

Continue with drawdown

Bruce Stamski <stamskicorps@yahoo.com>

Mon 08/30/21 8:44 AM

To: Liz Allard <lallard@harvard-ma.gov>

Liz,

Im sending this email to express my support for continuing the Pond drawdown. The Clinton Shore Drived Condo Association has 16 members. Our President asked the membership if they wanted to send a letter of support for the Petition to stop the drawdown. Seven of the members responding did not support the petition. There were no responses in support of the petition.

Bruce Stamski

121 Clinton Shore Drive

[Town of Harvard MA] Bare Hill Pond (Sent by Peter T Kelly-Joseph, p.kellyjoseph@gmail.com)

Contact form at Town of Harvard MA <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Mon 08/30/21 9:30 PM

To: Liz Allard <lallard@harvard-ma.gov>

Hello lallard,

Peter T Kelly-Joseph (p.kellyjoseph@gmail.com) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.harvard-ma.gov/user/62/contact>) at Town of Harvard MA.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.harvard-ma.gov/user/62/edit>.

Message:

Hi Liz,

I'm writing to share my support and confidence that the Bare Hill Pond Watershed Committee will continue to collect the necessary water quality data and make the right decisions for the town with regards to the phosphorous loading.

While I was in graduate school from 2009-2011 I interned at the EPA and studied the positive impacts of the Clean Water Action Section 319 Grant Program in Region One and at Bare Hill Pond. It was the first time that I had visited Harvard and coincidentally moved here years later and I'm happy to see a robust group of citizen science continues.

The draw down, while seasonally impactful to the Pond is significantly less costly and impactful than other best management practices that could be eventually be required by MassDEP and/or EPA such as requiring sewer system expansion, requiring retrofits of septic systems adjacent to the pond, strict fertilizer bans and other costly solutions.

Thank you,
Peter Kelly-Joseph

Pond

Mario L Cardenas <cardenas.mario@icloud.com>

Mon 08/30/21 10:08 PM

To: Liz Allard <lallard@harvard-ma.gov>

Hi Liz,

I can't believe that the good work of the Pond Commision is being second-guessed by those opposed to annual pond draw-downs. As if not doing this necessary pond maintenance would actually improve conditions, instead of making the weed problem much worse. How about following the science via the earnest work of the Commision instead of "what if ..." narratives with no basis in fact. How about mandating no fertilizer use on properties abutting the pond? Our volunteers and their expertise deserve better.

Sincerely,

Mario Cardenas

Don't stop the drawdown of the pond

O'Rourke, Andrea <AOROURKE1@PARTNERS.ORG>

Tue 08/31/21 7:39 AM

To: Liz Allard <lallard@harvard-ma.gov>

It has come to my attention that there is support in the Harvard community for stopping the draw down at the pond. Perhaps if people were presented with the science behind this related to climate changes they would understand the importance of this maneuver. If people are voting against the draw down the only conclusion I could come to is that they are no informed --

I support the draw down

Andrea L. O'Rourke+Friel

216 Still River Rd

Still River, MA 01467

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Pond Drawdown

Lori Basnett <lb@basnettplumbing.com>

Tue 08/31/21 7:59 AM

To: Liz Allard <lallard@harvard-ma.gov>

Liz,

A recent poll was taken amongst members of the Still River Realty Trust and there was an overwhelming agreement to stop the drawdown of Bare Hill Pond.

Lori Basnett

Secretary

>

>

Bare Hill Pond Draw Down

Philip Rayla <philrayla@gmail.com>

Tue 08/31/21 9:16 AM

To: Liz Allard <lallard@harvard-ma.gov>

Cc: Diane Herlihy <drrayla@gmail.com>

Re: Harvard Conservation Commission

For many years the approval for a Bare Hill Pond draw down has been granted. The limited success resulted in the late 1998's with the pond labeled as critically endangered by the state. Hardly the outcome expected.

The approval was granted to increase the draw down from a gravity depth of 4 1/2 foot with a pump station capable of increasing the depth to 6 1/2 feet and greater. The success of this action has been also limited. Now for the second year in a row the Board of Health (Harvard) has posted the advisory for ' No in water activities for people or pets'.

The Bare Hill Pond Committee has posted on line to continue the draw down because there is no other option. But ConCom has more than one option.

The pond is in failure. The Sprague land watershed drainage via Bowers Brook can not be stopped on the way to the pond. The Clapp-Scorgie land watershed drainage can not be stopped. The 'the sixth grade cove' aka the Town Beach area is the third pincer attack on the heart of the pond. The volume of unchecked erosion continues from the start of a draw down to the spring refill. This is the magnitude of erosion, over 65 acre in the now unprotected watershed.

Your decision will allow this process to continue or give the pond a chance to heal itself without human meddling.

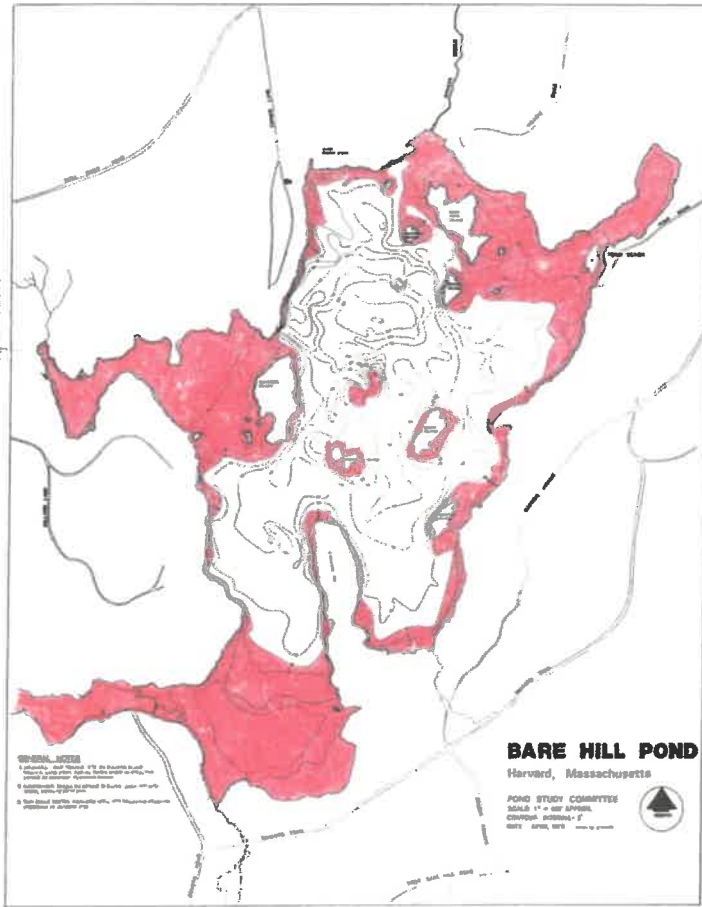
The Board of Health's decision was easy, protect the public safety.

The ConCom decision is also easy, simply protect the whole water shed especially the pond itself.

1:16 PM Thu Aug 26

Done

Phil Kayla Color Map.pdf



31%

Respectfully,
 Philip and Diane Rayla
 19 Wilroy Ave.
 Harvard, Ma.

Sent from my iPad

Bare Hill Pond drawdown

Kelene Blumstein <knblumstein@gmail.com>

Tue 08/31/21 9:18 AM

To: Liz Allard <lallard@harvard-ma.gov>

I write in support of the plan to continue with the scheduled draw down this year.

I have confidence in the committee's judgement to follow the science which validates this approach to management.

Thank you,
Kelene Blumstein

Pond

Ron Ostberg <cron.ostberg@gmail.com>

Tue 08/31/21 10:55 AM

To: Liz Allard <lallard@harvard-ma.gov>

Cc: Ellen Leicher <esachsleicher@gmail.com>

Liz -

Could you pass this to the ConCom? Thank you very much.

No question, pond chemistry is complex. The Pond Commission has labored for years to master it. I believe it would be wise to follow their advice. If additional analysis is the prudent measure, then it should be done.

Sincerely,
Ron Ostberg
41 Warren

Please share this with the members of the Conservation Commission prior to Thursday's meeting on the annual drawdown

Bill Johnson <bill.johnson@harvardmass.net>

Tue 08/31/21 11:26 AM

To: Liz Allard <lallard@harvard-ma.gov>

Dear Conservation Commission members,

Since I will not be able to physically attend your meeting on Thursday, I am writing this email to provide my personal input into the drawdown discussion and decision. My input is informed by my observations as a waterfront abutter for the past 24 years, and as an active member of the Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee from 2002-2010 when we worked with MA DEP and outside consultants to fully understand the causes of Bare Hill Pond's relentless eutrophication, and analyze best practices for reducing excess phosphorus load and controlling invasive weeds. We developed a comprehensive strategy to address both issues, constructing a stormwater collection and treatment network to significantly reduce the inflow of new nutrients into the Pond, and a drawdown pumping system to reduce the excessive nutrient load already in the Pond.

The annual measurements of water quality and weed growth that has been shared with the Conservation Commission over the past 10+ years is irrefutable -- pumped drawdowns have had a SIGNIFICANT and MEASURABLE impact on reducing phosphorus levels in the Pond and reducing invasive weed mass in the exposed areas where the water has been lowered. And the reverse has been proved too -- in years where the drawdown was cancelled or ineffective due to pump failure or insufficient freezing temperatures, the invasive weeds returned with a vengeance. Thus the claims by the petitioners that drawdowns worsen the phosphorus loading or that they have no impact on invasive weed control are in direct contradiction to the measured data.

I will not repeat Bruce Leicher's informed analysis on the trends and contributing factors for the algal blooms that Bare Hill Pond and indeed ponds across the state have been recently experiencing. But I do want to draw attention to the inescapable conclusion that the ONLY FACTOR that we can directly impact is the level of phosphorus loading already in the Pond, and that drawdowns are the best tool we currently have to reduce that load -- AS EVIDENCED BY THE MEASURED DATA. Hence, the WORST thing we can do is stop using this tool, while the BHPWMC continues to investigate best practices to reduce the release of what still remains when the water warms excessively.

It is important to acknowledge the impact to abutters that are left with impassable muck on their shorelines when the Pond water level is lowered. As such, it is understandable that they constantly challenge the efficacy of drawdowns. However, the Conservation Commission has done a great job over the past 10+ years relying on the measured data and the recommendations of BHPWMC's expert consultants to do what is best for the overall health of the Pond. I urge you to continue to do so, for the benefit of the greater Harvard community.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Johnson

Annual Bare Hill Pond Draw Down

lbwallace34@aol.com <lbwallace34@aol.com>

Tue 08/31/21 11:32 AM

To: Liz Allard <lallard@harvard-ma.gov>

Liz,

I am writing in support of the continued annual draw down of Bare Hill Pond. While the vagaries of climate change will continue to cause swings in the severity (cold) of winter and summer (heat), the Pond's watershed is one area we can more pro-actively manage to protect the water and minimize the "feeding" of alga and other invasives: limit the use extent and fertilizing of lawns, regularly pump septic systems, keep a healthy border of vegetation (bushes and trees) along the pond, and encourage landscaping with native plants.

Kudos to the work of the Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee for its diligent and science-based approach to preserving our Pond.

Lucy Wallace
18 Orchard Hill Rd.