

Association for the Preservation of Long Pond

67 Long Pond Circle, Centerville, MA 02632

October 30, 2010

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\$20.00
11/12/10

Dear Members:

It was another beautiful summer on and around Long Pond. Now the many trees around the lake are showing off their colors as cooler air arrives along with shorter days. Still beautiful! A few boaters are still enjoying the Pond - especially when the wind is calm. The really good news is that we continue to enjoy the beauty of Long Pond without any signs of a resurgence of hydrilla.

Hydrilla Control Report

As you may recall, Aquatic Control Technology divers with scuba and snorkel gear found widely scattered hydrilla plants about 3 inches high around the perimeter of the eastern basin during their survey on June 30th. No hydrilla plants were found in the middle or western basins. As a result, they recommended that sonar treatments be limited to the eastern basin. Yellow flotation devices were placed across part of the entrance to the eastern basin to help maintain the concentration of herbicide in the eastern basin. The initial treatment was completed on July 7th and a follow up treatment was completed on September 2nd. On subsequent visits, the dive team found that the eastern basin hydrilla plants – and their tubers (seeds) – were no longer viable. ('Smoked' by the sonar.) Importantly, the other two basins remained hydrilla-free. The team also reported that they found a nice variety of healthy native plants in all three basins. These plants are essential to the maintenance of our water clarity.

Annual Meeting

The 2010 Annual Meeting for the Association was held on August 26 in the Parish Hall of Our Lady of Victory with about 40 members in attendance. Rob Gatewood, Director of the Barnstable Conservation Division, and Fred Chirigotis, Centerville Councilman and President of the Town Council, were our honored guests.

This was the ninth annual meeting of our Association which was organized in 2001, replacing the inactive Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond. As has been the custom, the meeting was informal, friendly and informative. The meetings provide a forum for the election of officers and Steering Committee Members, brief reports from Secretary Barbara Enos, Treasurer Kallie Garoufes, Nominating Committee Chairman Tony Antin, and myself. Attendees also get a chance to informally meet and hear directly from Town leaders like Rob Gatewood and Fred Chirigotis. Did I mention the free drawing for a champagne cruise on Long Pond? Jean Scanlon was the winner this year! Refreshments are also a good part of the get together. The homemade cookies by Barbara and Judie were fantastic. Yes, I'm trying to convince you..... Please join us next year. ☺

All of our Steering Committee Members agreed to serve for another year and I am very thankful for their willingness to continue on. Two new Steering Committee Members were also elected: Ron Fone of 91 Main Street and Tim Luzietti of 119 Pond View Drive. Two wonderful additions to the Steering Committee. Both with impressive business and leadership backgrounds. My thanks to both of them for agreeing to serve.

Annual Meeting (continued)

Fred Chirigotis made it clear that he will remain a supporter of our Association and our goals. His support during the Town Council discussion concerning funding for our hydrilla control efforts in 2010 was just amazing. Thank you Fred! At our meeting he also discussed the importance of finding a solution to the sewage treatment problems facing the Town of Barnstable and Cape Cod. We really need to find a solution that is not unjustly burdensome for homeowners and businesses; meaning we need to find a way to spread the costs across the wide base of benefactors of sewer-based solutions. This includes the need for some State and Federal help.

Rob Gatewood was his usual intellectual and Long Pond-friendly self. He has been so supportive of our efforts and we will always remember how he was there when we needed his assistance early on and we appreciate his continued support as well. He did have some bad news: a significant amount of hydrilla has been found growing in Mystic Lake. Nobody knows how it got there. (As is the case for Long Pond.) It may have come from a fish tank containing hydrilla that was emptied into the Lake – just like it happened in Florida. Almost no chance that it came from Long Pond but that possibility cannot be totally ruled out. In any event, it means that the Town's extraordinary efforts to do everything possible to confine the hydrilla problem to Long Pond has had a set back. It becomes a bit worrisome for all of us.

Other problems continue to plague some of our Cape lakes. Mystic Lake has a blue-green algae problem, along with Middle Pond. They were both closed for swimming for a period in August. Santuit Lake has had severe clarity problems.

Long Pond's clarity remains excellent and I believe the water flow we have down the herring run from Wequaquet Lake helps us by providing circulation of our water. We also have water exiting the Pond via our Herring Run to the Centerville River. I believe this circulation and our underwater springs continue to serve us well. We all hope that continues to be so.

Purple Loosestrife

Basically under control. Or at least not out of control. It has not gotten away from us because of your individual efforts. Please keep working at it! If you need help, please call me on 508-771-7225. Remember that it's easy to pull the little plants. They are very difficult to pull when they mature. Ugh. A pitch fork works the best on the mature plants.

Our Ducks

"Our ducks" are fine. I love them. So cute. Great to watch them fly, especially in the evening light. BUT..... some of the ducks are not our ducks. They are free loaders who spot good accommodations as they fly by. If we feed them we will have too many, maybe way too many, and do you know where their waste goes? Yup. You do. I especially appeal to everyone who has summer rentals to please tell your renters: Please do not feed the ducks. It is against Town Ordinances and you can get fined.

Carp

Several years ago the Conservation Commission had some very serious discussions about using Carp (a fish with an appetite to consume hydrilla) in Long Pond. No need for herbicides. The problem with Carp is that they eat EVERYTHING. If they ate just hydrilla, that would be great. But they will also eat those native plants we talk about. The ones that help to keep our water clear. Our Association wrote a lengthy letter, maybe the best we ever wrote, to oppose the use of carp in Long Pond. The majority of the Conservation Commission ultimately agreed with our expressed concerns, and the issue has not come up for discussion again.

Carp (continued)

Elsewhere, there is serious concern that Asian carp who have taken over much of the Mississippi River may get into the Great Lakes. Asian carp are the ultimate 'bad guy' carp and the Federal government has allocated nearly \$80 million for Asian carp control. We will stay alert and aggressive on this issue should it resurface.

Our Members

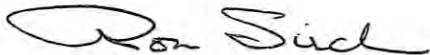
Without YOU we really do not have an Association. We would have no stature when we appeal to the Conservation Commission or the Town Council. So thank you for being a part of this organization. Once again, I also want to remind you that you can call me anytime to discuss questions and suggestions you may have regarding the Lake. I can be reached on 508-771-7225. My e-mail is sirchmo@aol.com.

Our Treasury and Dues

The support from members through annual dues, voluntary contributions, and the transfer of funds from the original Long Pond Preservation Committee has given us a bank balance of \$10,960. Considering our modest operating expenses, this is almost entirely a reserve contingency fund for use if things should not continue to go as smoothly as they have. Such unforeseen contingencies could include the need to hire expert consultants (as other Cape Cod Lake Associations have had to do) or legal assistance (beyond that which Ted Schilling so willingly volunteers) and the possibility of a request to help with the cost of treating the pond as the Town and State continue to face severe budget problems.

That leads us once again to an appeal for you to renew your membership by sending the enclosed form with your 2011 dues of \$10 per household to our Treasurer Kallie Garoufes. To our good neighbors and new residents who are not currently members, we hope you will join us in our ongoing efforts to maintain this beautiful resource called Long Pond.

Sincerely,



Ron Sirch, APLP Chairman

and

The APLP Steering Committee:

Dick Teel Barbara Enos

Bob Enos Kallie Garoufes

Tony Antin Jerry Gilmore

Walt Jebens Tim Luzietti

Ron Fone David Elmer, MD

Ted Schilling, Esq.