



GOOSE POND MAINTENANCE DISTRICT DISTRICT NEWS

May
2020

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2020 Annual Meeting

****Important – Changes to the Annual Meeting****

COVID-19 has impacted our lives these past few months, with no foreseeable end in sight. This impact holds true for the Annual Meeting of the Goose Pond Maintenance District. Following guidance from the CDC regarding social distancing and quarantining, along with communications with the Towns of Lee and Tyringham, the District has voted to delay the meeting from Memorial Day Weekend, in the hopes of still holding the meeting.

The 2020 Annual Meeting will be held **Saturday, June 20, 2020 at Tyringham Town Hall** starting at **2:00 p.m.**

Mr. Joseph Janis is up for re-election to the Prudential Committee.

We understand that people have individual circumstances that may not allow them to feel comfortable, even in June, to meet in a large group. Pre-existing health conditions, travel and age can all be contributing factors to the safety of our District Members. Therefore, it is important, now more than in past years, to focus our attention on the Proxy Ballots. The District is required, by the Commonwealth, to obtain a quorum at the Annual Meeting to pass the budget. If we do not get a quorum, we will need to reschedule, which can be problematic for our budget, ending on June 30, 2020. The vote proxy certifications and warrant are folded with this newsletter. **If you cannot or do not want to attend the meeting, then please fill out the proxy. The proxy can be mailed back to the District, nominating the person who will represent your vote at the meeting, or hand deliver it to any District member who will be in attendance. Our Board Members are more than willing to represent your vote as their attendance is required. Please reach out to the District to help navigate you with this process.**

GPMD
P. O. Box 519
Lee, MA 01238

Email Me!

Especially in times like this, the Prudential Committee requests that any district member that would like to receive newsletters or other information from the Committee via email, to please email the District Superintendent at goosepondmanager@gmail.com with your name and email address. We will add you to the emailing list. This will allow you to stay up to date on events or restrictions at Goose Pond. The District would love to see 100% participation!!! Please share your email with us!!

Have you seen the website?

A few years back, the District created a new website to keep its members informed about the current events happening with Goose Pond. That website is www.goosepondma.com. This website is frequently updated with meeting dates, treatments, photos, and history about the District! Come check it out!

The Ever Nagging Aquatic Invasive

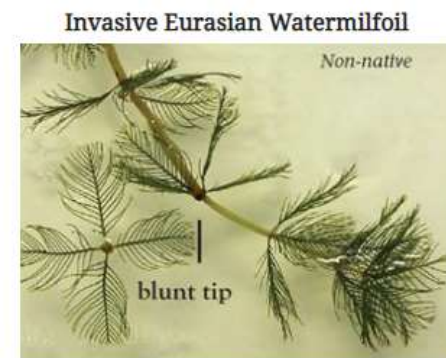
The District, in an ongoing effort to stay on top of the returning Eurasian milfoil and phragmites problem, completed a survey of Goose Pond in the fall of 2019 by Water Resource Services (WRS). This survey resulted in the following.

Eurasian Milfoil

Both Upper and Lower Goose Pond were surveyed in the Fall of 2019 for the presence of Eurasian Milfoil. The District performed lake wide treatments during the Summer 2017 growing season. These treatments have widely proved successful. However, it is an invasive and will likely make a comeback.

The fall survey resulted in a successful return for many native plants in place of milfoil. The inlet is flush with native celery and chara, where just a few years ago was dense with milfoil. Most of the lake has seen a regrowth of many types of native pondweeds and common naiad in water depths less than 17 feet.

Over the entire pond, no visible patches were found, and no topped-out growths were observed. Unfortunately, a small patch of milfoil was found in Upper Goose Pond, in a previously mapped area. This patch was found in water depths of 10-12 feet and the plants are about 4-5 feet tall. These were located using an underwater video system. Due to the size and number of the plants found, this area is recommended for remediation by hand pulling. This will be completed in the Spring 2020, along with additional survey of the area.



Phragmites (Common Reed)

The first widespread treatment of Phragmites by the District was in 2016. This proved successful for about 2 years. Surveys completed on Goose Pond in 2018 and again in 2019 found several returning strands along the shoreline, which were recommended for treatment.

In the fall of 2019, the District contracted with SOLitude Lake Management to provide treatment of the previously mapped phragmites. This treatment would be like the previous treatment, a spray application from a boat, targeting areas that were surveyed by an independent survey. Once the invasive beings to die, it can be removed from the shoreline. It can be cut and burned or bagged and removed from the site. The area can also be covered in mats as done in past years. All methods to remove the plant must be done by hand, no mechanical means are permitted.



Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*)

The Committee strongly suggests that if you see any signs of phragmites or Eurasian Milfoil around the lake, please feel free to reach out to any Prudential Committee Member, the District Superintendent or submit an inquiry on the website. Information about phragmites can be found on the website.

Some Dam Information

One of the main purposes of the Goose Pond Maintenance District is to operate and maintain the dam. The previous downstream papermill owner went bankrupt, and the State was not going to take ownership of the dam. The dam is an earthen dam, originally built in the 1890's to supply water to the former paper mill located on Forest Street. The dam holds back over 300 acres of water. The District was formed in 1994 to buy the dam. The dam was rebuilt, and the spill way lowered in 1999.

The dam is classified as a high hazard dam by the State of Massachusetts. A high hazard dam is a classification that indicates any failure will result in a loss of life, serious damage to homes, commerce, and/or industrial areas. The dam is managed under the State of Massachusetts 302 CMR 10.00. Some of the requirements that must be met under these regulations are specific. The dam must be inspected every 2 years by a licensed professional engineer. In addition, annually an updated Emergency Action Plan must be prepared. This plan must be submitted and approved by the Office of the Dam Safety, as well as

numerous other state and local agencies for review. The District has copies of the EAP's and has inspected the dam every other year since 1996. The dam is in good condition and is monitored every month to ensure that the grass is cut, no bushes or trees grow on the dam and the spill way is clear of brush.

Rocks in the Channel

During the 2019 drawdown of Goose Pond, it was discovered that someone(s) was placing rocks in the channel between upper and lower Goose Pond. It appears these rocks were placed in order to restrict access, to Upper Goose during normal lake elevations, to motorized and larger boats. This same activity was discovered during the 2016 drawdown, which resulted in significant damage to a District members boat. In addition, activities of this nature are a violation of several environmental acts and policies and can result in significant fines.

If any member sees any illegal activity in the channel, please do not confront these individuals. Instead, reach out to the Lee Police Department or the Environmental Police Department. Both agencies have been made aware of our situation.

As always, you may submit requests for written information to the District at P.O. Box 519, Lee, MA 01238, or by contacting the District Superintendent by email at goosepondmanager@gmail.com or by phone at (413) 358-0623.

Officers / Staff

Joseph Janis, Chairman	Until 2020
Timothy Puntin	Until 2021
Toni Thomas	Until 2022
John Philpott	Lee
William J. DeSantis	Tyringham
William DeSantis (senior)	Dam Monitor
Peter Beckwith	Dam Monitor (backup)
Peggy DeSantis	District Clerk and Treasurer
Sarah Gapinski	District Superintendent