



Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District

www.cedarmeadow.org

Newsletter - March 2020

Mark your Calendar and Plan Join Us at the

Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 20, 2020 at 7:30 pm

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 99 Mannville Street, Leicester on Thursday, May 20, 2020, at 7:30 P.M. A quorum of proprietors is necessary for the Annual Meeting. If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting, please allow a friend a neighbor, or an elected official, to bring your proxy. A proxy form will be enclosed with the Annual Meeting Warrant that will be sent by mail 3 weeks prior to the meeting date.

District Tax Collection Billing Change

Since the formation of the District, our annual tax bills sent by the Town of Leicester have been due in two payments due annually on Feb 1 and May 1. We were recently notified by the town Assessor John Prescott that effective July 1, 2020 (FY2021), our District tax billing will follow the same schedule as the Town of Leicester's Municipal billing. Instead of District taxpayers receiving two District bills, we will now be on a quarterly billing cycle (Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1, Nov 1). District preliminary bills will, as with Town preliminary bills, be generated based on the previous tax year tax amounts. Leicester is now going to follow the Mass Department of Revenue (DOR)

Informational Guideline Release (IGR) 19-4, page 3, section C: “The decision of a community to use a quarterly tax payment system also governs the assessment and collection of property taxes for that portion of a tax levying district located within the community”. There will be no change to Betterment billing that is due annually on Aug 1/Nov 1.

Refilling the Lake & Water Clarity

The lake remained covered in ice early March, and inches of water continually ran through the upper channel through the winter. After ice-out, the upper channel will be closed by installing the flash boards when there is low risk for potential shoreline damage. The lower gate valve will be opened to 1/4 to simulate Spring brook conditions.

Last summer, the lake visibility remained good throughout the summer months in 2019. The District continues to monitor to the lake water clarity. To achieve a properly balanced lake, the District urges (1) all Proprietors who use fertilizers to spread the low/no phosphorus fertilizer and (2) to curb any water from storm drainage that could potentially add nutrients to the lake. Furthermore, MA law has stated that fertilizer containing phosphorus can only be used on (1) lawns that show a phosphorus deficiency by a soil test or (2) newly established lawns. Please see the following link for further information:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/plant-nutrient-management.html>

Boating Safety and Respect Reminder

- Please remember, it is illegal to operate a vessel at more than headway speed within **150 feet** of shorelines. Please be mindful of the safety of your fellow proprietors and our neighbors using the beaches.
- To review the full text of the MA Boater Safety Handbook, go to the District’s website, www.cedarmeadow.org, or the MA website at

<http://www.boat-ed.com/ma/handbook>

- Please be respectful of the buoys and signage at the Rawson Street Bridge as the buoys and cables are delicate. Therefore, no boats should be anchored to or floating upon cables, buoys or signage in this area.
- Please be respectful to any wildlife that also inhabits our beautiful lake and its shores.
- No trespassing signage has been posted at the dam and on the Charles Street gate.
- The Cedar Meadow Skiers were quite active last summer. If you are interested, please contact John Moisan (moisan_j@charter.net) for information on joining the club in 2020.

Your Elected Officials Want to Hear From You

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the lake and/or dam, please contact one of the following elected officials.

Tommy Lee Vice-Chairman Management Committee	508 892-3750 tommyjoelee@gmail.com
Brian Waterman Management Committee	774 272-5654 bwaterman@wda-dg.com
Ed Rose Management Committee	774 242-8098 ejrose1@yahoo.com
Michele Cospier District Clerk	508 439-2443 clerk@cedar Meadow.org
Terry O'Coin District Treasurer	508 347-6863 theocoins@charter.net

Looking Forward to Seeing YOU the Annual Meeting!

The Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.