

**TOWN OF HARVARD
BARE HILL POND WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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September 14, 2020

Abutters to Bare Hill Pond

Subject: Drawdown Initiation Notice

The Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee completed its invasive species, phosphorous, watershed and habitat monitoring this year. A complete report is available on the "Annual Reports" page of the Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee webpage of the Town Website (<https://www.harvard.ma.us/bare-hill-pond-watershed-management>). The report outlines the benefit that the draw down offers by reducing baseline phosphorous and controlling invasive species. The baseline has been reduced 50%.

This year a spike in phosphorous in August triggered by the drought and resulting release of phosphorous from the Pond sediments was the likely cause of the end of season algal bloom. By continuing the draw down efforts, it may be possible to avoid or at least reduce the likelihood of occurrence algal blooms by keeping baseline phosphorous low. Algal bloom events which are becoming increasingly common in August Massachusetts lakes and ponds.

On the condition that the algal bloom recedes (i.e., water clarity exceeding 4 feet, or if not, confirmation that it is below harmful levels for toxins), the draw down will commence slowly beginning on October 1 in order to achieve the 6.5 foot drawdown depth prior to late November to protect the habitat in accordance with our Order of Conditions. The level will typically decline about 10-12 inches per week but not more than approximately 3 feet in October, allowing for longer use of the Pond.

A copy of the rules for safe use of the Pond is enclosed for your convenience. Please note the CounterClockwise motorboating rules.

If you would like to receive email updates or notices from the Committee or other Town Boards, you can register your email address at: www.harvard.ma.us/subscribe

Sincerely Yours,

The Pond Committee

Cc: Fire Department; Department of Public Works; Conservation Committee; Board of Selectmen; Park and Recreation Commission; Bare Hill Pond Rowing Association

Town of Harvard, Mass.
Rules and Regulations Governing Boating and Swimming on Bare Hill Pond

§ 13-1. General provisions. No person shall operate any motor craft on Bare Hill Pond at a speed that is greater than reasonable and proper under the circumstances and conditions existing, or operate the same or manipulate water skis, a tube, surfboard, or similar device in a negligent manner so that the lives or safety of the public and property might be endangered. The Bare Hill Pond Committee shall post a navigation plan to aid in marking hazards and facilitate traffic control on Bare Hill Pond.

§ 13-2. Access. Access to the beach area of Bare Hill Pond is restricted to residents or current taxpayers of the Town of Harvard and their guests and other groups authorized by the Harvard Park & Recreation Commission. Access to the parking area of Bare Hill Pond is restricted to residents or current taxpayers of the Town of Harvard with a valid beach permit and other groups authorized by the Harvard Park & Recreation Commission. Access to and the use of Bare Hill Pond for boating and fishing is open to all inhabitants of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at locations designated and posted by the Bare Hill Pond Committee.

§ 13-3. General motor boating rules.

A. All motor or power boats on the pond are to be registered under appropriate state law and shall display proper lighting, safety equipment, flotation devices, and be equipped with a proper muffler or underwater exhaust as is or may be required by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90B and 323 Code of Massachusetts Regulations 1 through 6.

B. All boats traveling in excess of 20 mph shall follow the same counterclockwise traffic flow pattern described in § 13-4D applicable to boats with objects in tow.

C. The maximum speed on Bare Hill Pond is 35 mph if traffic conditions so permit.

D. No person operating a craft propelled by other than muscle power shall pass another craft within 150 feet, or circle around any craft, in a manner as to annoy or endanger the occupants of the other crafts, nor pass (other than at headway speed) within 150 feet of another craft or between moored crafts or floats and the shore. No craft shall operate at a speed that endangers the life, limb or property of any person.

E. Between the hours of 8:00 p.m. (or sunset, if earlier) and 10:00 a.m. speeds will be limited to headway speed with no wake. Appropriate running lights in accordance with Inland Rules for Navigation of the U.S. Coast Guard must be shown.

F. Motorboat speeds in the area adjacent to the swimming and the anchorage areas at the Town Beach will be limited to five miles per hour with no wake.

G. Overnight occupancy of any craft is not permitted.

H. Trailers at the Town launching area may not be loaded using the boat's engine power to drive the boat onto the trailer. Use of hand or powered winches mounted on the trailer only are permitted.

I. Boats towing boats in distress may do so during daylight hours at headway speed.

J. All out-of-town boats launched by nonresidents and nontaxpayers must pay a daily launch fee prior to launching. The use of the beach is prohibited to out-of-town boaters.

§ 13-4. Additional rules applicable to boats with objects or persons in tow (water skis, tubes, etc.).

A. Boats with persons or objects in tow may operate only between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (or sunset, if earlier).

B. No person operating a boat with a water skier, tube, skip board, or similar device in tow shall bring such a device or the boat within 150 feet of any boat dock, pier, raft, wharf, float, or a person or persons swimming unless to embark or disembark. Craft proceeding to dock or leaving from said dock shall enter and leave without delay from the area and shall be operated so as not to endanger any swimmer. No towline shall exceed 75 feet from the point of contact on the towboat to the object being towed.

C. No person operating a boat towing a water skier, tube, skip board, aquaplane or similar device in tow shall bring such device in the Harvard Town Beach boating channel with persons in tow.

D. All boating with objects or persons in tow, e.g., water skis, tubes, aquaplanes, etc., shall be done in a counterclockwise manner direction at least 150 feet from shore. This path pattern, shown on the chart,^[1] follows the shoreline inside Sheep Island, staying outside Four-Acre Island and the other six islands and between Ministers and Spectacle Islands. *Editor's Note: See the Bare Hill Pond Map included at the end of this chapter.*

E. Each boat must have at least one observer and a maximum of two water skier(s) and/or other objects in tow.

§ 13-5. Swimming. Swimmers who swim more than 100 feet off shore of the mainland or any island must be accompanied by a boat in close proximity.

§ 13-8. Enforcement and penalties. The Select Board is authorized to adopt penalties for violations of these rules and regulations from time to time that are consistent with the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

BARE HILL POND

13 Attachment 1

Town of Harvard

BARE HILL POND MAP

