

**TOWN OF HARVARD BARE HILL POND
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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MEMBER**

September 7, 2023

Abutters to Bare Hill Pond

Subject: Drawdown Initiation Notice

The Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee completed its invasive species, phosphorus, watershed, and habitat monitoring this year, and the complete report is available on the "Annual Reports" page of the Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee of the Town of Harvard's Website.

We now have nearly twenty years of monitoring data that show an incremental reduction in water column phosphorus, substantial reduction and control of milfoil and fanwort, our predominant invasive species, and significant restoration of native plants throughout the Pond and in the adjacent wetlands when a full drawdown is successful potentially creating greater resilience in the Pond to phosphorus in-lake loading and helping to avoid an algal bloom.

Unfortunately, a failure in the pumping this past December resulted in an earlier refill that significantly reduced any impact on invasive plants. The excessive growth in milfoil and fanwort this August is the result and shows what we should expect in the absence of a drawdown. We repaired the pump and believe future drawdowns will proceed normally as in prior years.

We are planning a 6.5-foot drawdown consistent with the schedule from the past few years. The drawdown will commence slowly beginning on October 1 to achieve the 6.5-foot drawdown depth before late November to protect the habitat per our Order of Conditions. The level will typically decline about 10-12 inches per week but at most approximately 3 feet in October, allowing for more prolonged use of the Pond.

Please find a copy of the rules for the safe use of the Pond for your convenience.

Sincerely Yours,

The Pond Committee

Cc: Fire Department; Department of Public Works; Conservation Committee; Board of Selectmen; Park and Recreation Commission; Bare Hill Pond Rowing Association

Town of Harvard, Mass.
Rules and Regulations Governing Boating and Swimming on Bare Hill Pond

I General:

No person shall operate any motor craft on Bare Hill Pond at a speed that is greater than reasonable and proper under the circumstances and conditions existing, or operate the same or manipulate water skis, a tube, surfboard, or similar device in a negligent manner so that the lives or safety of the public and property might be endangered. The Bare Hill Pond Committee shall post a navigation plan to aid in marking hazards and facilitate traffic control on Bare Hill Pond.

II - General Motor Boating Rules:

1. All motor or power boats on the pond are to be registered under appropriate State Law and shall display proper lighting, safety equipment, floatation devices, and be equipped with a proper muffler or underwater exhaust as is or may be required by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90B and 323 Code of Massachusetts regulations 1 through 6.
2. All boats traveling in excess of 20 mph shall follow the same counterclockwise traffic flow pattern described in Section III, Rule 4 below. applicable to boats with objects in tow.
3. The maximum speed on Bare Hill Pond is 35 mph if traffic conditions so permit.
4. The use of powered craft generally described as a "Personal Watercraft" (i.e., "Jet Ski, surf jet or wetbike" as defined under Chapter 90B, Section 1 of the Massachusetts General Laws) is prohibited at any time.
5. No person operating a craft propelled by other than muscle power shall pass another craft within 150 feet, or circle around any craft, in a manner as to annoy or endanger the occupants of the other crafts, nor pass (other than at headway speed) within 150 feet of another craft or between moored crafts or floats and the shore. No craft shall operate at a speed that endangers the life, limb or property of any person.
6. Between the hours of 8pm (or sunset, if earlier) and 10am speeds will be limited to headway speed with no wake. Appropriate running lights in accordance with Inland Rules for Navigation of the U.S. Coast Guard must be shown.
7. Motorboat speeds in the area adjacent to the swimming and the anchorage areas at the Town Beach will be limited to 5 miles per hour with no wake.
8. Overnight occupancy of any craft is not permitted.
9. Trailers at the Town launching area may not be loaded using the boat's engine power to drive the boat onto the trailer. Use of hand or powered winches mounted on the trailer only are permitted.
10. Boats towing boats in distress may do so during daylight hours at headway speed.
11. All out of town boats launched by non-residents and non-taxpayers must pay a daily launch fee prior to launching. The use of the Beach is prohibited to out of town boaters.

III - Additional Motor Boating Rules Applicable to Boats with Objects or Persons in Tow (water skis, tubes, etc.):

1. Boats with persons or objects in tow may operate only between 10am and 8pm (or sunset, if earlier).
2. No person operating a boat with a water skier, tube, skip board, or similar device in tow shall bring such a device or the boat within 150 feet of any boat dock, pier, raft, wharf, float, or a person or persons swimming unless to embark or disembark. Craft proceeding to dock or leaving from said dock shall enter and leave without delay from the area and shall be operated so as not to endanger any swimmer. No towline shall exceed 75 feet from the point of contact on the towboat to the object being towed.
3. No person operating a boat towing a water skier, tube, skip board, aqua plane or similar device in tow shall bring such device in the Harvard Town Beach Boating channel with persons in tow.
4. All boating with objects or persons in tow, e.g. water skis, tubes, aquaplanes, etc. shall be done in a counter-clockwise direction at least 150 feet from shore. This path pattern, shown on the chart, follows the shoreline inside Sheep Island, staying outside Four-Acre Island and the other six (6) islands and between Ministers and Spectacle Islands.
5. Each boat must have at least one (1) observer in addition to the operator and a maximum of two (2) water skier(s) and/or other objects in tow.

IV - Swimming:

Swimmers who swim more than 100 feet off shore of the mainland or any island must be accompanied by a boat in close proximity.

V - Enforcement and Penalties:

The Selectmen are authorized to adopt penalties for violations of these rules and regulations from time-to-time that are consistent with the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

VI - Effect of Partial Invalidity:

A determination by an appropriate authority or a court of competent jurisdiction that any section of provision of these rules and regulations is invalid or inconsistent with law shall not invalidate or affect the enforceability of any other section of provision hereof.

VII - DISCLAIMER: THE TOWN OF HARVARD PROVIDES THIS MAP AS AN AID TO NAVIGATION ON BARE HILL POND. THE USER IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR NAVIGATION ON BARE HILL POND. WHILE THE TOWN OF HARVARD HAS ATTEMPTED TO IDENTIFY AND MARK HAZARDS, THE TOWN DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT IT HAS PROPERLY IDENTIFIED EVERY HAZARD AND DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL LIABILITY FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE OR PERSONAL INJURY ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF THIS NAVIGATIONAL AID. Revised: July 1, 2002