



**Stodge Meadow Association, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 715**  
**Ashburnham, MA 01430**

## **FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER**

### **Important Stodge Meadow Association (SMA) Dates in 2017 & 2018:**

September 30 – Ten Year Phase 1 Dam Safety Re-inspection Completed

November 1 – Annual water level drawdown begins

July 13, 2018 – Annual SMA Membership Meeting – 7:30 PM – Tentatively to be held at the Ashburnham Community Church (same place as last year)

**Fall Drawdown & Spring Recharge:** The Fall Drawdown will begin November 1<sup>st</sup>, and the pond should return to “full pool” on or about next April 1<sup>st</sup>. Our continued thanks to **Mickey Gillis** for removing and reinstalling the spillway boards plus taking weekly readings.

**Dues Update:** As of this newsletter, we have received dues payments from **ALL** of our usual dues-paying members; unfortunately, there continue to be **six former members who have not paid and, therefore, cannot use the pond!!** We are very grateful to all members, because these dues make running our association much easier. Please plan on making your Fiscal 2019 dues payment in July at the Annual Membership Meeting.

**Fall Dam Inspection & Maintenance:** We hired Trowbridge Engineering which is a local professional engineering firm and is certified by the State to do Dam Safety Inspections. They have submitted the report to the State Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). As soon as the final inspection report is available to SMA, I will send out that information. This Fall **Denis Maguy, Mickey Gillis, and Paul Bassett/Don Leger** will add 20 to 60 additional yards of rip rap to the upstream side of the dam which will help resolve one finding in the inspection report. To resolve another finding, all blueberry bushes have been removed from the pond side of the dam. The SMA Board will be thoroughly examining the final report and will cost out the work that needs to be done. This last effort will be completed before the July 2018 Annual Meeting.

**Ashburnham Lakes Coalition (ALC):** Member ponds and lakes are Billy Ward Pond, Lake Winnekeag, Little Watatic Pond, Lake Watatic, Lower Naukeag, Sunset Lake, and Stodge Meadow Pond. The ALC continues to provide the SMA with additional funds from boat registration fees paid to the State. Over the past three years SMA has averaged slightly more than \$500 per year in additional revenue which has helped to offset our expenses for various maintenance and repair projects.

*Volume 1, Issue 10*

*FALL 2017*

Phone: 978-874-0462

Fax: 978-874-0462

[iffminott@aol.com](mailto:iffminott@aol.com)

#### **2017/8 Board of Directors**

President

John Fairbanks

Vice President

Denis Maguy

Secretary

Lee Bourgault

Treasurer

Phyllis Antidormi

Ward 1 – Mickey Gillis

Ward 2 – Eric Niehaus

Ward 3 – Nancy Curtis

Ward 4 – Diana Palmer

Ward 5 – Mell Ashton

Ward 6 – Linda Bergeron

Ward 7 – Len Wilson

Ward 8 – Rick Leslie

Ward 9 – Susie Haenisch

Ward 10 – Paul Bassett

Directors At Large:

Jim Elder

Phil Gilley

Don Leger

**Boat Ramp Keys:** If anyone wants a new or replacement boat ramp key, please call or email John Fairbanks at 978-874-0462 or [jffminott@aol.com](mailto:jffminott@aol.com). The cost remains at \$20.00 per key.

**Flowers on the Dam:** According to Ward 4 Rep, **Diana Palmer**, SMA members placed plants on the dam again this year. Thanks to those who made a financial donation for the Dam Flowers; you made this project possible! At Large Board of Directors Rep, **Don Leger**, is working on an improved watering system for the 2018 summer season.

**Stodge Meadow Visitors:** This picture of our two loon chicks on July 2<sup>nd</sup> was provided by Bryan Balutis of 98 Stodge Meadow Road. Unfortunately, it looks like only one chick survived and will be leaving us shortly for the winter.



**The Bigger Picture:** We've had another beautiful spring and summer at Stodge Meadow Pond. Thanks to the 17 members of the board of directors for all of their considerable efforts. There will be challenges ahead to continue to keep our pond as beautiful as it is today! Enjoy the fall and winter seasons!!



Source: Sarah Fairbanks