



TOWN OF HALIFAX COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Board of Health

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The Halifax Board of Health has been concerned about the water quality of the Monponsett Ponds for at least two decades. As a result of this concern, a number of initiatives have been undertaken by our Board of Health to protect the ponds from sources of pollution. Some of the steps taken have been the adoption of regulations and policies affecting septic systems, storm water discharges and surface runoff within specified setbacks from the Monponsett Ponds

In addition to the regulations and policies, a series of informational talks were presented for residents to learn about ways they can protect the Monponsett Ponds from pollution.

About 10 years ago, Halifax formed an Alternative Sewage Committee. The committee commissioned a needs assessment study and after its completion recommendations were made for a municipal waste water treatment system. This proposal did not get the voter support the committee needed to bring the project to a design phase in the planning process.

For over a year, a revitalized and energetic Alternative Sewage Committee has renewed its work to find a way to deal with the Halifax septic systems around the ponds that have yet to be upgraded to Title 5 standards.

Even with these initiatives we have seen the continual degradation of the water quality of the Monponsett Ponds. This year a record number of beach closings and public advisories were issued by the Board of Health due to the algae growth and the public health risk associated with the poor water quality of the Monponsett Ponds.

Seeing no end to this worsening situation, the Halifax Board of Health plans to form a coalition of people and organizations who are stakeholders in the future of the Monponsett Ponds. This coalition will work to determine the sources of pollution causing the degradation of the water quality and assist the stakeholders in finding ways to stop the pollution. The Board of Health feels that the time to act is now before any federal and state agencies impose programs or sanctions affecting our towns.

You are a stakeholder due to your location within the watershed which contributes both groundwater and surface water to the Monponsett Ponds. We are contacting you prior to scheduling a stakeholder's kickoff meeting at which time we plan to go public with our plan. We hope to mobilize stakeholders into action at that meeting.

If you have any concerns, or you want to discuss our plan with our Board prior to scheduling our stakeholder's kickoff meeting, please contact us. In addition, please pass this letter on to other possible stakeholders who you think would be interested in this project.

Halifax Board of Health

John Delano, Chair

John Weber, Co-Chair

Jeffrey Anderson, Clerk