

TSPOA: Community Conversations & Updates

October 2021; Issue 1.3

What's Up with the Pond? Action Plan 2021

*This is our third issue in a series of **TSPOA Conversations & Updates** about Robinson Pond, which we fondly refer to as “the lake”. This month Board Members Danny Fontana, Lois Lovisolo, and Frank Scorzello, as well as Lake Committee Member Sandra Baptie, gave us a brief update about the weedharvesting and hydroraking activities on the lake. A full progress report about Action Plan 2021 is expected at the beginning of November, and will be covered in the November issue.*

How is NEAR continuing to work with TSPOA?

NEAR is fulfilling the terms of their agreement with us by regularly testing and monitoring the lake, and reporting its findings to the Lake Committee. As a reminder, our NEAR lake manager AJ Reyes will present his findings at the **Lake Committee meeting on November 6, 2021 at 9 AM**. After that, AJ, along with the Lake Committee and the TSPOA Association Manager, will begin working on and submitting all the necessary permits by January 1, 2022. A final, comprehensive report will also be presented by NEAR to the TSPOA Board at that time.

The lake looks great! Can you tell us more about the hydroraking progress in the northeast area of the lake (Section 6)?

The hydroraking project has wrapped up and the view of the lake speaks for itself (see photos on the next page). The work performed by NEAWH was executed according to plan.

A note on cattail removal: NEAWH cuts the cattails very close to the roots, but does not pull them. This approach benefits the lake since the sediment remains undisturbed. The cattail roots are expected to dissolve over time as they remain submerged, and are less likely to grow back as a result.

The Northeast Section in July 2021



The Northeast Section in October 2021



The cattails were many and progress was slow at first, but NEAWH was able to complete the terms of their contract with days to spare. So Board member Danny Fontana asked if they could use their remaining days to cut the remaining cattails in the area permitted by our weed harvesting permit. NEAWH agreed, so the NEAWH machine did the cutting by using their sickle attachment and our machines followed and skimmed the cut cattails. This process was faster and easier than using our harvesting boats to do both tasks. NEAWH also helped us skim the area picking up loose debris that scattered due to the current.

When we first began this process, as luck would have it our truck broke down and threatened to halt everything. Fortunately Danny came up with a creative solution to successfully cart the cattails to our disposal site.

We're so grateful to everyone involved for being team players, for getting creative, and going above and beyond on this important effort.

Hydroraking in Action!



A Boatload of Cattails!



How did the TSPOA weed harvesters manage with all this additional work?

Both machines held up well with only minor issues. The upgrade to the smaller harvester appears to have been worthwhile, and the company that did the upgrade is willing to continue working with us.

What's the latest on individual homeowners being able to do hydroraking along their own properties?

There is nothing new to report since the last issue. The Lake Committee has been in touch with the DEC and is working on a permitting plan for hydroraking individual shorelines. So stay tuned.

Are you still looking to hire for 2022?

We are still looking to hire more staff in 2022 to operate the two weed harvesters and assist with other lake maintenance activities. If members are interested in finding out more about these open positions either for themselves, or to refer someone else, please contact Association Manager Susan Newland at office@taconicshores.com.

Table 1: Lake FAQs	
Can I go to Lake Committee meetings to find out more?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meetings are held on-site, but Zoom meetings are possible per the ChairMembers are invited to attendSave your questions until the endMeeting dates, times, and Zoom log-ins are at https://taconicshores.org/calendar
What can I personally do to help?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep the area of the lake up to 20 feet from the end of your individual property clearedFollow homeowner guidelines https://taconicshores.org/lakeVolunteer for special clean-up projects as announced
How often will I get these updates?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Once a month during the seasonDuring the off-season as needed
I have other questions about the lake...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Find the answer on the website https://taconicshores.org/lakeIf it's not there, e-mail office@taconicshores.com

Disclaimer: Please note this “What’s Up with the Lake?” issue is meant to be a supplement to – but not a substitute for – in-depth updates which are shared at Board, Community, and Lake Committee meetings or in posts on the TSPOA website <https://taconicshores.org/lake>.

Figure 1: Map of Robinson Pond with Sections

