Fall 2026

Friends of Lake Quannapowitt

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

Letter from our President

Dear Members & Friends,

The FOLQ Board of Directors has two notable changes for which I'd like to advise our members and friends. Karen Faler and Tom Stapleton are stepping down to Associate Board Member status. Both have been significant contributors as BOD members to all things FOLQ-related, as well as being active in the community on other projects. We will continue to value their advice and contributions as Associate Board members. Karen will be awarded the 2026 Gertrude Spaulding award at our annual breakfast (see article in this newsletter). At our Annual Meeting in May, we welcomed two new Board members, Rachel Moulton and Rebecca Anderson. Rachel and Rebecca (previously Associate BOD members) have been impactful BOD members having organized the FOLQ Art Show in the spring as well as being active members of the FOLQ landscape invasive plant mitigation team.

Some exciting news, the FOLQ BOD recently gifted the Town with funds to deploy a Subtidal buoy, a continuous in-water monitoring device (see detailed article in this newsletter). This funding is an example of our collaboration with the Town of Wakefield DPW and an example of FOLQ continuing efforts to promote public awareness and provide long term protection and enhancements for Lake Quannapowitt.

Many of you may recall that Solitude Lake Management presented at our Annual Meeting a couple of years ago and as a result, a report on water quality at Lake Quannapowitt was commissioned by the DPW. We now have the results of that report, and we will work on next steps with the Town to analyze the data presented to consider specific recommendations/processes to improve water quality for Lake Quannapowitt.

As noted in previous newsletters, we continue to be active with events such as lake cleanups with Galvin middle school students, beautification of area with plantings and invasive plant removals, continuous measurement of water quality levels, and ongoing education via our newsletters, The Wakefield Daily Item, social media, and maintaining continuous visibility within the community via participation in various town events.

In closing, I want to again thank our dedicated Board of Directors. In our many events and our various committees, the entire team is active and enthusiastic in their support of FOLQ.

Sincerely,

Bill Boodry, President

Annual Breakfast - Nov. 15

The Friends of Lake Quannapowitt invite you to join us for our annual breakfast.

Sunday, November 15, 2026, 8:00am - 11:00am, Crystal Community Club.



Price:
$25 for adults and children 12 and over.
$10 for children under 12.

Proceeds support Friends of Lake Quannapowitt, a nonprofit, 100% volunteer organization.

Support FOLQ, enjoy a delicious breakfast, learn about how FOLQ protects and enhances Lake Quannapowitt and how you can get involved, see old friends and make new ones!

We're proud to honor **Karen Faler** with the **2026 Gertrude Spaulding Award** at our Annual Breakfast on **November 15, 2026.** Karen's decades of FOLQ leadership, passion and wisdom, which continue today, makes Lake Quannapowitt the beautiful centerpiece of the Town of Wakefield. We hope you will join us in honoring Karen.

We'll have a kids activity table with arts and crafts, and live entertainment by renowned local musician Audie Bridges. Photography exhibit by Tom Maguire.



Come and go as you please anytime between 8:00am and 11:00am. Purchase tickets at www.folq.org/event/annual-breakfast or capture the QR code at the top of this box.

Membership Dues

Help FOLQ by **becoming a member**. Dues annually are **$25** and **$35** for single or family memberships respectively. A commercial membership is **$150**. Here's how to pay:

Capture the QR code to the right on your smartphone and complete your membership and payment information, or visit our website at **https://folq.org/join**.

2026 Gertrude Spaulding Award Winner: Karen Faler

The FOLQ Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 2026 winner of the Gertrude Spaulding Award is Karen Faler. Karen will be recognized at our Annual Breakfast on November 15 at the Crystal Community Club.

Karen is a 30-year member of the FOLQ Board of Directors. Karen recently moved to an Associate Board member status. The Friends of Lake Quannapowitt have been in existence for 35 years, so Karen has participated in just about all things FOLQ! Perhaps most significantly, Karen was involved with many actions related to preserving, the north end of Lake Quannapowitt as a public park protected from private development. Karen served as the BOD President on several occasions during her 30 years on the BOD.

Originally from Texas, Karen attended graduate school at the University of Wisconsin where she married her husband Paul and began her family. Karen and Paul and family moved to Somerville in 1970. Their desire to have more land for gardening resulted in moving to their Lowell Street home in Wakefield in 1977 with their three children. Through the years, Karen has also been involved with The Friends of the Library, The Hartshorne House, and The Sweetser Lecture Series. But of course, the Friends of Lake Quannapowitt are most thankful for her tireless efforts on behalf of our organization and the Lake.

The story behind the transformation of the north end of the Lake (a.k.a. the Head of the Lake) is one that Karen is particularly proud of. Before FOLQ, the area across from Honey Dew Donuts was private property featuring a run-down restaurant, a parking lot, and large utility poles. A group of townspeople, including Karen, came together to urge the Town of Wakefield to purchase the restaurant property and preserve it from future development. FOLQ was founded during this time and worked to transform the area into a beautiful public park, investing significant money and volunteer time to do so. When Karen joined the Board of Directors in those early days, she spearheaded efforts to create the Colonel Connelly Playground and the Bricks by the Lake program featuring the commemorative bricks display around the memorial flagpole. In addition, Karen headed the effort by FOLQ to get the large and unsightly utility poles removed from that area by the WMGLD. It took several years of effort, but the poles came down and the utilities were moved underground.



Anyone who enjoys the Lake as it is today has Karen Faler to thank for it. She truly is an FOLQ icon and we are immensely grateful for her years of dedication to its preservation, beautification, and value to the public for generations to come.

2026 FOLQ-TSF Scholarship Winner: Julianna Spaulding

In 2025, The Friends of Lake Quannapowitt established a permanent scholarship with The Scholarship Foundation of Wakefield (TSF). TSF is a nonprofit that has been providing higher education scholarships to Wakefield residents since 1960, administering over 600 scholarship funds and awarding more than 13,500 scholarships totaling $18.8 million. TSF is a fantastic organization in Wakefield.
The FOLQ scholarship is ideally designated to a Wakefield resident pursuing education beyond high school, with priority for students in environmental science.



The first FOLQ Scholarship of 2026 was awarded this past spring to an ideal candidate, Juliana Spaulding. Juliana is a junior at Mount Holyoke College, majoring in Environmental studies and Neuroscience. Juliana graduated from Wakefield High School in 2024. As a fifth-grade student, Juliana participated in Lake Q water testing with her science teachers (Ms. Howe and Ms. Fitzpatrick).

While in high school, Juliana's favorite course was AP Environmental Science taught by Joanne Marks. She also enjoyed sustainably and restoration classes. Juliana was involved in various WHS sports along with the WHS Youth Council, and she also volunteered with the Wakefield Center Neighborhood Association (WCNA, another terrific Town of Wakefield organization).

Juliana plays varsity Lacrosse and Field Hockey at Mt. Holyoke. Upon graduation in 2028, Juliana aspires to be a National Park Ranger, dedicated to preserving natural environments.

In her thank you letter to FOLQ, Juliana expressed thanks for FOLQ generosity and support stating that "FOLQ has had a huge impact on her life and childhood" as she took advantage of the playgrounds and participated in many activities occurring at Lake Q.

The Friends of Lake Quannapowitt are delighted to have Julian Spaulding be the first recipient of the FOLQ TSF Scholarship for 2026.

When donating to TSF, please consider donating to the FOLQ fund.

Water Quality Monitoring Buoy in Lake Quannapowitt

Lake Quannapowitt is one of the most visible and valued natural resources in Wakefield. The 254-acre lake supports walking, boating, fishing, community events, wildlife habitat, and serves as a defining feature of the town center. However, the lake continues to face water quality challenges, nutrient pollution, turbidity, ecosystem stress and the potential for ongoing harmful algae blooms. Recent years have demonstrated the importance of dynamically understanding the changing conditions within the lake.

The Friends of Lake Quannapowitt (FOLQ) has a long-documented history of monitoring cyanobacteria, phosphorus, nitrogen, water clarity, and other indicators of lake health. The lake has experienced harmful algal bloom advisories that required public notification. Studies conducted for the Town of Wakefield have identified the lake as impaired for harmful algal blooms and turbidity, highlighting the need for continued data collection and management strategies.

One of the most effective tools available now to support lake management is the installation of a real-time water quality monitoring buoy. Modern monitoring buoys provide continuous 24/7 monitoring of environmental data that can help local officials and the public to better understand lake conditions and make enhanced, better informed decisions. FOLQ and Town have been working together with a company called Subtidal, a Massachusetts based environmental monitoring company, that focuses on real-time lake monitoring. The company was launched with connections to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) with support through programs involving the National Science Foundation and NOAA.



The Subtidal system consists of a lightweight, solar-powered buoy deployed in the lake, typically near the deepest location. For Lake Quannapowitt, the buoy would improve public awareness, provide early warning of harmful algal bloom (HAB) events, establish a defensible scientific baseline, help quantify internal phosphorus loading, support future grant applications and measure the effectiveness of stormwater improvement projects around the lake. FOLQ has donated funds of $8,800 for the first two years, and the Town has obtained the necessary approvals from the Town Council and Conservation Commission. The buoy will launch in November 2026 in Beebe Cove.

Bricks for the Holidays



*A custom-engraved brick, ordered from the **Bricks by the Lake** program is a unique and everlasting gift.*

To obtain application forms: Print from our website at www.folq.org. Or capture the QR code on this page.

Prices:
4x8 bricks available for a donation of $150 (up to 3 lines)
8x8 bricks available for a donation of $250 (5 lines)



Bricks by the Lake

is a community project established in 2006 to help fund the restoration of Colonel Connelly Park at the Head of Lake Quannapowitt. In the spring of 2008, the first group of custom-engraved bricks were embedded in the newly constructed flagpole plaza at Colonel Connelly Park. All funds generated by donated bricks are dedicated toward improving parklands around the lake.

Your purchase of an engraved brick will be a permanent memorial to your connection with Wakefield and Lake Quannapowitt. Beyond its meaning to you, your donated brick is a gift to our town, to our lake and to future generations.



Order Deadlines

Holiday Orders:
Orders must be received by December 1, 2026 to receive a certificate suitable for gift wrapping. Certificates will be mailed no later than December 15, 2026.

2027 Installation:
To guarantee placement of your brick in the spring of 2027 installation, orders must be received by March 1, 2027.

Bricks by the Lake is a Wakefield Heritage project authorized by the Wakefield Town Council with proceeds used to fund enhancements to parklands surrounding Lake Quannapowitt. The program is administered by the Friends of Lake Quannapowitt.