

Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond
83 Dunaskin Rd., Centerville, Massachusetts 02632

March 1, 2002

Dear *Paula,*

As we prepare for the next hurdle in our race to control the spread of Hydrilla in Long Pond, members of the steering committee thought it important to give an update to the membership of our activities to date. Over 200 of our neighbors have joined the Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond. That large response tells us that we all share a deep appreciation for Long Pond and are committed to restoring it to a healthy state. Members of the steering committee will continue to work vigorously to focus the resources of the town and state on our shared goal of confronting this most serious threat.

At the February 7 meeting of the Barnstable Town Council, CPLP steering committee members were joined by Barnstable town officials, council members and other individuals speaking in support of funding for the treatment of Long Pond. Some Individuals at that meeting spoke in opposition to funding basing their arguments on questions of the safety of herbicide treatments. Prior to this meeting the CPLP steering committee had done extensive research on the issue of safety and had presented to council members what it felt was a persuasive case regarding the safety issue. Regrettably, a motion was made and passed to table the request for funding until questions related to the safety of the proposed treatment could be further researched by the town's conservation staff. This two-week postponement, which we had no opportunity to challenge, could ultimately jeopardize our chances of meeting the early spring deadline for the in-lake treatment.

After additional testimony presented at its February 21 meeting, the Council voted 7 to 3 in favor of appropriating \$60,000 for the project.(see enclosed) This vote should be seen as a victory for all of Cape Cod and not a victory for our pond alone. The fast growing weed Hydrilla threatens to choke every pond on the cape if it cannot be successfully controlled in Long Pond.

The town of Barnstable's conservation commission and members of CPLP, after separately researching the various methods of Hydrilla control employed by state agencies throughout the country, agreed unquestionably, that the most successful methods employed included the use of the herbicide Sonar. This product has a fifteen-year track record nationally and, when applied professionally, is found to be safe for humans, fish and other aquatic vegetation. The small amount of Sonar that is required in the pond's treatment, targets Hydrilla only, leaving other aquatic life unaffected. It is anticipated that as we seek each of the remaining committee approvals that are required before the pond treatment can begin, opponents of that treatment will continue to raise issues that could jeopardize this springs application. .

Sincerely,



Jerry Gilmore, Chairman, The CPLP Steering Committee