



## Lake Fairlee Association 2016 Report and Request to the Town of Fairlee

The LFA has had another busy year; an update on our accomplishments and expectations for 2016 follows.

Elimination of milfoil continues to be an ongoing, significant and continually evolving aspect of our organization's role as steward of the Lake. Using the post-treatment survey our herbicide contractor, Solitude, Inc., conducted in September 2015—as well as our own visual surveys—for guidance, we identified four areas of considerable regrowth, and hired a team of divers to conduct four days of hand-pulling and top-down suction harvesting in August, resulting in the removal of one ton of plants from the Lake.

We will apply for state milfoil control grants again this winter, and the result of Solitude's September 2016 and any State grant recommendations will guide our course of action in 2017. We expect the state may recommend a spot-treatment on moderate to dense growth areas. If the state grants do not make such a recommendation, we plan to postpone chemical treatment another year and increase the contracts with the dive team to two weeks, and will consult with the team to schedule their contracts to make the most effective use of their time. While we remain confident in the effectiveness of herbicide treatment, thanks to success of the 2015 treatment, this summer's successful hand-pulling and suction harvesting experiment has shown this to be effective supplement to managing the spread in off-treatment years. We remain optimistic that we can achieve a balanced approach—relying on multiple methods of management—to continue to reduce the presence of milfoil and other invasives in Lake Fairlee's waters in a manner both economically and environmentally sustainable.

The greeter program continues to grow and build upon past success. We were fortunate enough to retain our core group of greeters for the 2016 season. Again, 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 continue to be 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 2017. We did not add a washing station this summer and plan to explore that option over the 2016-2017 winter.

Financial support from the State continues to dwindle. The state awarded the LFA a \$26,000.00 Grant in 2016. We've been told that the increase was temporary, as we were unable to apply for a grant in 2015, and to expect the 2017 Grant amount to be similar to the \$15,000.00 we were awarded in 2014. The majority of the cost of our programs continues to be supported by lakeshore property owners and other LFA members. Even so, the steady support of each town has been crucial to making our budget. While the attached budget shows we have a reserve, please keep in mind that it continues to be our practice to

We continue to be appreciative of local residents and the Selectboards of Thetford, Fairlee and West Fairlee for their support of the Lake Fairlee Dam replacement, and we were thrilled to watch the dam construction process throughout this summer and fall. We look forward to the ongoing cooperation of the towns, through the Tri-Town Association, as they oversee the upkeep of our new dam now and into the future.

We are grateful to the Town of Fairlee for its consistent support over the years. For 2017, the Lake Fairlee Association again requests \$5,000. For more information please see our website [www.lakefairlee.org](http://www.lakefairlee.org) or contact any one of the LFA board members.

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**LAKE FAIRLEE ASSOCIATION**  
**Summaries of Budget vs Actual for 2016**

	2016 Budget	Actual 10/20/16
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations & Dues	45,000.00	47,623.00
Towns	12,000.00	5,000.00
State via NRCD	27,000.00	9,370.00
Merchandise:Signs		30.00
Refunded 2014 Soc Sec & Medicare		85.45
Interest	75.00	76.51
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>84,075.00</b>	<b>62,184.96</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
Greeter Program		
Wages for 143 days	24,143.00	21,325.00
Benefits (SS & Medicare)	1,846.94	1,557.64
Employee WHLD SS & Medicare		-73.50
Federal Withholding		-30.99
VT Withholding		-12.99
VT UC	313.86	271.87
Worker Comp Insurance	500.00	569.00
Greeter Program bookkeeping	3,000.00	2,055.00
Equipment & Supplies	300.00	27.10
Payroll error		-0.05
	30,103.80	25,688.08
Milfoil Control Program		
Hand pulling 2016 @\$1,300/day	5,200.00	5,200.00
Fall Survey	5,000.00	0.00
Post Treatment 2015	6,700.00	6,700.00
	11,700.00	11,900.00
Liabilty Insurance		
Director & Offciers	0.00	1,014.55
General Liabilty	370.00	350.00
	370.00	1,364.55
Administration/Office		
Accounting/bookkeeping	1,000.00	889.00
PO Box 102	60.00	58.00
Postage, non FR printing, & Supplie	75.00	45.88
Fund Raising: Postage & Printing	300.00	720.68
Bank charge (new checks)		44.70
Fees & Membership	95.00	50.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	5.01
	1,530.00	1,813.27
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>43,333.80</b>	<b>40,765.90</b>
<b>INCOME/EXPENSES</b>	<b>40,741.20</b>	<b>21,419.06</b>