

PBIA NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022

www.PBIAFalmouth.org

Elected Board of Directors () signifies end of term

At our annual meeting, we elected/re-elected new members:

- **President:** Gregory Lauer (8/1/2022)
- **Vice President:** Paula Donahue (8/1/2022)
- **Secretary:** Jim Fisher (8/1/2022)
- **Treasurer:** Peter Donahue (8/1/2022)
- **Directors:** Betty Beisheim (8/1/2024) Sue Noller (8/1/2024)
John McIsaac (8/1/2023) Clare Foley (8/1/2023) (resigned)
Norm LeMoyne (8/1/2022) Bill Wishart (8/1/2022)

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, July 16th at 10am at the main beach. Rain dates are Sunday, July 17th and if needed, Saturday, July 23rd.** 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 (including our 5 year plan) - 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!!!

ASSOCIATION DUES

Please remember that dues are an obligation and are not voluntary. Membership in PBI is associated with the property and is an obligation of the owner(s) of the property. If you sell your house, the association membership is part of the legal description of your property. Being a member of this association brings added value to your property.

FISHING ON THE POND

The fishing area is located to the right on the main beach, Pinecrest Beach. Please do not fish in front of the houses on Lake Shore Drive between house number 2 and 27. The beaches at these houses are P.B.I.A. property. We want to ensure that our members and wildlife are kept safe from discarded hooks, wire, fishing line and lures which have been found on the beach in the past.

BEACH OPENING

Our official first day is **Saturday, June 25th!** Jack, our beach guard, will be there to welcome you, and the porta-potty and trash barrels will be available. Please remember your personal belongings and carry out your trash to minimize trash on the beach. As always, dogs, alcohol and smoking are banned from the beach.

BOATS & RAFTS

Please label your boats and rafts with your name and phone number. Many get loose and wash ashore at Pinecrest Beach Drive. We would like to have contact information to return your property to you.

All boats must be removed from all P.B.I.A. beaches by Saturday, October 22nd. This allows for easy fall and spring clean up.

Jenkins Pond Summer of 2021

Overall it was a good summer and Jenkins Pond water quality was generally very good, though we did experience a few “challenges” during the summer. The first of these was a high cyanobacteria reading for a couple weeks in mid-August. As requested by the Falmouth Board of Health, we posted signs warning people to be on the look-out for cyanobacteria scum and to avoid touching it as prolonged exposure can be detrimental to children and fatal to pets. Note that Falmouth does not close a pond or beach due to cyanobacteria - the notices are posted simply to make pond users aware of the issue and to provide information on how to identify cyanobacteria blooms.

The second challenge was relatively high levels of filamentous algae in the bay between Lake Shore and Sandy Lane. Testing revealed that this was not a cyanobacteria bloom and so was not dangerous - only unpleasant. It disappeared after several weeks.

The third challenge is the presence 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.

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 read and keep the attached document -- HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT JENKINS POND -- to understand what you can do to be a good steward.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

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, 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 the 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, see

<https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/950/Fertilizer-Facts---Falmouths-Nitrogen-Control-Bylaw-PDF?bidId=> . You can also call the Falmouth Marine & Environmental Services Department at 508-457-2550.

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

<https://www.orleanspondcoalition.org/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, see <https://nhlakes.org/wp-content/uploads/DockChoices2016.pdf>.
- 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!