

GOOD NEIGHBORS ON THE WATER

By Ahvi Spindell & Ian Levine

Our lake is home to a diversity of activities. Beginning early morning, it accommodates scullers, fisherman with bass boats, fishing kayaks, pontoon boats, sail boats, ski boats with wake boarders and tubes, jet skis, hydrofoil surfboards, paddleboarders, kayaks and swimmers. At 654 acres it is big enough for large boats, many of which are made for the ocean. The challenge is our water is divided into 4 smaller bodies of water and has many shallow and rocky areas. Given all this activity, we have a melting pot of potential dangers. The right of way rules are imperative but not sufficient.

When on a craft facing the bow, the starboard side is on the right and the left side is port. It is a critical rule of safety that the vessel on **the starboard side is the give way vessel responsible for avoiding collision.**

Another easy rule of thumb is a motorized vessel with an **engaged** engine is responsible for avoiding a non-motorized vessel.

It gets trickier with novice windsurfers unable to control their trajectory or scullers with their backs turned to their destination direction. The rule is that **the vessel being overtaken ALWAYS has the right of way.** This may feel counter intuitive that a rower or windsurfer is responsible to avoid a drifting 90 hp powerboat, but that is the rule.

By law any vessel going over 10 mph must never be within 50 feet of another vessel. If towing, the distance increases to 100 feet.

However, rules and regulations are no substitutes for common sense and respecting fellow lake recreationists.

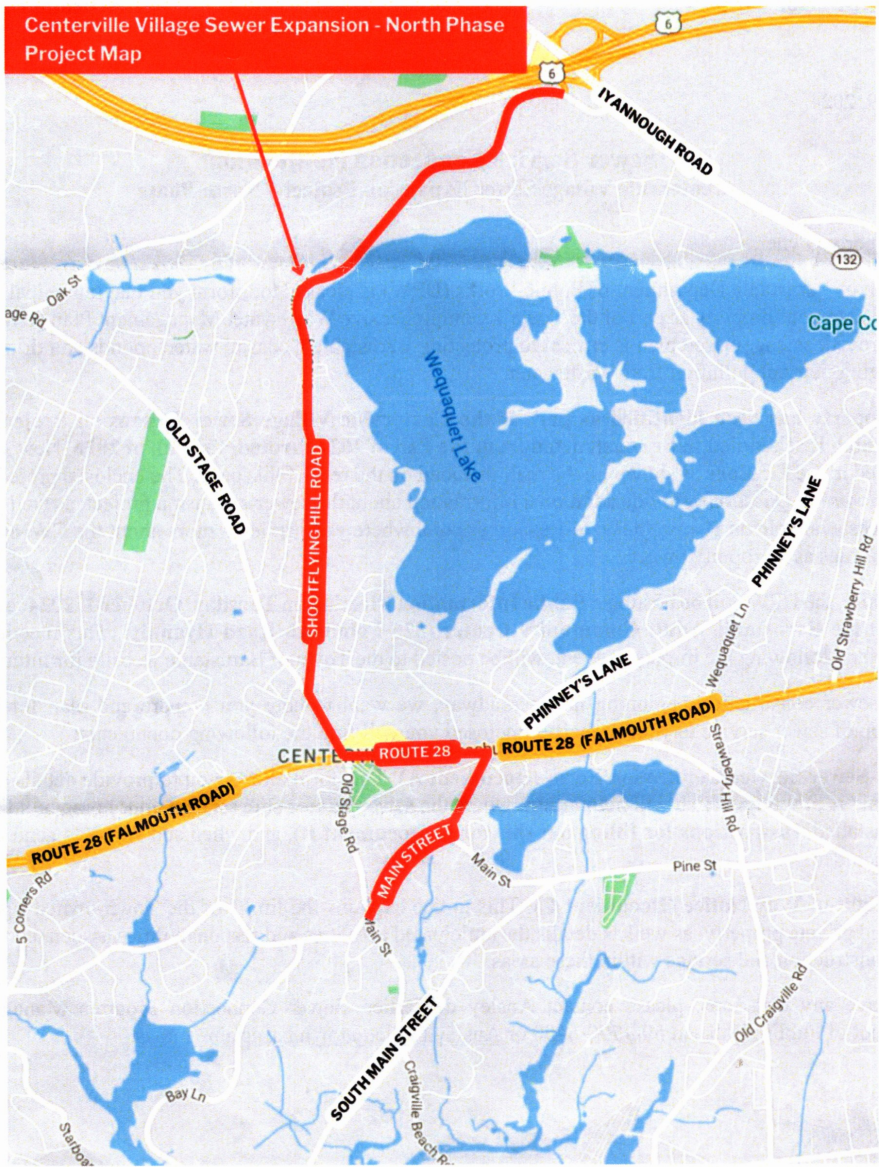
Slowing down is always the better choice. Last season there were reported incidents of impatient boaters speeding past other boats approaching a split. Be mindful that children can be thrown off a tube and are vulnerable until they are retrieved. Rocking a paddle boarder or fishing kayak while speeding past creates unnecessarily large wakes. And remember, watch out for floating timber.

Additionally, we share the lake with wildlife. Turtles only move so fast.

Also, the lake does not need to hear your music. Turn the volume down. Sound travels overwater and is annoying to those who are even on the shore. Your party is not everyone's party.

Be courteous to those around you. That's a "right of way" that benefits us all.

CENTERVILLE VILLAGE SEWER EXPANSION PROJECT – NORTH PHASE PROJECT MAP



The Town of Barnstable DPW sent notice to property owners along Shootflying Hill Road that the Centerville Village Expansion Project North Phase is scheduled to be built from the fall of 2024 through the fall of 2026.

FALL/
WINTER
2024

WEQUAQUET LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

People that care about Lake Wequaquet



Greetings from the new WLPA President

With the start of a new year, we offer a big thank you to Alan Horvitz who steps aside as the WLPA president but will continue as vice president. For me as the new president, Alan's guidance will be essential. Thankfully, when you pull the curtain aside, I have the support of the rest of the board, who are all volunteers, engaged in the hard work of keeping our association vital. Each board member contributes their time, talent and expertise to keep our lake clean, safe and enjoyable. This holiday season let's raise a glass to the WLPA board members, who unceasingly show up to make a difference for our shared precious resource.
Best regards, Ahvi Spindell

2025 WLPA BOARD

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WEQUAQUET LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 2, 2024

Wequaquet Lake Yacht Club

Minutes from Mary Ann Anthony, Secretary

Attendance: 51 members and 5 Town of Barnstable Officials: Mark Ells, Town Manager; Kristin Terkelson, Precinct 2 Town Councilor; Daniel Santos, DPW Director; Brian Taylor, Harbormaster; and Lt. Michael Clark, Marine Division, Barnstable Police Dept. The guest speaker for the meeting, Julie Hambrook Berkman, Ph.D, Pond and Cyanobacteria Program Manager for the APCC, was unable to appear because of a positive Covid test. Alan introduced the Town representatives and asked them to address the membership and respond to questions, following a brief Association business meeting.

Kristen Terkelson: As a new representative for Precinct 2, which includes the lake, she has been meeting with constituents to inform herself about their issues and concerns. As an advocate she cannot solve all problems, but she can listen. She read a letter she had received last November from a constituent about the role of a town counselor. The letter complained about the lack of open meetings, as required by law, relative to the wind project. Counselor Terkelson urged the members to express their opinions about the wind farm, sewers, and sole-source aquifer protection by attending the Town Council meetings on the first and third Thursdays each month.

Mark Ells: Mr. Ells complimented the WLPA for its years of advocacy for the lake, and complimented Ms. Terkelson as a counselor. He reiterated her comment that it is important for town officials to hear from the public. Cape water issues are central to life on the Cape and the town of Barnstable, and the town needs more dialog with citizens. There are miles of ocean area yet to be permitted for wind by the federal government. Local government has very little authority over wind permitting – authority is at the state and federal government level. He commented on the complexity of water resources, and urged members to watch what is going on with drinking water and waste water in the coming months.

Daniel Santos: Mr. Santos remarked that the major focus at DPW has been on the sewer project. He said that the first connection to a new sewer system in 10 years, since 2014, was accomplished in the preceding week on Strawberry Hill Rd. It was done within schedule and on budget. The rte. 28 East project is wrapping up, so 168 homes on Phinney's Lane will be connected over the next 6 months. In Centerville the Park City Wind project is on hold, affecting the sewer project on Shootflying Hill Rd. Kelly Collopy is the information manager for DPW about the sewer project. His department is developing a sewer connection guide for home owners in print and online. Barnstable reports to the EPA and the Cape Cod Commission with 5 year updates on progress with the CWMP plan, because plans can change with innovations in technology. The first update is due in 2025. As of May 20 the APCC has begun monitoring the lake for cyanobacteria. Results are published both on the "My Barnstable" app, and on the APCC website.

Minutes – Questions and Answers – continued on page 2

Brian Taylor: Mr. Taylor briefly remarked that we are in phase 2 of replacing the lake buoys with equipment funded by the WLPA. The old foam buoys that are easily damaged by boat strikes and the like, are being replaced with a hard plastic material that will last longer. He asked members to remove floating docks and other hazardous floating items, or report their location to his department for removal. He cautioned that if property owners bring it onto their own land they become responsible for its removal.

Lt. Michael Clark: Lt. Clark oversees the marine division of the Barnstable Police Department. The dept. has a 31ft safe boat in Barnstable Harbor, and a 21ft center console boat on the lake, moored at the Canniff’s dock. There are 20 officers trained on the boat who can respond to emergencies. His dept. receives very few lake calls, except for those regarding the one “party spot”. He said that the dept. received a state grant for traffic control on Shootflying Hill Rd because of safety concerns in the area of the town beach, for swimmers, and for putting in and hauling out boats. His direct line is 508-775-0812. His email is clark.m@barnstablepolice.com.

Questions and Answers

Q. Heather Swenson; What will happen if there is a fire or a spill at the proposed substation? Where will 2 pump stations for the sewer project be located on Shootflying Hill Rd.? What about the wells around the lake? Will the water quality initiative consider what will happen if there is a leak at the substation? There is a meeting planned for June 18 at the High School regarding the plan to build a road at the motel to accommodate trucks carrying tons of soil from Shootflying Hill.

A. Mr. Ells; Offshore wind isn’t going away. There are already 2 major substations in town. Barnstable is the transportation center of the Cape, and is turning to electric buses and vehicles, as are many drivers. All of them require EV charging, demanding more electricity than the current grid can support. The Cape grid must be expanded. Citizen involvement is critical as this goes forward. Siting for the expanded grid is determined by the EFSB. The Cape is one of the most environmentally sensitive places in the country.

Q. Alan Horvitz; How can we focus our attention? What is the current status?

A. Mr. Ells; There are actually three projects: Vineyard Wind Project (Covell’s Beach via Strawberry Hill Rd to the substation); Park City Wind Project (Craigville Beach to the substation); and Commonwealth Wind Project (New England Connector 1 and 2, Dowse’s Beach). Mr Ells shared a detailed history of the evolution of the wind projects. He said the Town Council advocated for the projects. As Town Manager he does not, cannot advocate. He acts at the direction of the Town Council. In 2023 Commonwealth Wind was permitted, but the power purchase agreements fell apart. With their financing in question, forward motion on the project stopped and Commonwealth defaulted. Massachusetts issued an RFP for any entity to submit a proposal. A proposal was submitted by Park City Wind, which has permits in place but financing is not secured. This should be settled later in 2024. However the state can always supersede the town’s wishes.

Q. Frank Ward; We can act. We can call the governor, call NPR “Ask the Governor”. People around the lake have the governor’s ear.

A. Mr. Ells; Safety is the town’s highest concern. The dielectric fluid is already on the power poles all over town, in the cans at the top of the poles – and they are old. The town has had experts assess the potential hazards of the fluid in case of a spill.

A. Ms. Terkelson; Get involved with the “Save Dowses Beach” group. Numbers speak volumes. Governor Healey is coming to the Cape in June. Show up and let the governor know in numbers. The Cape Cod Times declines to print dissenting views on power issues. Call today if you are passionate about the lake and the quality of the water supply. Speak up.

A. Mr. Ells; Authority is with the state and federal government. This is the first cable landing of the 150 the federal government wants to build from Maine to the Carolinas.

Q. What is the cost of hooking up to the sewer?

A. Mr. Santos; There are 2 costs: the sewer assessment, which is capped at \$10,000, paid through your property tax; and the connecting cost, which can vary, depending on your property’s conditions, and the economy at the time. Contractors who provide the connection service are vetted by the town and hired and paid by the property owner.

Q. Is there a five year plan within each 10 year phase of the sewer project? An annual plan? Is it available?

A. Mr. Santos; Yes the town website tells you which 10 year phase your property is in. Or you can contact the DPW, either Santos or Collopy, to see when your property is scheduled.

Q. There are new state regulations for nitrogen from septic systems. What do we have to do to meet the new regulations?

A. Mr. Santos; The state has not been clear about implementation of the new regulation. Barnstable has an active CWMP to address nitrogen mitigation by way of sewers so property owners do not have to upgrade.

Q. IS there any way to upgrade the town beach access on Shootflying Hill Rd?

A. Mr. Santos; Yes, we will address it.

A. Mr. Ells: The lake is surrounded by private roads, many of which are just gravel and only 8 feet wide. 40% of the roads in town are private and deteriorating. The town does not maintain private roads. Mr. Ells offered to attend a meeting just to address the topic of private roads.

Q. Frank Ward; The plans for hook up to the sewers have changed because of the development on 28 West. Phinney’s Lane used to be a priority because there are over 700 homes. The 28 main sewer became a priority, and the residents who have been disturbed for years on Phinney’s lane are not getting connected now. Plans change, but no more changes.

A. Mr. Santos; The sewers are an arterial system, and the arteries are built first before the branches. The town has a great app for sewer information. Residents must take the initiative.



Wequaquet Lake Yacht Club offers a perfect venue for the Annual WLPA meeting just before the busy WLYC summer season begins. This years Annual Meeting was held on June 2nd.

2024 REMOVAL OF THE AQUATIC WEED FANWORT

The New England Aquatic Services was once again contracted by the Town to remove Fanwort from Wequaquet Lake and Bearses Pond. This ongoing removal is important because of the invasive nature of Fanwort growth. Fanwort spreads quickly and out competes the growth of native plants. This year the project started on September 9th and involved three suction harvesting boats and increased hours. Suction Harvesting is a process of physical plant removal during which a diver pulls a plant out by the roots and sends it to the surface via a suction hose. The plants are then deposited into mesh bar and the water returns to the lake. This method of removal leaves the native aquatic plants intact and therefore is ecologically better than a chemical treatment which kills native plants as well as invasive plants. The key to success of Suction Harvesting is consistency. While it is difficult to completely eliminate Fanwort in a given area in one year’s work, the goal is to reduce its density each year.

The divers first focused on the areas where they had been removing Fanwort for years. They reported that the Fanwort in these areas had been significantly reduced. In areas where Fanwort plants had been every six inches apart, the plants are now four to five feet apart. The lower density of Fanwort in especially Gooseberry cove and in areas of Bearses Pond allowed the Fanwort removal teams to search and remove Fanwort from new areas which had not been addressed before.

In total, 455 bags of Fanwort were removed from Bearses Pond, 189 bags from Gooseberry Cove and 391 bags from the rest of Wequaquet Lake for a total of 1,035 bags of Fanwort. Annual suction harvesting of Fanwort has proven to be very successful in managing the spread and growth of this invasive plant. The WLPA thanks the Town of Barnstable for its continued support in the removal of this very invasive weed from Wequaquet Lake and Bearses Pond.

By Gail Maguire



Fanwort is suction harvested in Bearse Pond by one of three boats. The project also included parts of Wequaquet Lake and Gooseberry Pond.

August 28, 2024 | UPDATE:
Additional Lake
Wequaquet Beaches Added to
Public Health Advisory

Aug 28, 2024 | Beach Water Quality Updates, cyanobacteria
As of Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 8:06 AM, the following water quality alerts have been issued:

- Additional beaches at **Lake Wequaquet, Centerville** will be posted with **Public Health Advisory** signage due to increased growth of Cyanobacteria.
These beaches include:
- Public Beach located at Shootflying Hill Road**
- Jimmies Beach**
- Lake Wequaquet Yacht Club Beach**
- Lake Drive Beach**

If you are interested in receiving more information about Cyanobacteria and locations monitored, you may view the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) 2024 Cyanobacteria Monitoring Map at <https://apcc.org/our-work/science/community-science/cyanobacteria/>

If you are interested in receiving email notifications when there is a potential toxic bloom identified by the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), you may opt-in by clicking this

link: <https://apcc.org/our-work/science/community-science/cyanobacteria/cyanobacteria-alert/> where you will be asked to enter your email address in order to receive cyanobacteria alerts.

Thomas A. McKean, RS, CHO
Director of Public Health
TOWN OF BARNSTABLE

GOLDEN RULES FOR
COLD WATER SAFETY

Recommended by the
National Center for Cold Water Safety
Coldwatersafety.org

Dress for the water temperature:

Never assume the water is warmer than it is; wear appropriate clothing for the expected water temperature.

Always wear a PFD:

Even if you are a strong swimmer, wearing a life jacket in cold water is crucial.

Check your gear:

Regularly inspect and test all safety equipment before entering cold water.

Swim-test your gear:

Before each use, test your PFD in the water to ensure it functions properly.

Plan for emergencies:

Consider potential dangers and have a plan for how to respond if you fall into cold water.