7/26/20

Dear Long Pond neighbor,

You likely share our growing frustration with the closure of our pond.  This summer, we were the first pond in the Town of Barnstable to close due to dangerous cyanobacteria levels. While toxin levels in Long Pond are now on the decline and it may soon reopen, we have already lost 4 precious weeks of  enjoying our pond, and there is still the possibility of a second cyanobacteria bloom. We feel that it’s time to once again approach the town for their help.  Attached please find a letter to our town councilors and town manager.  If you are willing to have your name on this letter, please reply with the names of each adult family member and your address. In addition, please forward this message/letter to your neighbors and ask them to allow us to list their names.  The more names, the more influential the letter will be with the Town.  We’d like to mail it by next Monday, 8/3, and present it at the 8/20 Town Council meeting.

Our board members have done a great deal of research and spoken with many experts to better understand the problematic inputs into our pond, the nature of and need for a pond study, possible in-pond treatments and possible funding sources.  The cost of a pond study to gather the necessary data for treatment ranges from $15,000-$50,000, and the cost of an in-pond treatment $150,000+.  Clearly, we cannot do this  alone.

This spring, the Town hired a Pond and Lakes Project Manager, who has been directed to requisition a pond study on one pond per year, followed by a management plan for that pond the next year.  This year’s pond is Shubael Pond.  The Project Manager is also looking into temporary, short-term treatments for ponds while they are awaiting a study. We want our pond next on the list, and a temporary treatment implemented by next summer if at all possible.

We’re also pursuing efforts to reduce inputs into our pond for the long-term benefit.  The work that will be done on our storm drains this fall will result in a cleaner pond over the long run.  Another promising opportunity is the installation of innovative / alternative (“I/A”) septic systems. We know that traditional septic systems are our pond’s primary source of problematic nitrogen.  The Barnstable Clean Water Coalition has received funding to help residents replace their traditional systems with  I/A septic systems.  These systems eliminate 90-95% of the nitrogen entering our ground water en route to the pond.  To learn more about these systems and grants being offered to install them, please click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgOP-WDXxww&feature=youtu.be> We’d also like to invite you to an outdoor meeting on Thursday, 9/30 at 10:00 am at 737 Santuit-Newtown Rd.  At this meeting, 2 BCWC staff members will talk with us about what is involved in installing these systems.  If you can join us, we’ll all wear masks and social distance.

Thank you for your continued interest in making our pond blue again. Please let us know if you have ideas, concerns or questions, or if you’d like to become more involved in our efforts.

The Board of Friends of Long Pond Marstons Mills, Inc.

*Amy Mesirow (508) 737 – 5832* *David Abelman*

*Joanna Chodes* *John Finn*

*Lyn Finn* *Peter Owens*

*Steve Shuman* *Chris Young*