



Spring Bulletin 2023: Preparing for and Enjoying the Season

Taconic Shores Property Owners Association, June 2023

WELCOME SPRING AND THE START OF THE SEASON! We hope you enjoyed the Memorial Day weekend. For many of us, this is our favorite time of the year: trees are budding, flowers are blooming and everything is coming up green. It's also the perfect moment to prepare our yards and lakefront in preparation for boating, swimming, and fishing activities.

In order to protect our greatest resource — the lake — please remember that the use of fertilizer (both organic *and* inorganic) is prohibited throughout Taconic Shores. This includes fertilizer/pesticide combination products commonly known as “Weed and Feed” and “Bone Meal,” which are concentrated phosphorous. For the good of all, members are not only required to obey this rule, they're responsible to make sure that their lawn care company complies with it. According to the New York State Department of Conservation, the soil of our community is naturally rich in phosphorous. Therefore, when planting new bushes or trees, *you do not need to add fertilizer*. Instead, choose the right plants for *your* property, and follow instructions for proper planting.

With far greater numbers of residents, family members, and guests spending time at our community, it's crucial to note that our Association's speed limit, as posted, is **15 MPH**. For the safety of all, especially, young children, it's very important that we all observe this rule.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & RECENT NEWS

Events

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Picnic on July 22nd and the Ice Cream social on August 19th, and keep an eye out for more details/how to RSVP. These will follow on recent social events at the clubhouse that included a well-attended and informative Earth Day celebration, hosted with the Columbia Land Conservancy, and May Movie Night. Few residents showed up for the latter, so we are re-thinking that idea.

Upcoming Events & Meetings

- June 13th** – last day for leaf pick-up
- June 16th, 7:30pm** – Board of Directors Meeting
- June 17th, 10am** – Member Informational Meeting
- July 21st, 7:30pm** – Board of Directors Meeting
- July 22nd, 1pm** – Annual Picnic
- August 18th, 7:30pm** – Board of Directors Meeting
- August 19th, 10am** – Annual Membership Meeting
- August 19th, 2pm** – Ice Cream Social

The Season is also the time for Member meetings, Board elections, and annual dues payments. Please watch the mail for an envelope from TSPOA, which will include elections instructions and your dues invoice. Board and Member meetings are held in person at the TSPOA clubhouse and can also be attended virtually by Zoom. Registration links for meetings can be found on the “Events” calendar on the new Members-Only Site (and are still available on the TSPOA website at <https://taconicshores.org/calendar>).

Recent News

Speaking of the new Members-Only Site — part of TSPOA’s new communications system — everyone who has an email address on file with the Office should have received an announcement explaining how to set up your account and a separate welcome email with a registration link. Registering for the new site is easy, and gives you access to many new features and methods of communicating within TSPOA. If you did not receive the email invitation or if you need help registering, please contact cchelp@taconicshores.org and someone will assist you.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE START OF THE SEASON

Here’s a helpful list to make sure we all can enjoy our community:

Is your vehicle registered with TSPOA? Please pick up your member and guest vehicle tags at the TSPOA office. When parking in communal areas — parking lots, beaches, boat launches, and on our roadways — *all* vehicles must prominently display TSPOA registration tags. It is preferable that you hang your tags from the rearview mirror.

Are your boats registered with TSPOA? Please pick up your decal permit(s) at the TSPOA Office.

- All boats and watercraft must be registered with TSPOA before use on Robinson Pond. Members should affix their decal permits to the front of both sides of the boat.
- Only boats and watercraft owned by Members are permitted on the Lake. Boats must also display the Member’s lot number in 3-inch numbers on each side of the boat.
- Non-Members may not launch their own boats or other watercraft into the Lake. Boats owned by non-Members will be treated as trespassing, whether the non-Member is a guest of a Member or not.

Clean your boat if you take it elsewhere! We each have to do our part to protect Robinson Pond from invasive, non-native aquatic plants and animals. It’s crucial that you adhere to the following if you use a boat and/or other water equipment on any other body of water:

- Homeowners may not transport any water-use equipment from one body of water to Robinson Pond without properly cleaning it first.
- Please see our “Zebra Mussels Alert” on the new Members-Only site for recommended equipment cleaning methods.
- Rules governing the use of boats apply to any person using a home within TSPOA — including short-term or long-term renters and guests. Please remember that renters and guests may not launch their own boats on Robinson Pond (see above).

Storing your boat at the boat launches. If space permits, you may store your boat at any of the communal boat launches between May 15 and Nov 30, 2023. Please note: if your boat was left at a launch after Nov 30, 2022, it was removed and stored for the winter. You may retrieve your boat by

contacting the office and paying a \$250/boat storage fee. Boats not retrieved will be auctioned off later in the year.

It's time to get the mowers and rakes out! Please clean and keep your yards neat and orderly, even if you're absent for brief or extended periods. Please make arrangements to:

- **Leave leaves for pick-up.** 30-gallon paper bags may be purchased at any home store or for \$.60/bag at the TSPOA Office. Leaves will be picked up every Tuesday until June 13th. Please place bags on the front edge of your property.
- **Tend your lawn.** Whether you have grass, turf alternatives, weeds, or moss, don't let it grow over eight inches high.
- **Tend to shrubs and trees.** Prune any shrubbery to keep it looking neat and remove any dead trees and branches from your property and within 20' of your shoreline, if applicable.
- **Whenever possible, plant native plants and vegetation barriers.** As you shop for plants, look for native varieties that hold up better against disease, pests, and the local climate. And be sure to build up the required vegetation barriers around the perimeter of your shoreline. The lake and your neighbors will thank you for it.
- **Speaking of mowers...and blowers...** Whether you or a professional landscaper works on your property, please avoid the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers and other power tools for excessive periods of time, as they create noise that can be heard throughout the community. Remember, sound on the water travels! Please note that rechargeable, electric versions of these tools, are far quieter and pollute far less, and are now available at reasonable prices.
- **Speaking of native plantings...** Soon the Grounds Committee will be updating the landscaping around the Clubhouse with new plantings. Interested gardeners should keep an eye out for an announcement asking for volunteers to assist.

Did you know TSPOA has a community garden? Do you have a green thumb but no sunlight in your yard? Or maybe you need a little extra space to grow those large tomato plants that don't fit in your backyard garden. You're welcome to rent a plot (or two, or three) at the TSPOA Community Garden, located at 138 Lincoln Road, the fenced-in area in front of the Maintenance Garage and water tower. Each plot is 12' x 12', is rented on a first-come, first-served basis, and costs \$25/year per plot. Any members that request the use of a Community Garden plot are responsible for choosing, staking out, and tilling their own plot, as well as putting up a sign with their Lot number in front of the plot. During the growing season, Maintenance will turn on the water for a period of time in the morning. Please contact office@taconicshores.org if you're interested.

BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Taconic Shores is a great, neighborly place to live, whether full- or part-time. Our private community and the surrounding area are beautiful, peaceful, and in a part of the state full of gorgeous scenery and fascinating history. In addition, we get to enjoy plenty of great recreation, dining, shopping and site-seeing opportunities. And did we mention our beautiful lake, Robinson Pond?

However, now and then, you or a neighbor may violate an Association rule, sometimes without even realizing it. While many of these violations won't affect or bother you, sometimes they really do, particularly if they occur with some frequency. On occasion, to your surprise, you may receive a notice from the office indicating a complaint was made. Below are some recent violation complaints that have been brought to the attention of the TSPOA office:

- Dogs barking incessantly while left alone outside;
- Dog poop not being scooped alongside the roads;
- Loud parties continuing past 11 PM in the evening;
- Outdoor lights being left on all night, into morning.

TSPOA has rules and guidelines addressing all of the above. Here are some suggestions on how to deal with these and any violations.

1. **First and foremost, become familiar with the TSPOA Rules & Regulations.** Most complaints made to the office are a result of the property owner (or a family member, guest, or renter) not being aware of the specific rule. So become informed and ensure those in your household are, too. TSPOA rules can be found in the Governing Documents in the File Library on the Members-Only Site (and can still be found on the TSPOA website at <https://taconicshores.org/documents-%26-forms>).
2. **Use common sense.** If you're leaving the house, don't leave your dog tied up outside. Please pick your dog's waste and put it in your own trash container. If you're throwing a party and you notice most of the houses around you are dark, it's probably time to cut the music and lower the lights. If you do need to have lights on all night for safety, please consider motion detectors, as they are more considerate of your neighbors and wildlife.
3. **Check with the office before you start any construction project.** Many complaints relate to building violations, such as putting up the wrong size shed, installing a fence that blocks someone's view, building too close to the property line, etc. TSPOA, the Town of Copake, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation have specific building rules and a formal permit application process to ensure that such projects are in compliance and do not adversely affect your neighbors, the community, and/or the environment. TSPOA describes the process and has all the required submission forms and related links on the Members-Only Site.
4. **Talk to your neighbor, first.** Given that most people violate rules unknowingly, if you see a neighbor in that position, go talk to them *before* notifying the office and use a friendly chat to refer them to the rules. And if a neighbor approaches you about something you're doing, check out the rule yourself and take any appropriate steps that will remedy the situation. Having a conversation will usually resolve the issue and goes a long way toward maintaining positive relationships between neighbors.
5. **If it keeps happening, don't wait.** Talk to your neighbor about a recurring violation before it *really* starts to bother you. Getting out ahead of it helps you keep it friendly and factual.
6. **Notify the office** if your conversation does not resolve the issue, or if for some reason you do not feel comfortable approaching your neighbor (or their family member, guest, or renter). The Office and the Board will handle it from there. On the other end, if you receive an unexpected violation notice from the office, you will have ample opportunity to respond to it.

We welcome your questions and comments and wish you and your family the happiest of seasons!