

SPRING/  
SUMMER  
2024



# WEQUAQUET LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

*People that care about Lake Wequaquet*

## WLPA ANNUAL MEETING

**SUNDAY  
JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup>  
9:00 - 11:00 AM**

**WEQUAQUET LAKE  
YACHT CLUB**

Keynote  
Speaker

**JULIE HAMBROOK  
BERKMAN, PH.D**



**Alan Horvitz**  
outgoing  
Association President

## *Words from the WLPA President*

The summer is almost upon us. Taking out all the lawn furniture and planters is so much more enjoyable than taking them in at the end of the season. I want to continue to remind everyone to please not fertilize their lawns. This spring has brought a lot of rain. If the rain continues and you are fertilizing, you could be damaging our lake. As they say, it takes a village. What you do on your property can influence all of us. As my time as president winds down, I want to take this opportunity to introduce your new president, Ahvi Spindell. Ahvi ***has been on the board for many years and will do an outstanding job as your new president.*** I will be staying on the board and continue as vice president. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, it has been a pleasure serving as your president and I truly appreciate and share everyone's love of our beautiful lake. Have a safe and enjoyable summer and I hope to see you all at our annual meeting.

Best regards, Alan Horvitz



**Ahvi Spindell**  
Nominated incoming  
WLPA President

## **WLPA Officers Term**

**According to Wequaquet Lake Protective Association  
By-laws in Article V Section 5:**

The Board of Directors shall nominate officers for the election to be voted on at the annual meeting and to take office for the next year commencing January 1. The date of January 1 relates to the fiscal year of the Association, January 1 to December 31 of the following year.

### **WLPA Officials**

**President:** Alan Horvitz

**Vice President:** Ahvi Spindell

**Secretary:** Mary Ann Anthony

**Treasurer:** Frank Ward

### **DIRECTORS**

Paul Canniff

Gale Klun

Richard Kramer

Jessie Lyons

Gail Maguire

Karin Menegay

**Website Manager:**

Chuck Murphy

**WIND FARM SUBSTATION RAISES CONCERNS**

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## Right of Way Between Different Types of Vessels

As you accrue experience in boating, you'll encounter special situations which demand a certain approach.



**These situations include:**



1

A vessel that's restricted in its ability to maneuver. It will always have the right of way.

2

Any boat approaching a vessel from astern must give that vessel the right of way.

3

A boat engaged in fishing will be restricted in its movements, giving it the right of way.

4

A vessel under sail or not under power has the right of way over powered-vessels.

5

Power-driven vessels must give way to all categories mentioned above.



 **FORMULA**

# Park City Wind Farm Substation Raises Concerns

By Ahvi Spindell

Wind power is coming to the coast of Massachusetts because the Governor is a big proponent of wind power. The WLPA is not against wind power.

However, plans to build one of the largest power substations in America, (the size of 3 Home Depots) on Shootflying Hill Road, does raise concern and may already be a done deal.

The Town Council authorized the Town Manager to execute a Host Community Agreement (HCA) with Park City Wind (PCW). This host community agreement was executed in May 2022.

The Town understands that the PCW project is permitted at the state level and that the federal review is near conclusion with Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) with BOEM's recent issuance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the project.

The substation proposed for Shootflying Hill Road is part of the project plan proposed by Park City Wind and approved by the Energy Facilities Siting Board in December 2023.

According to an authorized spokesperson for the Town of Barnstable, as of 3/5/2024, the Town does not have available any information concerning whether Park City Wind has entered contracts for any portion of the work. Records at the Registry of Deeds indicate that Park City Wind has acquired at least part of the land on which the substation is planned.

If built on Shootflying Hill, the substation will be close to Wequaquet Lake and on top of Barnstable's sole source aquifer that feeds many other Cape Cod communities as well. 125,000 gallons of dielectric oil is the most recent estimate that will be at the substation on Shootflying Hill Road. If this leaked, it would be environmentally catastrophic.

Why are Barnstable and adjacent towns being asked to incur an extra level of risk within one of the state's most irreplaceable natural habitats?

Many wind power cables around the world come ashore in an industrial area and connect to substations in industrial areas.

So why are Massachusetts wind cables coming ashore under Barnstable beaches?

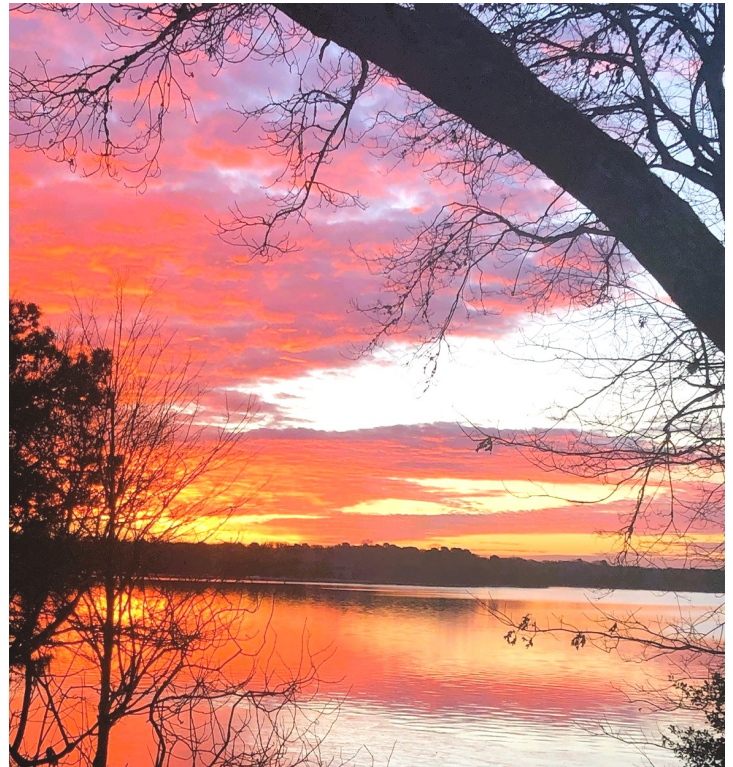
Power cables are planned to come onshore under Dowses Beach. Why not land the cables at an industrial location such as New Bedford Harbor, or the Brayton Point Power Plant in Somerset?

It appears the current Town Council is trying to stop the cables from running under Barnstable beaches and relocate the substation.

WLPA is not against wind power, WLPA believes the proposed substation on Shootflying Hill Road is too close to Wequaquet Lake and the risk is unwarranted.

What can we do as citizens? Contact the Governor and ask her to land the cables in an Industrial Area, such as New Bedford or the Brayton Point Power Plant.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/email-the-governors-office>



## Sewer Expansion Update

Alterations in the sewer schedule continue as changes occur with off shore cable plans. An update in the March 11, 2024 Cape Cod Times reports the following:

The work will include installing new sewers on Route 28 from Phinney's Lane to Old Stage Road, Old Stage Road from Route 28 to Shootflying Hill Road, Shootflying Hill Road from Old Stage Road to Service Road and Phinney's Lane from Route 28 to Main Street. Three new pump stations are also planned-two on Shootflying Hill Road and one in Mother's Park.



## ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER Julie Hambrook Berkman Ph.D.



Dr. Julie Hambrook Berkman is APCC's Pond and Cyanobacteria Program Manager. Julie has a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Rhode Island, and her environmental research spans ecosystems from coastal Venezuela to freshwater studies on Baffin Island and the Alaskan North Slope. She worked with the U.S. Geological Survey's National Water Quality Assessment Program (1992-2009) evaluating the biological health of rivers and streams in relation to water chemistry, physical habitat, and watershed land use. As a senior aquatic ecologist, she published methods for algae collection and algal biomass indicators; provided training; and organized a Symposium on Algae as Water Quality Indicators Past, Present and Future that included a press conference on Algal Toxins (1999). In addition to research, she collaborated with state agencies to secure funding for a citizen's lake sample collection training program while President and Board member of the Ohio Lake Management Society (2004-2008).

Julie has a bachelor's degree in botany and a master's degree in education from the University of New Hampshire and enjoys engaging people in thinking about their environment on many different levels. In Cambridge, UK she formed and served as director of the Foundation for Good Governance of International Spaces (Our Spaces) an NGO. On Cape Cod she is a member of Audubon, the Botanical Club of Cape Cod & the Islands, Falmouth Art Center, and The 300 Committee Land Trust.

## SOURCES TO KNOW

### Water Quality Issues

APCC: site offers an "alert" tab for persons wishing to know the status of water bodies tested by APCC. Go to APCC. Org, and provide your email address for these messages. The Association to Preserve Cape Cod creates an interactive map that shows Cyanobacteria test results for over 22 Cape waterways. The map is found at APCC.org. The APCC site suggests that if you notice scum or discolored water that has a strong odor, avoid contact and notify the health department. Also, a photo of the water can be sent to; [cyano@apcc.org](mailto:cyano@apcc.org). Note location, day, and time that photo was taken.

### CWMP Questions

In addition to the Town of Barnstable site, Paul Ruzala, senior project manager, has provided a phone number and website for answers to questions concerning the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plans. His number is 508-790-6400. Mr. Ruzala's email address is: [paul.ruzala@town.Barnstable.ma.us](mailto:paul.ruzala@town.Barnstable.ma.us) **Councilor**

### Councilor Terkelsen's Newsletter

Recently elected Precinct 2 Town Councilor, Dr. Kristin Terkelsen has sent notice that she is publishing a newsletter. She says it will provide advance notice to her constituents concerning topics to be addressed at upcoming Town Meetings. Several decisions are in progress concerning areas surrounding Wequaquet Lake. To receive the newsletter, register at: <https://www.terkfor2.com/news>

### Non Emergency Police:

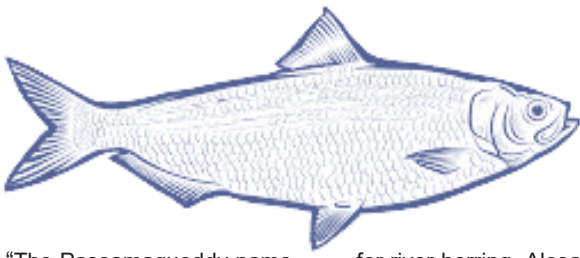
To report unsafe boating, excessive noise or other non emergency lake issues call: 508-775-0812.

**WLPA Website:** [Wequaquetlake.com](http://Wequaquetlake.com)



On March 20, Board members spoke with Harbor masters Brian Taylor and Jay Horn to discuss buoys in Wequaquet.

After a vote from the full board, it was agreed that WLPA will purchase seven new buoys for the approximate price of \$2500. Buoys were expected to be installed in early May.



# HERRING

***"The fish that feeds all"***

***By Gale Klun***

"The Passamaquoddy name for river herring, *Alosa pseudoharengus*, translates to "the fish who feed all." This name describes the herrings' role in the food chain, and their importance to Native Americans as a food source for centuries. River herring are also a keystone species that connect communities on land with ecosystems in the sea."

***Excerpt from Maine coastalfisheries.org***



**"Heather Rockwell, Director of Operations BCWC speaks to Volunteer Herring Counters."**

These fish supported some of the oldest fisheries in the United States. Their historically high abundance, wide distribution, and migratory life cycle intertwined with the human experience along the Atlantic seaboard of North America. They are culturally important to a number of Native American tribes who celebrate the runs of the river herring adults into freshwater spawning habitats along the East Coast.

***Excerpt from NOAA Fisheries "River Herring Science in support of Species Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration" 12/22/21***

Each year, the herrings are a vital part of the local ecosystem, as they provide food for a wide range of predatory birds, mammals, and fish. They also play a crucial role in the nutrient cycle of freshwater systems in which they spawn, as the nutrients released by their decomposing bodies help to fertilize the surrounding vegetation and promote the growth of other aquatic species.

***Excerpt from "Fascinating Annual Herring Run on Cape Cod" by Kim Sharpe***

River Herring, are anadromous. They spend their adult life in salt water but are born in fresh water ponds and streams. Watching mature adult herring migrate to their fresh water spawning site is a popular springtime activity on Cape Cod. The adult fish usually arrive in early March and valiantly make their way towards fresh spawning waters. The adults head back to the salt water in July. Juvenile herring, fry, remain in the fresh water until a trigger in late fall signals it's their time to swim towards the ocean.

Late in the 20th century, herring populations were depleting at such alarming numbers that it was feared the fish would become extinct. Environmental conditions contributed to the low herring numbers but also human over fishing was blamed. The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries placed a moratorium on the harvest, possession, and sale of river herring in state waters. The moratorium still applies. With due care of the migratory runs and continued restricted fishing, it's hoped that the river herring numbers will rebound. Statewide, volunteers count migrating herring to assess the fish status.

On March 6 a training session was held at the Osterville Library to update the herring status in Barnstable and to instruct new and returning herring counters. The program is sponsored by Barnstable Clean Water Coalition and the Barnstable Department of Natural Resources. There are three main focus runs in Barnstable. All three runs are larger and more accessible for Counters than the small Wequaquet Lake run on Phinneys Lane. However, according to Senior Natural Resource Officer, Christopher Nappi, "Lake Wequaquet and Long Pond are 700 acres of freshwater spawning habitat accessed by a short man-made ditch/herring run. Because the distance to the estuary is short, there are less manmade obstructions in the way to impede fish passage and greater potential for the fish to be successful." These factors could make Wequaquet and Long Pond the largest spawning ponds in Barnstable he said.

The Centerville River/Lake Wequaquet run flows into Long Pond. The Association for the preservation of Long Pond newsletter reports that the run is a ditch that was dug in 1867 by Civil War veterans. The article says the ditch was dug to be a herring run and it is assumed that once completed, herring were stocked.

Residents living around Long Pond count fish at their run and submit data to APCC who sends it on to the Mass Dept of Marine Fisheries in New Bedford. In 2021, the count was 9285. In 2022, it was 3211. Last year (2023), 10,290 adult river herring were counted at the Long Pond run.

In late fall, lowering temperatures serve as a signal or trigger to the herring fry. That's when thousands of juvenile herring are seen frantically swimming around the shores of Wequaquet Lake. They are seeking an exit run through which they can migrate towards their salt water adult home.

The fry ability to exit their fresh water birth place is dependant upon the condition of the run. The run has ladders that need to allow clear exit with no dams or other blocking materials. Also, the water needs to be high enough for the fish to swim through. Keeping the runs cleared for exit and adjusting the run ladders often requires maintenance from the Natural Resource Department. The job often falls to Chris Nappi and helpers.

In past years, the WLPA contributed money to upgrade our herring run ladders. Assisting the migrating herring seems the least we can do to help "the fish who feeds all."



**Christopher Nappi, Natural Resource Officer, Barnstable, speaks about herring, herring run maintenance, and counting herring at Osterville Library.**