

# *Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond*

83 Dunaskin Rd., Centerville, Massachusetts 02632

*April 22, 2002*

Chairman Lancaster:

Vice Chairman Abodeely:

Commissioners Barbour, Blazis, Lane, Sampou and Wannie:

The Steering Committee of the *Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond (CPLP)* respectfully offers our input to the Commission's deliberations concerning the plan to manage/eradicate the outbreak of hydrilla in Long Pond. We do this on behalf of our membership base of 214 persons who live in proximity to Long Pond.

After observing the unbelievably rapid growth of hydrilla in the eastern end of Long Pond last summer, we know first hand that this invasive plant is a serious threat to the beauty and recreational opportunities that Long Pond provides for residents as well as visitors. Dense tree-like stands of hydrilla, five to six feet tall, that were growing below the pond's surface began to top out and surface in September. This made swimming impossible and boating extremely limited. By the first week in December when the outbreak peaked, the surface of some 2/3 of the eastern end of Long Pond was completely covered with hydrilla.

We believe, however, that the issue at hand involves much more than the concerns generated by a hydrilla outbreak in just one pond. With a presence of hydrilla in Long Pond, it is inevitable that hydrilla will begin to migrate to other lakes and ponds in the Town, on the Cape and around the Commonwealth. Hydrilla transplants itself rather easily and pieces of hydrilla can be transported by transient boats, waterfowl such as ducks and geese, and by fish-eating birds of prey like the Osprey. In our opinion we should act now and do everything possible to avoid Florida's experience, where hydrilla has gotten a difficult-to-overcome head start. University of Florida experts have advised us that to be successful we should and must act NOW.

We recognize that the use of Sonar as the cornerstone of the management/eradication program will be opposed by groups who are against using any and all pesticides and herbicides. We would point out, however, that our **CPLP** members have a deeply personal interest in assuring that the application of an herbicide in Long Pond will be both 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 the 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. We have done precisely that and we can honestly affirm that we have found NOTHING relative to the professional application of Sonar that leaves us concerned.

We are extremely grateful for the support that we have received from our Town officials. They have recognized a serious problem and have acted with speed and resolve to bring it to the Conservation Commission in time to undertake an optimally-timed management/eradication program for the hydrilla in Long Pond. We also believe that State officials recognize the importance of the expedited groundwork that has been completed here. We were pleased to hear last week, that the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Management will provide \$25,000 in matching funds for the project.

In conclusion, we respectfully ask for your support and appeal to the Commission to vote in favor of proceeding with the application as submitted by the Town of Barnstable's Conservation Division, to undertake "A management/eradication program for the invasive aquatic plant (Hydrilla) at Long Pond, utilizing an integrated chemical (Sonar herbicide) treatment and non-chemical approach."

Sincerely,



Jerry Gilmore, **CPLP** Chairman  
and

The **CPLP** Steering Committee:

Dick Teel  
Barbara Enos  
Bob Enos  
Kalliope Garoufes  
Tony Antin  
Ron Sirch  
David Dunbar  
David Elmer, MD  
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cc: Tom Geiler  
Rob Gatewood  
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