

RPA Annual Report 2018

Richmond Pond Association marks another successful year in the preservation and protection of Richmond Pond. We are very appreciative to the Richmond Town Administrator, the Richmond Conservation Commission, the Pittsfield Open Space and Natural Resources Program Manager, and our numerous volunteers and donors without whom we would be less able to maintain this natural treasure. All are cordially invited to join our public meetings, to like our Facebook page, and to subscribe to updates on our website, www.richmondpondassociation.org.

A great highlight of 2018 for us was the relocation of the paddle portion of the Josh Billings RunAground to Richmond Pond due to a toxic algal bloom at Stockbridge Bowl, therefore raising its profile among local paddlers and triathletes. Members of the race committee were very pleased with our work and hope to use Richmond Pond as a backup venue for that leg of the race if ever needed in the future.

Among our priority achievements:

- **Weed treatment:** Richmond Pond was treated twice in the summer for invasive plants: Eurasian milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, and spiny naiad. We are now considering future treatment for tapegrass, a native species, which is overgrowing in some areas.
- **Boat ramp monitoring:** A team of four boat ramp monitors worked over the summer to inspect boats and educate the public about the risks of invasive species, particularly of zebra mussels.
- **State of the canal:** Study continues on how best to ameliorate the problem of weed overgrowth and siltation in the canal. We continue to monitor water levels and quality there.
- **Water monitoring:** We continue sampling to ensure that the water flowing from Richmond Pond to the Housatonic River is clean.
- **Dam maintenance:** Work has been ongoing throughout the year on the pond's dam on Lakeside Christian Camp property. We continue to work with Lakeside to keep the dam structurally sound.
- **Annual picnic:** The Richmond Pond Association held its second annual all-town picnic at Camp Russell. It was well attended and was an excellent way to showcase our work to Richmond residents.

Among our future plans:

- **Goose management:** A flock of about 150 Canada geese took up residence at Richmond Pond this summer and made their way onto many properties on the lakefront. Considering that their droppings contribute to E. coli contamination in the pond, we are meeting over the winter to consider an all-pond goose management plan.
- **Science education:** We continue our collaborations with the Massachusetts Audubon Society and Richmond Consolidated School faculty about the use of Richmond Pond for science education of our local pupils.
- **Priority projects:** We shall continue our focus on weed management, canal restoration, water quality monitoring, and public access for recreational purposes. We likewise shall

share our experiences with our state legislators and with other municipalities and lake and pond associations so as to promote lake and pond health throughout the Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Kelly, President Susan Benner, Vice President Carl Foote, Treasurer Matthew Palardy,
Secretary