



January 2020

What's New at Ashford Lake?

Greetings to all Ashford Lake property owners! This is the annual update of lake activities and information.

Upcoming Events

Chili Cook-Off: April 18, 2020, East Beach

Spring Clean Up: May 16, 2020

Boat Parade: July 4th

Annual Meeting Highlights

-The annual water testing at the two beaches completed in July and August for E.coli were well within the recommended safe level.

-We participated in a water quality monitoring program with The Last Green Valley (TLGV) & Eastern CT Conservation District at no cost to ALPOA. Twice a month from June through September, water samples were taken from the lake by ALPOA members. The samples were analyzed for phycocyanin (algae pigments), which are found in cyanobacteria (also called blue-green algae). The maximum phycocyanin levels were below any level of concern. Because Ashford Lake is a fairly nutrient rich water body with an abundance of aquatic vegetation, periodic algae blooms are still a possibility depending on a number of environmental factors.

-A representative from the DEEP Fisheries Division came out to the lake this past summer to investigate the lake vegetation, specifically the grass that floats to the surface of the lake. It was determined that grass carp would eat the grass we are having a problem with, but they could also eat grass that we don't want to be eaten and upset the balance of the currently robust and healthy eco-system at the lake. The grass carp would also

produce waste, increasing nutrient levels and potentially causing an increase in filamentous green algae, cottony green masses that the carp will not eat. We have great biodiversity at the lake; many types of fish, turtles, snakes, herons, and osprey. It was decided not to use grass carp as an intervention, but to leave things as they are for

now. Chemical weed control may have to be considered in the future.

alpoa.org

Please check the website frequently for updates. You will find the 2020 budget, ALPOA meeting minutes, bylaws, covenants and links to town websites and resources.

Thank You To All Our Volunteers

We have many great volunteers who help out with projects around the lake! The more work done by volunteers means our assessment dollars go further!

Road Work Update

Some of the mandated projects from the Ashford Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission were completed this past summer. The swale on Sunset Dr. and the drainage at Sunset Beach were reconstructed. The intersection of Sunset Dr. and Ashford Lake Dr (ALD) was paved.

At the curve on ALD by the dam, an underdrain was placed in the swale, a culvert was replaced and the roadway paved. These were deferred projects from the previous year.

A section of Lakeside Dr. was paved and a new catch basin was installed on the lower road on Lakeside Dr. The swale was graded, and the pitch adjusted on a section of lower ALD. The pavement was patched on areas of Hillcrest and Lakeside Dr.



Speed Limit 15 mph

Speeding is a concern for everyone. Our community includes many families with young children. Additional signs were posted this past fall. It is suggested that families purchase a "Kid Alert" sign and flag to post on their property by the road to discourage speeding. ALPOA will reimburse the cost of the signs up to \$25.



Community Reminders

ALPOA Boat Stickers

Owners need to attach ALPOA stickers to all their boats to properly identify them. Contact Denise Pillion for stickers.

ALPOA Beach Parking Passes

Included in this mailing is your beach parking pass. Attach this to your mirror when you park at either beach. Hopefully this will prevent the use of the beaches by non- ALPOA members. If a car has no beach pass, a letter will be placed on the windshield reminding them this is a private beach. State police could be called if a car is parked without a pass a second time. Remember, ALPOA property owners need to accompany guests when using Sunset and East Beaches.

Canada Geese

ALPOA continues to renew the permit to destroy Canada Geese eggs. Watch for geese nesting in the spring.

Boat Information

If you or your guests use your boats in another waterway, please be sure to wash off your boats with soap and water before putting them back in the lake to prevent invasive plants from being brought into Ashford Lake.

Ice Safety Information

Please go to the Property Owners menu at alpoa.org and review the Ice Safety Information in the Community Watch & Safety section.

IF YOU SEE IT-REPORT IT

Please report any suspicious activity or use of beaches by non-ALPOA residents to the Connecticut State Police Troup C.

(800) 318-7633 or (860) 896-3200

Finances

Through 12/1/19, ALPOA received over \$66,000 from 117 of 130 property owners, or approximately 90% of the total 2019 assessment. Thank you for paying on time! Prompt payment provides the funds needed to maintain our roads, dam, and beaches and for the liability insurance premium.

Unfortunately, 19 property owners are currently behind on paying their assessment. In total, the overdue assessments are approximately \$22,800. If not paid by 12/31/19, late fees will be added to the outstanding assessments.

In 2020, small claims suits will be filed on past due accounts in excess of \$1,500. Payment must be received, or a payment plan arranged by March 1, 2020 to avoid legal action. Once filed, ALPOA will not withdraw a suit unless payment in full is received.

ALPOA Board Meetings

Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month. Look for the signs on the bulletin boards or on the website for the locations. All property owners are welcome to attend.

Board Members

Tom Barry, President	860-208-4027
Jason Pufahl, Vice-President	860-420-9897
Don Judson, Treasurer	860-306-7117
Ann Milner, Secretary	860-477-0757
Mindy Carpenter	860-481-5180
Lisa McAdam Donegan	860-429-0554
Jeremy Edberg	860-455-8741
Harry Marshall	860-808-7199
Sue Orcutt	860-817-5329
Denise Pillion	860-617-3642
Paul Stansel	860-518-4182
Walt Wassil	860-301-0223

