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Volunteers

The Information Technology Department extends a special thanks to our volunteers, Paul Yannoni and Robert Mong for their numerous donated hours and their ongoing efforts in helping to maintain our infrastructure.

A special thanks for keeping the IT repair and service costs at a minimum.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Tobey, Information Technology
Director

Paul Yannoni, IT Volunteer
Robert Mong, IT Volunteer

LAKE BOON COMMISSION

The Lake Boon Commission (LBC) is made up of three people appointed by the Selectmen of Hudson and Stow. There are two members from Stow and one from Hudson, reflecting the area of the lake in each town. Current serving members are Lee Heron from Stow, Cindy Curley from Stow and Conray Wharff from Hudson (Chair). The LBC holds meetings at the Stow Town Building about once a month. The meetings are public; everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Meeting notices are posted at both Town Halls at least 48 hours before the meetings.

Lake Boon is under attack from non-native invasive weeds and increased nutrient loading. The primary way to combat these attacks is a comprehensive lake management program that includes nutrient management and aquatic vegetation management. Aquatic vegetation management is done with state-approved herbicides applied under state permits and Orders of Conditions from the Conservation Commissions of Stow and Hudson. Nutrient management is accomplished by intercepting nutrients before they get to the lake in catch basins and Lake Drawdown, which removes the nutrients.

Lake Drawdown is one of the ways we limit nutrient loading, and is best thought of as emptying a bath tub. Drain some of the water away and the nutrients leave the lake. It is free but may affect shallow wells around the lake. Working with the Stow boards, and many interested parties including the Lake Boon Association, we accomplished a Lake Drawdown of approximately one foot during the 2012-2013 winter season.

We have an ongoing aquatic vegetation management program in place that includes treatment of the weeds in accordance with the Orders of Conditions, DEP File #190-362. The lake was treated this past summer according to state regulations and the Orders of Conditions in place. The treatments are successful in limiting but not eliminating the invasive weeds. Weed treatment is now an annual program, treating the lake as required after a spring survey of the invasive weeds in the lake.

Lee Heron is one of Lake Boon's patrol officers. As a member of the LBC he manages patrolling of Lake Boon for both the LBC patrol boat and the Stow Police patrol boat. The Stow Police boat is also manned by Stow police officers. The goal is to ensure safety and enforce regulations

on the lake. Anyone seeing violations or safety issues on the lake is requested to call the Stow Police who will log and respond to the events.

Boat owners are responsible for their boats at all times, including their wakes, regardless of who is driving their boat. Every summer we stop many boats for minor violations resulting in tickets and fines. We have a zero tolerance policy for safety violations; if a boat is stopped for safety violations it will be ticketed.

The rules are posted at the launch site or available on line from the Stow Web site. State rules are on line as well at Mass.gov. If you send Conray Wharff an e-mail (conraywharff@gmail.com) at the address below, he will send you a copy of the rules.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with ongoing lake management projects. If you are interested, please contact us via your Town Offices or send e-mail to ConrayWharff@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Curley, Stow
Lee Heron, Stow

Conray Wharff, Hudson, Chair

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Open Space Committee (OSC) is to advise the Town on open space priorities and to assist the Board of Selectmen and other Town boards and committees in implementing Stow's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).

In 2012, there were changes to the roles of three OSC members. Vin Antil completed his effective tenure as Chairman after several years leading the Committee, succeeded by Chris Rodstrom. Vin Antil became the OSC representative to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), succeeding Bob Wilber who had skillfully served in that role since the CPC was first established.

In its continuing efforts to implement the OSRP, the Committee completed several activities including:

- - Completing its study of the significance of Stow's golf courses in terms of natural resource values and contributions to town character, including an examination of the ecological, scenic and other resources valuable to the community. This work was then shared with the Town's Planning Board for their review and input.
- - Working with the Conservation Commission, evaluated the characteristics of a property along Boxboro Road abutting Flagg Hill as a potential priority for acquisition by the Town.
- - Evaluating the characteristics of a property along Great Road by Ministers Pond as a potential priority for acquisition by the Town, and in early 2013 participated in a meeting of the other Town committees to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.