



Fall 2018

Friends of Lake Quannapowitt

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A Letter from our President

To All our Members and Supporters:

FOLQ's mission to preserve Lake Quannapowitt and its surrounding lands takes us on various journeys. Some are long-range and predictable— like our advocacy for exhaustive study to improve lake water quality now near completion. Others come into our vision without notice— like kiosks and giant power lines. With all of this, our board of directors work diligently to represent our members and supporters and respond as a voice for the integrity of our lake. It is sometimes challenging for them, but always rewarding. They know the lake environment would be very different now if it were not for FOLQ. While most of our members join us as supporters, not volunteers, there is always need for more workers. People with skills in digital media are particularly needed. But there are many ways to help. You'll meet some nice people and feel good about making a difference. If you are interested in getting more involved, contact us at: mail@folq.org. We'll get right back to you!



Bill Conley

Keep in Touch!



Friends of Lake Quannapowitt



"Lake Quannapowitt"



mail@folq.org

FOLQ Annual Breakfast

Sunday Nov. 4. 8-11 a.m.

Location: Bear Hill Golf Club, 2 North St, Stoneham

(just across the Wakefield/Stoneham line on Prospect St.)

Adults - \$15.00 Under 12 - \$5.00

**Enjoy a delicious hot breakfast & great music
— while supporting the efforts of FOLQ!**

To access tickets: Reserve tickets by mail (PO Box 517, Wakefield):by email at [mail @folq.org](mailto:mail@folq.org); or purchase from FOLQ Board members

As an additional pleasure, you will be able to hear some beautiful young voices from our own high school. They have learned the skills and the joys of a cappella singing. We are proud of our schools and our Wakefield kids!



WHS Choral group: "Voices of Steel"

Kiosk is Coming to the Common

FOLQ wants to thank all our members who helped us as we opposed the installation of a large kiosk on our historic common that will feature public information and electronic advertising. We opposed this initiative on its merits, and also because the decision allowed no opportunity for input from the public at large. The equipment was ordered immediately after the Town Council vote allowing no realistic recourse. The FOLQ executive board felt we needed to speak out strongly on both counts even if we lost and caused some discomfort. We were joined by Wakefield Neighborhood Association (WCNA) who also voiced strong objection.

As most of you know by now, we did not succeed in turning the decision around. We may have inspired a slight change of location of the device, which most of us think is an aesthetic improvement. The entrance is now from Lake Street (along the side of the church) and the kiosk is set on a brick circular base that many consider more attractive. We do not have information at this time when construction will begin.

While we lost this particular battle, it has highlighted the need for procedures to move slowly and very publicly with proposals for permanent installations in lake parklands. (See article on pending new Town Committee on memorial benches.) We are exploring other procedural initiatives as well.

Plans for Park Upgrade

FOLQ is proceeding step-by-step in its work to make improvements to parklands at the Head of the Lake. The initiative has two primary goals:

The first is to provide an environmentally sound irrigation system for the grass in the area. Soil conditions are marginal there, and rainwater is not always sufficient to maintain healthy grass. Because the water table there is high close to the lake, it is possible to install a shallow well which can recycle water through the grass back to the water table. This will keep the grass green and healthy for the public to enjoy, even when we have long dry spells in the summer. The DPW also has plans to upgrade the soil quality over coming years.

The second goal is to install a safer, more permanent surface on the walkway along the lake in the area. The erosion of stone dust paths has made it less safe for strollers and wheelchairs, and particularly after rain or snow. Because of regulations pertaining to wetlands, the surface needs to be permeable. We are looking at a new product that is stable, permanent, and permeable, constructed of recycled materials.

At this point, FOLQ hopes to use donated funds to cover all or most of the cost. There is a good chance that construction can begin in 2019.

Bench Committee to be Appointed By the Town Council

For several years FOLQ has been talking informally about the need for a formal town policy to regulate any additional benches that are added to benches in lakeside parks. At the September 27 meeting of the Town Council, FOLQ made a formal presentation along with a request that a town committee be formed to fully explore the long-term needs of the lake for benches, and that any future memorial benches go through a procedure that is applied equally to all inquiries. The very success of the FOLQ's memorial bench replacement program 15 years ago has caused a surge of interest in memorial benches. But installing more benches may endanger the lake environment. There are currently 91 authorized benches around the lake. Informal observations indicate they are sufficient. The Town Council voted unanimously to form a committee of five members, with representation from FOLQ, Wakefield Neighborhood Association, The Town Council and two members at large. They also voted to establish an immediate moratorium on installing any new benches until a clear policy is established. We are optimistic that this initiative will help ensure good landscape planning and preservation for our parks.



Improving Lake Q's Water Quality: Where Are We Now?

The lake this summer had a Blue-Green algae (Cyanobacteria) bloom exceeding safe levels and warnings about contact with and ingestion of the water were posted in August by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Algae blooms occur in Lake Q when warm summer temperatures, low oxygen, limited mixing and high nutrient levels combine. The lake has long been recognized as being impaired by the EPA and is required to achieve water quality standards, however, the time table has yet to be determined.

The Lake Quannapowitt Committee, formed in 2014 after high levels of Blue-Green algae were observed in the summer of 2013, was the most recent effort to study the causes and find solutions to Lake Q's long history of impaired water quality. The Committee's efforts produced a report to the Town Council in 2016 with assessments of possible in-lake and landside solutions to improved water quality.

After reporting, the Committee was asked to go back to work by the Town Council to further examine the recommendations. The committee is now close to reporting and is again recommending implementation actions that the Council will consider as a way to meet water quality standards and increase the recreational use of the Lake in a safe and enjoyable way.

Until that happens, FOLQ believes it is important that the Town, along with businesses and residents continue efforts to limit nutrients and other pollutants contained in storm water runoff from entering the lake. For helpful information about what we can do go to the Town Website at <http://www.wakefield.ma.us/stormwater>.

FOLQ Board members have been working diligently in committee throughout, along with many other concerned individuals. Thank you to all and we look forward to the report.

Thank You, Galvin Students!

Galvin Students once again took the lead at our recent Fall Clean-up event. Below they show off their harvest.

**MANY
HANDS
MAKE
LIGHT
WORK**

