last year by the Department of Regulatory Services which, after the application of Sonar in Bearnse's Pond, conducted tests of a well that was approximately 30 feet from the edge of the pond.
- The Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Management, which has indicated a desire to have Long Pond's hydrilla problem fixed, and fixed quickly, will fully support the use of Sonar in Long Pond under their expected matching fund grant.

While we are extremely comfortable with the accuracy and validity of the above information, others might well choose to challenge our findings. If so, there will be a forum to do so at a public hearing that will be convened by the Conservation Commission as part of the permitting process before Sonar may be applied to Long Pond. In fact, there are many hurdles associated with the permitting process and they are designed to assure that we adopt an effective solution that fully addresses the protection of people, fish and aquatic plants. If Sonar cannot hold up under honest and rigorous cross-examination, permits for application will not be issued.

We are hopeful the Council will move beyond the Sonar issues at the Council meeting on February 21 and approve the funding request so that the requisite first steps for treating Long Pond in the spring of 2002 can be taken. As a practical matter, the approval of the funding is necessary in order for the Town to issue Requests for Proposals from qualified Aquatic Specialists. Without the funding, the Request for Proposals cannot be issued and there will be no way to evaluate any proposals whatsoever. That would likely mean that no corrective measures would be taken until 2003, notwithstanding the compelling argument that a postponement will lead to much higher costs as the hydrilla spreads into the deeper portions of Long Pond. Furthermore, hydrilla's ability to easily transplant and multiply itself means that other lakes and ponds in Barnstable and beyond are more apt to end up with a hydrilla problem if we delay treating Long Pond.

In conclusion, we respectfully ask for your support and appeal to the Council to approve the Town Manager's request for \$60,000 to fund the treatment of hydrilla in Long Pond.

Sincerely,



Jerry Gilmore, Chairman, The CPLP Steering Committee

Dick Teel

Barbara Enos

Bob Enos

Kallie Garoufes

Tony Antin

Ron Sirch

David Dunbar

David Elmer, MD

Ted Schilling, Esq.