

SPRING 2023

www.PBIAFalmouth.org

Elected Board of Directors () signifies end of term

- **President:** Gregory Lauer (8/1/2023)
- **Vice President:** Liz O'Donnell (8/1/2023)
- **Secretary:** Jim Fisher (8/1/2023)
- **Treasurer:** Peter Donahue (8/1/2023)
- **Directors:** John McIsaac (8/1/2023) Kori Sanborn (8/1/2023)
 Betty Beisheim (8/1/2024) Sue Noller (8/1/2024)
 Ellen Clemence (8/1/2025) Lucinda Keith (8/1/2025)

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, July 15th at 10am** at the main beach. Rain dates are Sunday, July 16th and if needed, Saturday, July 22rd. As voted at our last membership meeting, we will no longer be holding our BBQ, but we will be serving coffee and goodies. Many important issues will be discussed - so please plan on joining us.

POND HEALTH

Attached you will find important information about the health of our pond. Please take a few minutes to read this and think about ways you can help keep our pond clean and healthy.

SEE OUR WEBSITE

www.pbiafalmouth.org

You can now pay your bills online by clicking Dues!!!

Information on PBIA properties and water quality can be found there too.

OLD LADIES AGAINST UNDERWATER GARBAGE

Last summer OLAUG came by Jenkins Pond and cleaned out a lot of underwater garbage in front of the main beach. They're planning on coming back sometime in June this year to collect more garbage. A big thanks for their help!

FISHING ON THE POND

The fishing area is located to the right on the main beach. Please do not fish anywhere else. We have lots of young children using the beach. Please keep them and all our members safe by picking up all your gear when you're done fishing, including hooks, wire, fishing line and lures.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you have ideas on how to make things more interesting or would like to help with anything - please reach out to one of the PBIA board members and volunteer!

BEACH OPENING

Our official first day is **Saturday, June 24th!** Our season will run through Labor Day. Please remember your personal belongings and carry out your trash to keep our beach looking beautiful. As always, dogs, alcohol, cooking and smoking are not allowed on PBIA properties.

PBIA IMPROVEMENTS

We have fixed up the steps leading to Chisholm Beach from Lake Shore Drive. We are aware of a number of other projects and are in the process of prioritizing them. Please come to the annual meeting and give us your input.

LITTLE LIBRARY

Thanks to Alan Kronenberg for building and installing a little library at the entrance to the main beach. Please feel free to drop off a book and take a book.

Jenkins Pond Summer of 2022

Overall it was a good summer and Jenkins Pond water quality was generally very good. We had no cyanobacteria blooms though, as usual, we experienced relatively high levels of filamentous algae in the bay between Lake Shore and Sandy Lane. It disappeared after several weeks. We participated in an APCC program where we performed weekly Secchi disk measurements (this measures the clarity of the pond water). The clarity was generally good but did decline over the course of the summer.

Note that Jenkins Pond does have measurable amounts of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) and mercury in Jenkins Pond. The Massachusetts Board of Public Health recently tested ponds near the Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) and determined that the water is safe for swimming, wading, boating, and recreational fishing. However, they recommend limits on caught fish consumption: once a week for the general public and none for children younger than 12 years, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and women who may become pregnant.

While Jenkins Pond water quality is very good, like all Cape Cod freshwater ponds, it is under stress. The stress is due to pollution from septic systems, fertilizers, pesticides, stormwater overflow, sediments from erosion, boaters introducing harmful plant matter, homeowners removing trees and groundcover, and warming due to climate change. Roughly a third of the ponds being monitored by the Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod have unacceptable water quality.

A number of PBIA members have joined the [Falmouth Pond Coalition](#) - an umbrella group that is working to protect and preserve Falmouth's ponds through science-informed education, organizing, and advocacy. We are working with them to set up a Jenkins Pond Preservation group - if you're interested in participating please contact one of the board members.

To maintain Jenkins Pond water quality, we need to work together. Each leaking septic system, each lawn treated with fertilizers and pesticides that leach into the pond, each clear-cutting of ground cover, each overflowing storm drain, and each boat with harmful plant matter on the hull hurts the pond. These actions can also impact the Town of Falmouth's water supply because of the pond's connection to the underground aquifer.

Please head to our website and look at the documents on ways to protect Jenkins Pond. They provide valuable information about what you can do to be a good pond steward.

Thank you very much.

Pinecrest Beach Improvement Association

HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT JENKINS POND (Adapted from Deep Pond Preservation Project literature)

According to the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, **septic systems are the source of almost 80% of controllable nitrogen and phosphorus on Cape Cod. Fertilizer and pesticides seeping into the water directly from a lawn or running down a road, and paved driveway runoff, also cause a significant additional amount.** Pet and other animal waste contain concentrated nutrients which can leach into the pond or be carried there by stormwater runoff.

If you live or own land on Jenkins Pond or in the neighborhood near the pond:

- Have your septic system inspected and cleaned regularly (the rule of thumb is every 3-5 years) to make sure it is in good condition and not leaching into the pond.
- Gradually reduce your lawn area, plant more native species, and maintain a naturalized swath of native vegetation between your lawn and the pond.
- Reduce the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals – abide by Falmouth laws regarding fertilizers. **(See Fertilizer regulations below)**
- Be thoughtful about what you put down the drain.
- Rinse boats and paddle boards brought from other ponds to avoid introducing invasive species.
- Control road runoff – make sure nearby storm drains are cleaned regularly on private and public roads and remove leaves from drain surfaces; consider installing a simple swale or rain garden on your property to divert runoff away from the pond.
- If you are renting your waterfront or water-accessible property, either by long-term lease or short-term (e.g., Airbnb or VRBO, etc.), please let your renters know they too should practice responsible use of the pond, including no cutting of wetland buffer vegetation.

If you're a pond visitor:

- Pick up litter.
- Don't trample the shoreline vegetation.
- Pick up your dog's poop.
- Don't feed the waterfowl.
- Clean off attached vegetation from boats and paddle boards.

Support the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, which monitors pond health and educates the public about preventing pond pollution. www.apcc.org

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

- Regular cleaning of your septic system (every 3-5 years) can help prevent your septic tank from getting full and causing sewage to back up into your basement or leach into Jenkins Pond. A cleaning typically costs \$250-\$350, depending on the size of your tank.
- Inspections reveal if your septic system has been damaged by tree roots or is not Title 5 compliant (more likely in an older septic system) and needs to be replaced. Inspections typically cost \$350 +/- or ask your pump-out person to inspect the tank.
- A few simple steps will prevent gunk from forming along your drainage pipes and clogging the drain field, damaging the pond and requiring costly repairs. Don't pour chemicals or grease down

the drain. Never flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper. Minimize garbage disposal use.

- Don't use cleaning products with chlorine. Use earth-friendly cleaners to help minimize the disruption to the bacteria in the septic tank. The bacteria break down the solids in the tank.

FERTILIZERS

Falmouth adopted a fertilizer Bylaw to reduce the nitrogen pollution going into our waterways.

- Don't fertilize any lawn within 100' of the pond.
- Don't fertilize any lawn between October 16th and April 14th, or right before or during a heavy rain.
- Don't spread fertilizer on paved surfaces; clean it up if you do.
- The Bylaw encourages use of materials such as yard waste, compost, or other similar materials that are primarily organic in nature and that are not considered "fertilizer" if you are trying to improve the physical condition of your soil.
- The Bylaw recommends that if you fertilize lawns beyond the 100' prohibition, fertilize sparingly!

For more detailed information about these fertilizer regulations, advice on how to grow a healthy yard without fertilizer, or to report a violation, go to www.pbiafalmouth.org and click on Pond Life.

You can also call the Falmouth Marine & Environmental Services Department at 508-457-2550.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT (adapted from Orleans Pond Coalition's Blue Pages)

Lawns, trees, shrubs

- Sediments from runoff and eroding pond banks can smother aquatic life, clog fish gills, and cut off the light needed by underwater plants. Trees, low bushes, and a secure groundcover of native species help absorb runoff and protect the banks from erosion. They also make great habitats for fish, turtles, and frogs and help regulate water temperatures by providing shade.
- Do not remove trees, shrubs, brush, and other vegetation within the 100-ft freshwater wetland jurisdiction line without a permit from the Conservation Commission. For more guidance on where your setback is, call the Falmouth Conservation Office at 508-495-7445.
- Reduce the amount of lawn at the water's edge and plant native plants instead.

Docks and piers

- Many docks and piers are constructed with pressure-treated wood. The toxic materials used to help the wood last longer in the marine environment leach out slowly over time, killing marine plants and animals. For advice on new structures, repairs, or replacements, go to www.pbiafalmouth.org and click on Pond Life.
- Before building docks, walls, and other structures at the edge of the pond, make sure you are abiding by town guidelines. Check with the Falmouth Conservation Office at 508-495-7445.

Thank you. We appreciate your help in preserving Jenkins Pond!