

From: Ken Wood
Sent: Tuesday, September 05, 2017 10:20 AM
To: 'Dennis Welch' <denniswelch@windhammaine.us>
Cc: 'Chantal Scott' <chantal.altavista@gmail.com>
Subject: Moratorium On Development - Highland Lake

Dear Chair Welch – I understand that the Town Council will be considering a Moratorium on any new development within the Highland Lake watershed at tonight's Council meeting. I urge the Council to support this moratorium.

I have owned a seasonal property on Amber Lane since 2005 and in recent years have noticed a degradation in water quality as evidenced by algae blooms apparent during the warmer summer months. Highland Lake was one of the few waterbodies within the state which was removed (2010) from the State's list of impaired lakes due to the dedication of the Highland Lake Association, the Cumberland County SWCD and the Maine DEP. It would be a loss of this great resource to degrade to a point of qualifying for the list, once again.

I was one of the authors of the first Stormwater Management Manual drafted by Maine DEP (1995) and also held the position of District Engineer at the York County Soil and Water Conservation District for over 20 years. I have been President of this firm since I founded it in 1988; most, if not all, of our projects involve analyzing and designing stormwater management systems. In the case of a lake watershed; any new or existing development which exports any nutrients (phosphorus or nitrogen) to the receiving waterbody will contribute to a degradation in water quality.

Windham's Ordinance currently addresses Stormwater Management (both water quality and quantity control) and also references the Phosphorus Control manual issued by Maine DEP. I believe that these requirements, while very good, could be revised to better address the water quality concerns unique to Highland Lake – this could involve restricting the size and type of development (mainly, intensive developments on smaller lots), restriction in fertilization methods or changes to the phosphorus standards to minimize the discharge of any phosphorus loads.

Today, I received an e-mail from the Non-Point Source Coordinator at Maine DEP regarding my question of removing Highland Lake from the list;

“Hi Ken, Good to hear from you. There certainly has been a lot of talk about Highland Lake recently due to the recent microscopic algae blooms and proposed subdivisions. Just to clarify, there are three different lists. Highland Lake was removed from Maine’s list of impaired lakes several years ago because the water clarity trend was stable. However, it remains on Chapter 502 list of lakes Most at Risk from New Development and Maine DEP’s Priority Watersheds List. DEP will continue to monitor water quality and if there is a declining water clarity trend, it could be added to the impaired list again.”

From what I understand, the Highland Lake Association, Friends of Highland Lake and concerned residents are committed to further researching the source and cause of the recent blooms – the moratorium will provide these groups the time required to accomplish this much needed work. Please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Ken

Kenneth A. Wood, P.E.

President

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