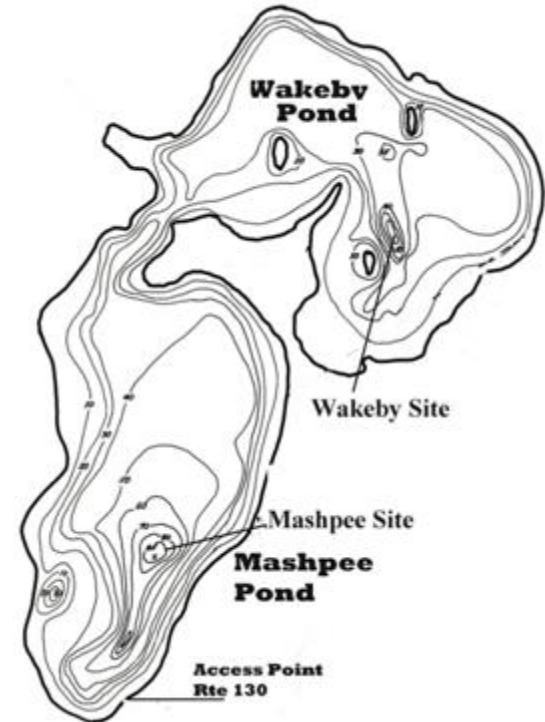


**MASHPEE & WAKEBY LAKES
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
NEWSLETTER**



VOLUME 18, NUMBER 2, FALL 2018

This newsletter appears in the spring and fall and can be found on the Town web site www.mashpeema.gov under Boards and Committees: Mashpee & Wakeby Lakes Management.

“The greatest threat to our planet is the believe that else will save it”.

~ Robert Swan

**Mashpee Wakeby Lakes
Management Committee
Mashpee Town Hall
16 Great Neck Road
Mashpee, MA 02649**

MASHPEE & WAKEBY
LAKES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mashpee & Wakeby Lake Management Committee is comprised of five members from the Mashpee community. They are representative of groups within the Town of Mashpee who have a vested interest in maintaining the beauty, safety and health of the Lake for the residents' use and enjoyment. The Committee acts as a conduit for the public's interests and concerns about the Lake. It serves as liaison to the Town's governing agencies, recommending necessary actions to be taken. The Committee meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, at 7:30 PM at Mashpee Town Hall. The presence of Mashpee residents at these meetings is encouraged. We urge your participation in the activities of this Committee, to assist in our ongoing efforts to preserve the beauty and safety of the Lake. For more information, contact any of the Committee members listed below.

Debi McManus, Chairman - Lake Shore property owner
94 Lakewood Ave. Mashpee, MA 508-868-1866

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13 Maple St. Mashpee, MA 02649 508-477-1795

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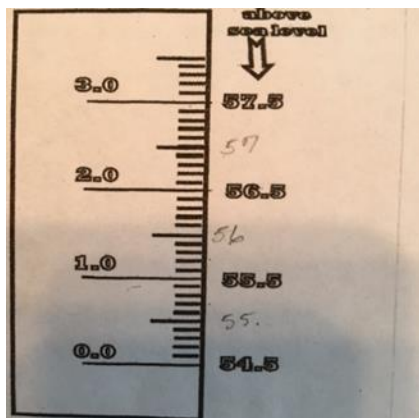


Beach Sampling Program

The Barnstable County Beach Sampling Program has been testing fresh water for E.coli weekly during the swim season for 17 years now. In Mashpee Wakeby, both Attaquin and Camp Farley sites are tested. If E.coli is present, it may indicate the presence of a condition that has potential to cause illness, usually a mild gastroenteritis. This year, four bathing beach sample analysts have collected and analyzed the samples in Mashpee Wakeby. Both sites have tested negative from June 6th through August 29th. Stormwater runoff is the dominant cause of elevated indicator levels. Animal waste from pets may contribute, as well as other wild animals.

Mary Traverse, Program Coordinator, may be reached at 508-375-6844. More information may be found at www.barnstablecountyhealth.org/programsandservices

Sandwich does not participate through Barnstable County, but testing is done through the Sandwich Board of Health.



In the fall of 2017, after a dry summer, the lake reached its lowest level at 55.2' above sea level. It increased to 55.8' and 55.9' in April and May, and then 55.6' in July. There was a slight dip in September to 55.3' but, with all the fall precipitation, the level was back to 55.5' in October. We are going into winter with the level .3' higher than usual. Levels above 55.5' cause erosion and damage to the shoreline.

Minor adjustments of boards which help control water level for the herring migration are managed by Drew McManus in Conservation and the Mass Department in Marine Fisheries.

This picture of the gauge in the cage by the outflow of the Mashpee River is where the lake level is measured.

Lowell Holly Reservation

Winslow Dresser is the new stewardship manager for the South Coast, which includes Lowell Holly Reservation. He reported only a few issues this summer (mostly involving dogs). The ranger staff reported that this year was quieter than some recent years. They have done some light clearing on the trails and around South Sandwich Road parking area and installed a new entrance sign and post. They plan to update the kiosks this winter and continue with clearing. As always, they invite everyone's support through membership with the Trustees of Reservations.

The area is posted No Hunting and no fires. Please alert Winslow Dresser of any issues you see on the property through the Westport office at 508-636-4693 at ext. 5011.



Mashpee & Wakeby Lakes Committee September Meeting

On September 25, 2018 the Mashpee-Wakeby Lake Committee met to discuss the problems encountered during the summer related to safety and inappropriate lake usage. Representing the Town of Mashpee were Selectman Andrew Gottlieb, Town Manager Rodney Collins and Mashpee Harbormaster Al Turner. Several attendees were present, including Sandwich Selectman Dave Sampson, because they had heard rumors that the Town was going to place a 50 horsepower restriction on boats using the Lake. This rumor was dispelled when the Mashpee Harbormaster made it clear no decisions had been made, and it is hoped the problem could be resolved with increased patrols.

Most of the problems occurring on the Lake were the result of reckless driving, driving at high rates of speed, inadequate boat safety knowledge and safety preparation, boating past imposed curfews, ignoring posted (floats) speed limits, and occasional driving to endanger.

Most people agreed that the busiest times on the Lake were weekend days, but many were quick to point out that it had gotten quite busy after work hours during the week and that the weekends now seemed to start on Thursdays. Boating past curfew was especially frustrating for lakeside residents.

What appeared to be a consistent recurring problem that was linked to poor behavior, was the lack of presence of law enforcement on the Lake that was easily detected by seeing the Harbor Patrol boat tied up at the southern end of the Lake. Everyone agreed that when the patrol boat was patrolling, behavior was significantly improved. Mr. Turner made the point that it was difficult to cover all of the waterways in Mashpee at all times.

Several people pointed out that if the launching ramp was used more consistently to check the condition of boats and their adherence to safety requirements it would make patrolling the Lake easier. Recommendations were made about the need for larger more visible signage describing safety requirements in different languages.

People discussed how New Hampshire had marine requirements for passage of a boating course for people of a certain age and how that seemed to work well on NH lakes. The imposition of a speed limit was discussed as was the difficulty of speed enforcement and consequences.

Regulatory jurisdictions were discussed and despite the Lake being in Mashpee and Sandwich it is considered public waters and must conform to State requirements. If restrictions were to be imposed such as speed limit or horsepower or size it would have to be accepted by the Commonwealth.

Based on all of the discussions it appeared that the group in general thought the quickest and most effective way to improve behavior on the Lake was to increase the presence of Marine Patrols with increased attention to the launching ramp and boaters preparedness, busy days, and hours of operation.

