



Lake Fairlee Association 2015 Report and Request to the Town of Fairlee

The LFA has had another busy year. It coordinated the June 2015 triclopyr milfoil treatment, maintained another successful greeter program, encouraged safe use of the lake and the protection of its environment, and worked with the Tri-Town Committee to restore the Dam.

Following our less successful 2013 attempt to eradicate patches of milfoil, the LFA decided against isolated treatment of the lake in 2014 in order to qualify for a whole lake treatment in 2015. The state permit for a 2015 chemical application only allowed treatment of moderate to dense patches, however at the concentration level recommended by the manufacturer (2.5 ppm), which was higher than the concentration approved by the State in 2013. On June 16, 2015 our contractor, Lycott Environmental, Inc., applied triclopyr to moderate to dense patches around the lake. The September survey showed significant dieback in the treatment areas, but some growth in untreated areas. Some residents chose to supplement treatment by hiring divers to pull milfoil in untreated areas, with many reporting at least moderate success.

We plan to treat again in 2017, after having monitored the growth of milfoil closely throughout the 2016 growing season. While we remain convinced that the herbicide treatment is the most effective and efficient method of milfoil control on the lake, we also believe hand pulling may be an effective supplement to managing the spread in off-treatment years. We have reached out to the Lake Morey Protective Association to better understand how they incorporate divers into their milfoil management program. As always, we will continue to work with the State scientists and Lycott to further develop a program that will most effectively control our milfoil.

Regarding the greeter program, we have continued to build upon the successes of 2014. Our greeters were present at the boat ramp every weekend from Memorial Day to Columbus Day, and every day throughout the summer. They recorded an impressive total of about 1,800 launch inspections this season and were passionate about their roles educating users about invasive species and encouraging boater safety and care for the lake environment. We are happy that most of them plan to return for the summer of 2016, when we hope to expand the services offered to include a washing station.

Financial support from the State continues to dwindle. Our 2014 grant was \$15,000. We were unable to apply for a grant in 2015, but hope to do so next year. The majority of the cost of our programs comes from lakeshore property owners and other LFA members. Even so, the steady support of each town has been crucial.

We are also very appreciative of local residents and the Selectboards of Thetford, Fairlee and West Fairlee for their support of the Lake Fairlee Dam replacement. While we understand this summer brought some setbacks, we are aware of the ongoing discussions between the Tri-town Committee and the contractor to develop a plan to replace our deteriorating dam. We are optimistic that an agreement can be reached to move the project forward to protect the lake for all of the neighboring communities and the lake users.

We are grateful to the Town of Fairlee for its consistent support over the years. For 2016, the Lake Fairlee Association again requests \$5,000.

For more information please see our website www.lakefairlee.org or contact any one of the LFA board members.

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