

Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District

www.cedarmeadow.org

- Newsletter -

Fall 2014

Would You like to Save the District Money?

Please help save the district money by opting to receive District mailings by email. By opting for an electronic version of the newsletter and other mailings, the District will save money on postage and copying costs. As an added bonus, you are helping the environment by using less paper! If you like to help us save money, please email the district clerk at clerk@cedarmeadow.org. You can also text a message to the District Clerk at (508)439-2443 with your name, email address, and a note that you want to receive our communications electronically.

Limited Annual Draw Down To Begin October 25th

Please plan to remove your boats and floats from the water by October 25. This year the annual draw down will start later than usual. The District will, again, coordinate our draw down with the draw down at Burncoat Pond. The flash boards, and low level outlet will be used to lower water levels. The open spillway channel will maintain water levels at between two and two and one half feet below the spillway elevation for the remainder of the winter. The low level outlet will be opened as necessary during the winter to achieve the desired ice and water levels to minimize ice damage to shoreline structures. The flash boards will be reinstalled in the spillway channel after the final ice cap melts in the Spring to bring water levels back up to the spillway elevation.

Weed Control

The Management Committee met with ESS Group at our August meeting. ESS Group has previously been contracted to perform extensive weed mapping our our entire lake. This report was presented at our last Annual meeting. As such ESS Group is very familiar with our body of water. We discussed the various types of weeds that appeared in abundance in early summer and also gave ESS an update on the current condition of the northern coves where the proliferation of fanwort (invasive) is. We asked ESS Group for some insight on the abundant weeds and asked for some overall treatment options to consider.

With regard to the abundant "floating weeds" ESS Group suggests that due to our low water levels into the early summer of 2013, sunlight was able to penetrate deeper onto the lake bottom allowing growth at a rate higher than normal. Fast forward to early summer 2014, those weeds were disturbed by increased activity and began to wash up and around the lake. The particular floating weed is not an invasive weed however it does continue to populate from year to year.

With regard to the overall treatment plan for our lake ESS Group presented some options for consideration. The options are targeted toward the northern coves of the lake and the treatment of the invasive weed population however the options being considered will also treat the non invasive weed population such as the abundant floating weeds experienced in early summer 2014. We expect to engage the services of ESS Group in October of 2014 to begin the permitting process for treatment in June of 2015. Additional details will be provided during the permitting process and through additional communication channels within our District.

Dam Maintenance & Repair Update:

Dam repairs completed last Fall 2013 stopped the most significant leak through the dam just east of the spillway, and permanently repaired internal damage caused by the leak and resultant sinkhole that occurred in 2011. Visual seepage inspections are routinely performed by your elected officials, and formal dam inspections are periodically performed by Lenard Engineering for the District. Summer 2014 inspections by the Management Committee revealed no areas of concern. Lenard Engineering and the Office of Dam Safety will conduct a final report/inspection on the repairs made in the fall of 2013. This summer we installed a swing gate off of Charles Street to access the Dam. We worked with the Town of Leicester Highway Department and rearranged the guardrails in this area to allow controlled access for maintenance purposes.

Land Below the Dam

Michael Gorman, Esq., a Holden attorney specializing in real estate matters was retained by the District to negotiate the purchase of the land below the dam from Raymond E. Shea, Jr. Unfortunately, the District efforts to purchase this land was with little success. In April 2014, the District received a complaint from Raymond E. Shea, Jr. through the law firm of Army and Lee demanding payment of \$100,000 for flooding land below the dam. The District is in the process of retaining a land use lawyer to represent the District in this most recent complaint brought forth by Mr. Shea.

Your Elected Officials Want to Hear From You

Please remember to report any unusual lake activity. **Please note that the District has a new mailing address: P.O. Box 320, Leicester, MA 01524.** Finally, If you have any questions or concerns regarding the lake and/or dam, please contact one of the following elected officials.

Tommy Lee, Chairman Management Committee	508 892-3750	tommyjoelee@gmail.com
Paul Dufresne, Vice-Chairman Management Committee	508 892-0173	
Tom Forsberg, Management Committee	508 832-3249	tforsberg15@gmail.com
Michele Cospers, District Clerk	508 439-2443	clerk@cedar Meadow.org
Terry O'Coin, District Treasurer	508 347-6863	the.ocoins@verizon.net

Have a Great Fall & Winter!