



Fall 2021

Friends of Lake Quannapowitt

"Preserving and enhancing the waters of Lake Quannapowitt and its surrounding lands"

FOLQ's Board of Directors

While FOLQ has several hundred members and donors, specific actions and decisions are made by our Board of



Margaret Coppe
President

Directors. Our Board meets monthly, usually on the first Tuesday. When there are pressing matters, as in the past year, the board may meet more often. Pre-pandemic, meetings were held at WCAT studios at the high school. For the past year and a half, meetings have occurred in ZOOM format. General members and the public are always welcome.

FOLQ's 15 Board Members are elected by general members at our annual meeting, usually in the late spring. They serve three-year terms. Their responsibility entails regular attendance at meetings, on-going self-education about lake issues, participation with various events and committee efforts, and communication with our members at large. Without these board members' focused work and commitment, our mission to preserve and enhance the lake environment could not be sustained. Review the list of our Board below and feel free to convey questions and concerns to them at any time.

Bill Boodry
Bill Butler
Bill Conley
Margaret Coppe
- President
Carol Dennison
Karen Faler
Leeila Given
Douglas Mildram
- Treasurer

Julianne Orsino
Elizabeth Saul - Secretary
John Sofia
Tom Stapleton
Joseph Twichell
Timothy Welch
Rob Wettach

Celebrating 30 years Of Lake Advocacy 1991-2021

2021 marks the 30th anniversary of Friends of Lake Quannapowitt.

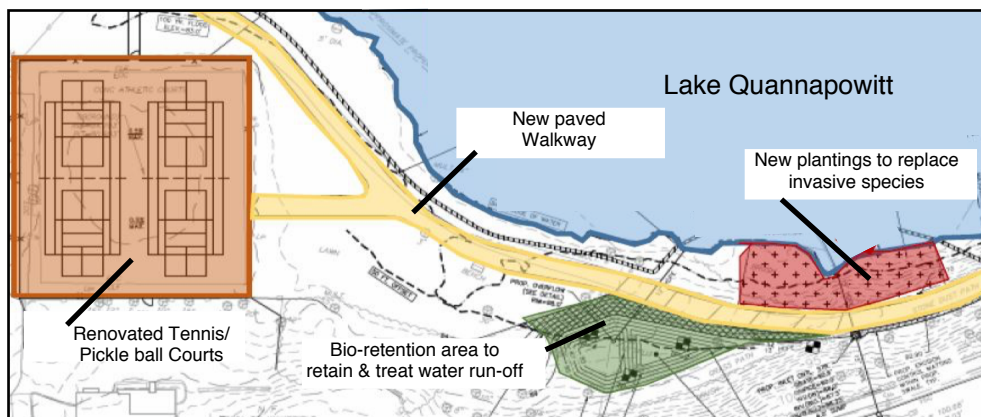
For obvious reasons, it was difficult to celebrate this landmark in the usual ways at our public gatherings. FOLQ Annual Breakfasts of both 2020 and 2021 have been cancelled, with a priority to public health. Still, it is important to not let a landmark year pass without remembering what individual citizens can accomplish by simply banding together in a voluntary way for a local resource they cherish.

Because FOLQ exists, we have a park instead of a chain restaurant at the head of the lake. We have refurbished Col Connelly Park, established an on-going engraved Brick Memorial, built a heavily used playground for toddlers, replaced 60 aging park benches, removed unsightly giant utility poles, re-graded and irrigated parklands and upgraded walking paths. Lately, we have faced a more complicated challenge at 200 Quannapowitt Parkway, but our Board of Directors is confident we have chosen the path leading to an optimal result through negotiations with the potential developer Cabot, Cabot & Forbes. Our Board has invested an unprecedented amount of meeting time and maximum consultation with legal and other experts in coming to its current position - which addresses only building height and specific lake and park issues. FOLQ will be vigilant in following continuing proceedings.

Looking forward to coming years and decades, FOLQ will continue its efforts to preserve and protect the lake water and surrounding lands. Of particular importance in the coming year will be the work of a **Town Master Plan Committee**. The FOLQ Board plans to be active in this process and encourages all our members to inform themselves and communicate with the 25 town-appointed committee members as this long-term planning takes place. Wakefield citizens have repeatedly stated that Lake Quannapowitt is central to our town's identity and well-being.

Renovations slated for Vets Field /Floral Way Area

Bill Renault, Wakefield's Town engineer, recently announced plans for improving the area around Vet's Field/Floral Way. Among the planned changes: tennis courts will be resurfaced and redesigned to include pickle ball; a bioretention area will be constructed to minimize chronic flooding and effectively retain stormwater runoff carrying pollutants and nutrients; a new paved walkway will be installed to eliminate erosion and comply with ADA requirements; and there will be plantings to replace invasive species as well as a pollinator garden. Construction is projected to begin in the spring of 2022. FOLQ salutes the forward comprehensive planning of our own Wakefield DPW.



Fall Lake Events

FOLQ's Annual Fall Breakfast is cancelled for 2021. For the second year in a row, the FOLQ Board decided not to hold the popular event due to on-going public health concerns. Usually held at Bear Hill Golf Club in November, the Breakfast is a friendly community event, a time to celebrate shared hopes and values related to the lake. We have hopes that conditions in 2022 will allow the Breakfast to be resumed.

Festival By the Lake made a comeback on Oct 2, after two spring cancellations. FOLQ always participates in this WCNA - sponsored event, which was heavily attended by townspeople eager to be together after pandemic isolation.

FOLQ's semi-annual Lake Clean-Up was scheduled to resume on October 30 after an 18-month pandemic hiatus. But this time rainy weather forced a cancellation. Rescheduling a formal event before next spring is not a possibility. In the meantime, we should all take a little bag while walking the lake and pick up whatever trash we notice. We also need to pick-up the slack from **Tim Green**, the amazing individual volunteer who has done daily pick-ups for years and is now limited by arthritis. More later on how we can work again in an organized way.

The "Run for the Ages" Road Race around Lake Q resumed this year on November 6th. The race generously donated to our organization from the proceeds. In turn, we provided support during the race. Thank you to the race organizers for thinking of FOLQ.

Thank you for your membership dues!

Your annual dues have been especially important this year. We are so grateful for the generosity of our members!

Jim Scott Receives Gertrude Spaulding Award

Jim Scott, a long-time advocate for the integrity of Lake Quannapowitt, was named the 2020 recipient of the Gertrude Spaulding Award. This award is given annually to an individual who has made a major contribution toward the mission of FOLQ - "the enhancement of the waters of Lake Quannapowitt and its surrounding lands."



Jim Scott (Center) with Bill Conley(L) and Karen Faler(R), FOLQ Board Members

Due to the pandemic and the cancellation of the annual FOLQ Fall Breakfast, the presentation of the award was made at the annual meeting in May, which occurred via ZOOM. During the presentation, it was noted how Lake Quannapowitt has always been intertwined with Jim's long life, now approaching 90 years. The list of his contributions, too long to list here, included recreational use, water quality, and strong intervention at critical times to keep lakeside lands in the public domain. Jim joined FOLQ's board soon after it was founded, serving as president for a few years. He only recently stepped down from his board position, making him eligible for the Gertrude Spaulding Award. This public recognition of Jim's extensive contributions to the lake environment has been widely applauded.

Development at 200 Quannapowitt Parkway: Follow the Permitting Process

The effort by Cabot, Cabot & Forbes to develop 200-400 Quannapowitt Parkway continues its journey through the required permitting steps. The initial plan presented, with environmental and parkland elements negotiated with FOLQ, has already gone through several hearings at the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and the Conservation Commission. A traffic study, originally to be discussed on Oct 13, has been postponed, due to an initiative to increase commercial space and reduce the number of housing units. **The next scheduled hearing at the ZBA is November 17.** We encourage all our members to stay involved as the process continues. FOLQ will be posting notices on our Facebook site regarding upcoming hearing dates. Any citizen can access the schedule and agenda of these hearings through the town website: Wakefield.ma.us (click on **"Boards and Committees"**, then on **"Zoning Board of Appeals"**)

While all developments involve certain trade-offs, FOLQ is particularly pleased that an initial agreement has been reached to protect existing greenspace, and to establish public control over that greenspace for the general public to enjoy. If that portion of the plan is confirmed by the ZBA, we will have new parklands. In addition, there will be other environmental improvements, including a \$1.3 million donation towards planned lake water-quality projects. These funds potentially can be used with matching funds to attract much larger grants to help our lake.

These positive elements now up for approval were made possible due to the outpouring of concern from our members over the past year. **Thank You!!**