

11. CPA PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

[CPC Use Only: Date Received 2/18/2021 By: SAMMIE KUL
Assigned CPC #2022-03]

If possible, use word processor to fill out form. Please answer all questions, use "N/A" if not applicable.

1. a.) Applicant Name and Organization: Last Woodle, Alexander First _____
Organization(s) (if appropriate) Great Ponds Advisory Committee

b.) Regional Project: Yes ☒? or No? ☐ If Yes, Town/Organization: Groton

2. Submission Date: 1/14/21

3. Applicant Address: St. 20 Highland Road
City/ State: Groton, MA ZIP: 1450

4. Ph. # 978-732-3224 Email: alexander.woodle@gmail.com

5. CPA Purpose. Check all that apply:
Community Housing ☐ (Affordable Housing ☐) Historic Preservation*: ☐ Open Space: ☒
Recreation ☐

* As per MA General Law Chapter 44B, proposed historic projects that are not on the structures listed on the state's registry of historic places require a determination by the Groton Historic Commission that the proposed project is of historic significance.

6. Town Committee or boards participating: Great Ponds Advisory Committee/Groton Lakes Assoc.

7. Project Location/Address: Lost Lake/Knops Pond Watershed

8. Project Name: Lost Lake/Knops Pond Pollution Study

9. Additional Responsible Parties (If applicable):

Role (specify)	Name	Address	Ph. (w) (cell)	Email
Property/Site Owner				
Project Manager	A. Woodle	20 Highland Road	9787323224	alexander.wo
Lead Architect	Order of Conditions from Conservation Commission <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Project Contractor				
Project Consultants				
Other:				
Other				

10. As appropriate, indicate if proposal requires P&S agreement ☒ Deed ☒
Option agreement ☒ Other-describe: _____

11. a.) Assessor info. (map/ block/ lot id.(s)): N/A b.) Tax classification type: N/A

12. Permits required: Zoning: N/A Historic Preservation: N/A Other: Order of Conditions from Conservation Commission

13. Historic Commission Approval signoff (when required): _____ Date: _____

14. Funding: a.) Project Cost: \$ 40,000 Estimate: \$ _____ Professional Quote: \$ _____

b.) Requested from CPC: \$ 34,000.00 c.) Committed from other sources: \$ 6,000.00

d.) Annual anticipated total income: \$ _____ e.) Annual anticipated total expense: \$ 40,000.00

f.) Anticipated net income (loss): \$ _____ g.) Estimator name/company: Alex Woodle

15. CCP Objectives - use codes from Section 5 to indicate all that apply:

16. Project Timelines: Proposed Start Date: 7/1/21 Projected Complete Date: 12/17/21

17. Estimated Delivery Date of Completion Report to CPC: 1/31/22

18. Project description and explanation (attach additional sheets as needed): See Attached

19. Feasibility: Storm water studies are currently a major focus for environmental consultants in 2020.

20. List of attachments: Attach A Erosion & Storm Water Run-off at Lost Lake/Knops Pond, 2014; Attach B A Diagnostic/Feasibility Study For the Management of Lost Lake/ Knops Pond; Attach C Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan; Attach D Lost Lake Watershed Management Plan;

21. Additional Information: Attachment E The Lost Lake/ Knops Pond Watershed Map
The Great Ponds Advisory Committee has committed \$1000 to fund this study and the Groton Lakes Association has voted \$5000 for the completion of this research.

22. Management Plan: The Contractor will identify the non-point sources of pollution entering Lost Lake through its two inlets. The Contractor will suggest the Best Management Practices to remedy the identified sources of nutrient loading
The Project Manager will work closely with the Contractor through each phase of the study and give briefings to members of the Great Ponds Advisory Committee throughout the work period and receive comments and suggestions. He will also brief the member of the CPC who is assigned to this project on a timely basis.

23. Applicant Signature: Raymond Woodle Date: 2/18/21
Co Applicant Signature: James Luening Date: 2/18/21
Co Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

11. CPA PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

Project Description

For the purposes of clarity for the reader, a couple of definitions from the outset may be useful:

1. **Point source** is pollution emanating from a single, identifiable source such as a drainage pipe from a factory or sewage plant; 2. A **non-point source** is pollution not coming from a single source; 3. **Stormwater** is from rain or melting snow that runs off land and/or roads picking up pollutants along the way and ending up into a watercourse; and 4. **Best management practices (BMPs)** are the most effective and practical means of preventing or reducing non-point source pollution.

As part of the continuation of the Lost Lake/Knops Pond Long-Term Lake Management Plan, the Great Pond Advisory Committee and the Groton Lakes Association are seeking funds to complete a major component of this plan namely the dataset identifying the non-point sources of pollution entering Lost Lake and the development of a mitigation plan to correct these problems.

Non-point sources of pollution include land runoff, drainage, seepage and precipitation. Erosion can wash the nutrients into the streams and carry them to the lake. The watershed contains forest, agriculture, commercial and institutional lands. The roads within these areas act as conduits for storm water run-off and contamination. In addition, there are non-point sources within the shoreline areas of the lake as well. These have been already documented by the Groton lakes Association (Attachment A). Previous studies (Attachments B, C, & D) in around the Knops Pond/Lost Lake Watershed have not identified the non-point sources nor have they formulated any mitigation plan.

The major nutrient loading comes from phosphorus and over the years, studies have confirmed that two-thirds of the phosphorus is entering Lost Lake through its two inlets. These two streams drain a watershed (Attachment E) that is fourteen times the size of the lake or approximately 2800 acres or almost 14% of Groton's land area.

The major goal is to lower the eutrophic level of phosphorus in Lost Lake's water column with the ultimate hope of reducing weeds and decreasing or eliminating the need to apply herbicides to treat them. Phosphorus is the main limiting factor for the health of the lake.

The federal government through the Environmental Protection Agency has recently been pushing for states to improve and update their plans for storm water management. Groton created an Enterprise Fund in 2020 and assessed each landowner an equal amount to capitalize this fund and implement best management practices for storm water management problems.

The completion of the non-point study would make Groton eligible to apply for federal funds under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The federal funds, not to exceed 60% of the total cost together with matching funds from the locale, would be used to implement best management practices.

The Open Space and recreation Plan (OSRP) recently adopted by the town of Groton, has as one of its goals “to protect and enhance the quality of Groton’s surface and groundwater resources.” Both the Groton Lakes Association and the Great Ponds Advisory Committee have committed \$6,000 to the successful completion of this program. This study if approved by the Community Preservation Committee, will help to achieve those goals.

Dear Community Preservation Committee:

The Groton Stewardship Committee, a fledgling sub-committee of the Groton Conservation Commission is focused on overseeing the management of open space. One of the major components of open space are the water resources of the town. The largest is the Knops Pond/Lost Lake Watershed encompassing 2800 acres. For a number of years, the Groton Lakes Association (GLA) and the Great Ponds Advisory Committee (GPAC) have been the lead organizations to study and enhance the surface water quality in the lakes.

We on our committee would like to lend our support to CPC #2022-03 to identify and inventory the non-point sources of pollution entering the lakes through its two main inlets in Lost Lake. Collection of this information will allow eligibility for federal funds to develop mitigation plans to curb storm-water run-off and pollution into the lakes. Combining federal dollars with the newly established Enterprise Fund can contribute to the long-term health of the lakes by lowering the high level of nutrients entering the lake from these sources.

On February 17, 2021 the Groton Stewardship Committee voted by a unanimous roll call vote to support CPC Application #2022-03.

We hope your committee will give serious consideration to this project.

Sincerely,



Nikolis Gualco

Conservation Administrator



January 28 2021

FAO: Community Preservation Committee

Dear Committee Members,

Grotonwood supports the application made by the Groton Lakes Association (GLA) to the Community Preservation Act to fund a study of the sources of phosphorus pollution entering Lost Lake. Understanding the root cause of the phosphorus pollution is the first step to a healthier lake, which needs less chemical treatments and costs less to preserve.

Crucially, this study will also provide eligibility for federal funds, which will be used to tackle the sources identified.

If any further information is required please contact me on the number below.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Daniel Everitt".

Daniel Everitt
Executive Director

My name is Arthur Prest and I live at 8 Weymisset Road on Knops Pond in Groton. I would like to express my support for the non-point source CPA application.

Over the past 70 plus years I have witnessed increased problems with degradation of the water quality in Lost Lake and Knops Pond. Note that my family has owned shore front property on Lost Lake since 1947 and I have owned shore front property on Knops Pond since 2009.

During the 1950s and 1960s my mother raked native aquatic weeds every weekend out of the lake and into a red wagon on the side of which we had painted "Grammie's Weed Wagon". Note that these weeds were native aquatic weeds not non-native invasive weeds that have been destroying Lost Lake and Knops Pond over the last 50 years. What was the difference between these two time frames? One difference was the increased fishing and other boating activities that brought boats carrying non-native aquatic weeds from outside of Groton into Lost Lake at the public boat launch. This problem was exacerbated with higher levels of nutrients (e.g., Phosphates) coming in from the watershed that is fourteen times the size of Lost Lake and Knops Pond. These higher levels of nutrients such as Phosphates were probably the result of increased development in the watershed that resulted in lawns and other landscaped areas that were being fertilized with Phosphate based fertilizer.

When my wife and I decided to retire we made the decision to move back to Groton and buy a house on Knops Pond. We had lived for 16 years in Potomac Maryland and I worked in Washington DC so I had not seen the level of degradation of Lost Lake and Knops Pond that had been happening. On November 10, 2010 we were moving into our house on Knops Pond when the manager of the moving company looked out our dining room window and said "*I thought you said that you live on a lake – you live on a swamp.*" I was heart broken because his observation was correct. That day I made the decision that I had to do something to help restore Knops Pond and Lost Lake to what I remembered as a kid and young man growing up on the lakes.

Starting in 2011, I became very involved in the Groton lakes Association and the Great Ponds Advisory Committee. I joined forces with Alex Woodle whom I had known since I was two years old. Over the following two years we succeeded in getting support to begin to initiate efforts to restore Lost Lake and Knops Pond to the conditions that we had grown up on. In the Spring of 2013, we succeeded in treating Lost lake and Knops Pond with a herbicide that resulted in conditions that looked like what we remembered in our younger days.

However, that was not the end of our efforts. We decided that we needed a long-range plan to save Lost Lake and Knops Pond for future generations. As a result, the Lost Lake Watershed Advisory Committee was instituted by the Board of Selectmen in August of 2014. The main charge of the Committee was to quantitatively determine whether there is a water quality problem in the Lost Lake Watershed. If problems are determined then provide proposed solutions. In addition, the Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen with respect to addressing issues within the Watershed. This effort was focused on point sources of Phosphate pollution from sources such as septic systems and streams that were bringing in Phosphates from the watershed. It did not identify the non-point sources of Phosphates within the watershed.

I Chaired that committee and the effort was completed in 2017 with several conclusions and recommendations:

1. Sampling results indicate that stormwater runoff and erosion are primary contributors of nutrients. Maintaining and modernizing stormwater infrastructure could effectively reduce nutrient loading from the watershed.
2. This option is relatively expensive and will also require regulatory approvals depending on where measures are implemented.

We knew at that time that we did not have the resources to address the non-point sources of pollution. This new application is intended to address that need.

Arthur L. Prest

8 Weymisset Road, Groton, MA 01450

To the CPC and the citizens of Groton:

I wholeheartedly support the GLA's application to study the sources of pollution entering Lost Lake. It is an investment or down payment needed to secure additional federal funding and will effectively leverage the precious assets administered by the CPC. Lost Lake, although man-made, is a key natural resource belonging to our town that provides habitat for wildlife, including bald eagles as well as a playground for its citizens. It is also part of our Town's history, as it drew many new part time and then full time residents to the Town as it was marketed in the 1920s and 30s as a country get-away to the every-day citizens of Boston.

The Lost Lake region of our town is worth preserving, and to do so, we must use our resources wisely to preserve and protect it's very heart: Lost Lake itself! Please approve the GLA's request for funds necessary to find the sources of pollution which damage this key resource of our Town.

Respectfully,
John W. Valentine
284 Whiley Rd, Groton, MA 01450

Ryan Stevens

February 5, 2021

Mountain Lakes Club

213 Lost lake Dr. Groton MA

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of The Great Ponds Advisory Committee and the Groton Lakes Association in support of their request for funding from the Community Preservation Act this year to study sources of pollution entering Lost Lake. Our club, consisting of 100 families, is in full support of this request. We are fiercely proud of the lake community and many of our events (open to the public, not just club members) take place at the lake. We are extremely grateful to the GPAC and GLA for their continuous efforts at keeping the lakes healthy as well as extremely grateful to the Community Preservation Committee for their support in these efforts. Our lakes are a well-used and well-loved resource in our community and we stand behind all attempts to protect them.

Sincerely,

Ryan Stevens

President, Mountain Lakes Club



TOWN OF GROTON
Water Department
173 Main Street. Town Hall
Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Office: 978-448-1122
Fax: 978-448-1123

Superintendent:
Thomas D. Orcutt

Business Manager:
Lauren E. Crory

Commissioners:
John J. McCaffrey Jr.
James L. Gmeiner
Greg R. Fishbone

MEMORANDUM

To: CPC Committee

From: Thomas D. Orcutt, Water Superintendent

Subject: CPC Project #2022-03 – Non-Point Sources of Pollution in Lost Lake/Knops Pond Watershed

Date: February 5, 2021

As the Water Superintendent, I fully support the application by Mr. Alex Woodle for the identification of Non-Point sources of pollution entering the Lost Lake / Knops Pond Watershed. This watershed directly impacts the quality of drinking water in the Whitney Pond Wells, a major resource for the Town of Groton.

If you have questions or concerns regarding our support, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Water Department.

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

I'm writing in a support of the "Non-Point Sources of Pollution for Knops Pond/Lost Lake Study" seeking funding under the 2021 CPA. To manage and preserve our water resources, we must understand the issues that are impacting them. This study is a critical step toward understanding our non-point sources of pollution, such as phosphorus, and how to mitigate them. The completion of the study would also enable Groton to apply for federal funds under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act to help mitigate the sources identified.

Lost Lake is a water resource that we should value today and preserve for future generations. With a state boat launch for boating and fishing access, a public beach and abutting conservation land, it is an open space enjoyed by many and accessible by all. I know that you will give this study the priority that it deserves.

Sincerely,
James Luening
711 Martins Pond Rd.
Groton MA 01450

Sammie Kul

From: Robert Anderson <bobandersongroton@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:59 PM
To: Alex Woodle
Subject: I support CPA 2022-03

Years of testing the largest Great Ponds in Groton have created a lot of data about pond health and invasive species, and the treatments have done a great job controlling the invasive species. The testing has also changed perceptions about sources of pollution and nutrients entering the pond. This proposal, to determine the sources of phosphorus pollution entering Lost Lake from Martins Pond Brook and a smaller brook, is crucial to finding ways to reduce or stop this pollution at its source, rather than the more expensive and less effective approach of treating the whole pond after pollution. The fact that federal funds could then help pay to mitigate these sources is a major benefit. I support this CPA application.

Bob Anderson
Whiley Road

Dear Community Preservation Committee:

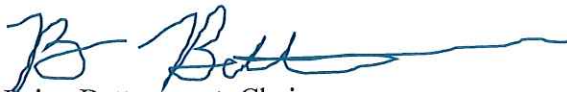
The Invasive Species Committee voted to support CPC Project 2022-03 Non-Point Sources of Pollution in Watershed submitted by the Great Ponds Advisory Committee (GPAC) and The Groton Lake Association (GLA) via this letter. We share a long-term goal of this project with the submitters, namely the reduction in the use of herbicides for control of invasive plants.

These two organizations have been the leading forces to sustain the surface water quality of Lost Lake/Knops Pond. The Long-Term Management Plan calls for reducing the nutrient loading of the lakes with the ultimate hope to reduce or eliminate the costly use of herbicides (and thus the long-term reduction of invasive plant populations). One crucial dataset that has not been secured is identifying the non-point sources of pollution produced by storm-water that empties into the lake's two major inlets. Studies over the years consistently point to two-thirds of the phosphorus coming from these sources.

An additional benefit to the Town from this study would be the eligibility to qualify for 319 Clean Water Act funds to contribute to best management practices together with the Town's Enterprise fund on a 60-40 matching basis. The ultimate goal is to reduce the phosphorus level in the water column.

These goals for cleaner water coincide with the goals of Groton's Open Space and Recreation Plan. We hope you will give serious consideration for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Bettencourt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Bettencourt, Chair

Representing the Invasive Species Committee

Garrick Rawding & Megan Muise
49 Island Rd. Groton, MA 01450
January 28th, 2021

Community Preservation Committee
Groton, Massachusetts 01450

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to express my support of the study to determine sources of pollution entering Knops Pond/Lost Lake. We moved to the lake almost 2 years ago in search for a lakefront home to enjoy the water close to Boston. What we were surprised to find was how amazingly preserved this area is, driving through this neighborhood feels like a quick trip up to the woods of Maine, not a town so close to a major city. We quickly determined that we will spend a long time here, and the overall town of Groton just helped that decision along besides the use of the lake. We are in support of anything that will help preserve and protect this area so many in the future may enjoy. We live across the lake from the public beach that on any given day provides the opportunity for so many people to enjoy the water. We would love to see this beautiful resource live on and with approval of this study we hope to find some answers on how to make that a reality. Thank you,

Sincerely,

Garrick & Megan

49 Island Rd. Groton, MA 01450



TOWN OF GROTON
Conservation Commission
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450
(978) 448-1106
Fax: 978-448-1113
ngualco@townofgroton.org



February 10, 2021

Bruce Easom, Chairman
Community Preservation Committee
Town Hall - 173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Chairman Easom,

On February 9, 2021 the Groton Conservation Commission voted by a roll call vote to lend its support to CPC Project 2022-03 Non-Point Sources of Pollution in Watershed submitted by the Great Ponds Advisory Committee (GPAC) and The Groton Lake Association (GLA).

These two organizations have been the leading forces to sustain the surface water quality of Lost Lake/Knops Pond. The Long-Term Management Plan calls for reducing the nutrient loading of the lakes with the ultimate hope to reduce or eliminate the costly use of herbicides. One crucial dataset that has not been secured is identifying the non-point sources of pollution produced by storm-water that empties into the lake's two major inlets. Studies over the years consistently point to two-thirds of the phosphorus coming from these sources. Without a mitigation plan, the hope of reducing the phosphorus levels in the water column are nil.

An additional benefit to the Town from this study would be the eligibility to qualify for 319 Clean Water Act funds to contribute to best management practices together with the Town's Enterprise fund on a 60-40 matching basis.

These goals for cleaner water coincide with the goals of Groton's Open Space and Recreation Plan. We hope you will give serious consideration for this project.

Sincerely yours,

Nikolis Gualco
Conservation Administrator

Ryan Stevens

February 5, 2021

Mountain Lakes Club

213 Lost lake Dr. Groton MA

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of The Great Ponds Advisory Committee and the Groton Lakes Association in support of their request for funding from the Community Preservation Act this year to study sources of pollution entering Lost Lake. Our club, consisting of 100 families, is in full support of this request. We are fiercely proud of the lake community and many of our events (open to the public, not just club members) take place at the lake. We are extremely grateful to the GPAC and GLA for their continuous efforts at keeping the lakes healthy as well as extremely grateful to the Community Preservation Committee for their support in these efforts. Our lakes are a well-used and well-loved resource in our community and we stand behind all attempts to protect them.

Sincerely,

Ryan Stevens

President, Mountain Lakes Club

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

I have been a Groton resident for 60 years and reside on Lost Lake. I have noticed a serious deterioration in our water quality over the years.

I am strongly in favor of using CPA funds in order to study the pollution that is entering our lake from it's two inlets. Identifying where this runoff comes from will enable a plan to be formed to lessen it's impact on lake water quality. This would make the lake safer and much more enjoyable for boaters and swimmers.

Sincerely,
Nancy Henn
97 Birchwood Ave
Groton



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
Fax: (978) 448-1115

Select Board

Alison S. Manugian, *Chair*
Joshua A. Degen, *Vice Chair*
Rebecca H. Pine, *Clerk*
John R. Giger, *Member*
John F. Reilly, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

Groton Community Preservation Committee
Groton Town Hall
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

RE: CPC# 2022-03
Non-Point Sources of Pollution in Watershed

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Committee

On behalf of the Groton Select Board, I am writing to you to express the support of the Select Board for the project *CPC# 2022-03, Non-Point Sources of Pollution in the Watershed*. The Board voted 3 in Favor and 1 Opposed to recommend this project be brought to the Spring Town meeting by the Community Preservation Committee.

As you know, Lost Lake and Knops Pond are important groundwater resources. The Town has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars protecting these lakes. The Great Ponds Advisory Committee and the Great Lakes Association have been committed to provide further protection.

Their next major goal is to lower the eutrophic level of phosphorus in Lost Lake's water column with the ultimate hope of reducing weeds and decreasing or eliminating the need to apply herbicides to treat them. Completing this study would make Groton eligible to apply for federal funds to further the goal of protecting these resources.

The Select Board appreciates the opportunity to provide this recommendation and would request that the Community Preservation Committee bring this project to the Spring Town Meeting for approval.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,


Mark W. Haddad
Town Manager

MWH/rjb

cc: Select Board
Great Ponds Advisory Committee
Great Lakes Association

Community Preservation Committee,

We are writing to request your support of the application for the study of nutrient sources in Lost Lake/ Knops Pond. Understanding the nutrient inputs will help to define an effective solution for long term management of this precious resource.

We urge the committee to support the application before you as a critical step towards improving the long term health of Lost Lake/ Knops Pond.

Sincerely,

Brad and Cheney Harper

4 Birchwood Ave.

January 28, 2021

TO: Community Preservation Committee

FROM: Lynwood V. Prest, P.E., 11 Highland Road, Groton, MA 01450

I have had the pleasure of being on Lost Lake - Knops Pond since 1946 when my parents bought shoreline property and built their cottage the next year. Back then the lakes were clear and you could see to the bottom of the lake in almost every location. In the years since the condition of the lakes has gradually deteriorated.

These are the two largest lakes in the Town and they own a beach that is open to Town residents and outsiders. They also own a boat launch that boaters and fishermen from everywhere can come and make use of the lakes for pleasure and sporting.

Back when I first came, there were only the common lily pads and their flowers and very few year round homes. Now the same lily pads exist and most cottages have been converted to year round homes. The original lily pads and plants have been attacked by invasive weeds and algae to the extent that one can no longer see the bottom of the lakes unless the water is only about a foot deep. That is highly indicative of water quality destruction. We reached a point about ten or more years ago that invasive plants covered almost 80 percent of their surfaces.

Subsequent treatment has improved conditions but the invasive weeds have not quit and algae has worsened. If not reduced then the value of the lakes to the Town and to those citizens who use it will be greatly reduced. The water exits these lakes and end up in streams and other ponds, some of which are used to furnish drinking water to Town residents. We need to determine the sources of 'food' that encourages pollution and to stop them from entering the lakes.

Along with stopping pollutants and food sources that support pollutants, it would be abundantly wise for the lakes to be treated for removal of algae and invasive weeds for the benefit of the users of the lakes and the quality of drinking water. Long ago the cottages and the land around the lakes were not highly taxed. Now those same lands and their cottages-converted-to-homes have the highest taxes in the Town. Letting the lakes deteriorate would cause the property values to decrease and thus negatively affect the Town.

If the Town would keep the lakes in good condition then they could figure out how to charge fees for use of the beach and boat launch, thus gain more monies for the Town and protection of the lakes' quality. Everyone would benefit.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynwood Valentine (Val) Prest



TOWN OF GROTON
Water Department
173 Main Street, Town Hall
Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Office: 978-448-1122
Fax: 978-448-1123

Superintendent:
Thomas D. Orcutt

Business Manager:
Lauren E. Crory

Commissioners:
John J. McCaffrey Jr.
James L. Gmeiner
Greg R. Fishbone

MEMORANDUM

To: CPC Committee

From: Board of Water Commissioners

Subject: CPC Project #2022-03 – Non-Point Sources of Pollution in Lost Lake/Knops Pond Watershed

Date: February 22, 2021

The Board of Water Commissioners met on February 9th and fully support the application by Mr. Alex Woodle for the identification of Non-Point sources of pollution entering the Lost Lake / Knops Pond Watershed. This watershed directly impacts the quality of drinking water in the Whitney Pond Wells, a major resource for the Town of Groton.

If you have questions or concerns regarding our support, please do not hesitate to contact the Water Department.

Community Preservation Committee
Groton, MA 01450

To whom it may concern,

This letter goes out in support of the actions of the Great Pond Advisory Committee and the Groton Lakes Association as they seek funding from the Community Preservation Act for a study of the sources of pollution entering Lost Lake through two of its inlets.

I've been a Groton resident for 45 years, every year of which was spent on Lost Lake. In fact my family uprooted their lives and sold the family home in Chelmsford that my father built with his bare hands in order to enjoy this beautiful body of water, where beforehand we would rent boats on weekends to fish for rainbow trout. All of my best memories of growing up are tied to this lake. When it came time to leave the nest, I bought a dilapidated 3 season cottage on the other end of the lake. It was all I could afford at the time, but I absolutely HAD to stay on the lake.

One paycheck at a time I converted the cottage into a full time, although tiny, home. Once I become a father and we basically outgrew our little shack, I put an addition on, as opposed to having to move to a larger home away from the water. It was the best decision I've ever made. My kids loved growing up here. They really got a kick out of it when their more well off friends, from the huge houses in the *beautiful* neighborhoods of Groton, would come over and tell them how lucky they were to live on the lake.

The lake community does not get a whole lot of the benefits that other parts of Groton get. Most of us don't have town water, there is no town sewer, there are no street lights, and our roads get plowed last and get paved once every three decades. Plus we pay 40% higher taxes for the *privilege* of living on the lake even though our neighborhoods earn the lowest per capita income of any other part of Groton. The lake is what drew us here and the lake is what keeps us here.

Right now our lake is in dire need of attention and assistance before it becomes unusable and eventually turns to swamp. That is not an exaggeration. The invasive weeds that are being fed by pollution running in from a few inlets are taking over...rapidly. I live on a small cove, actually in one piece of old Groton literature, it's called a lagoon, where in a few bad years in the past I could almost walk across it because of all the invasive milfoil. The cove looked more like a field than a body of water. Something needs to be done, and I'm basically begging you for help.

I'll try not to end this by being too sappy. But the best days of my life were spent both *as* a kid and *with* my kids on this lake. My children are all grown up now, but I still smile from ear to ear when my son or daughter texts and says "Hey Dad, let's go hang out and play on the lake". I've got a granddaughter coming into the world in April, and I just pray that this wonderful resource, that the entire town utilizes, will be here for her to enjoy for years to come with her Grandpa.

Sincerely,

Russ Silva

PO Box 351

44 Maplewood Ave

Groton, MA 01450