

HAMMOND ACRES CLUB, INC.

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A Letter from the Club President to Our Esteemed Members.

We had a most unusual summer in 2020, one that was relatively quiet and devoid of the usual summer highlights. We had a boat parade, but no regatta, no corn boil or golf tournaments. Nor did we have a movie night or the annual barn dance. There were no work parties with the attendant Blue Seal hot dogs, hamburgers, beer. The pandemic required that our annual meeting be held by Zoom, but we managed. Given what befell humanity in 2020, we were all grateful for what we did have: a well-maintained lake in which we swam, boated, floated, paddle boarded; a well-maintained golf course for socially distanced recreation; roads wide enough for walking with friends 6 feet apart and for jogging; cleaner air to breathe. And now some of us are here ice skating! Hammond Acres gave us much to be thankful for. We have a very special place that gives us much and requires only that we respect it and take care of it.

As of this writing, I cannot say with any certainty that the coming season will be different. Will our members and their families and friends who visit Hammond Pond be vaccinated? If not, will we feel safe here among them? Will the pandemic persist anyway? We can only hope this coming season will see a return to normalcy, but we must be prepared for another summer like last. Our Board of Directors continues to work hard to assure a well-run organization. We ask that members do their part when here to comply with CDC and state guidelines to keep all of us safe.

The Hammond Acres Club has once again been in discussions with the Goshen Select Board over the issue of snow plowing and sanding our roads. (I seem to write that every year). Once again, the town "failed" certain roads and we were told they would not be plowed. Some of us attended, by Zoom, select board meetings to dispute the "failures." The section of Lake Drive from the golf course to the bridge by South Chesterfield Road is not plowed by the town due to a lack of a turn-around. It might be useful to find out if we can strengthen the bridge, if needed, so that a plow truck can go

over it. Then, a turn-around would be unnecessary. I have asked John Rooney, our pond superintendent, to investigate.

Despite the inability to have work parties, our club property remained in good shape thanks to the efforts of those members who individually, and with help, cared for the lake, the dam, the golf course and the roads. If there is a project of interest to you, let us know. We are always happy for the help.

I would like to remind everyone that to protect the water quality from invasive plants and aquatic organisms, outside boats are not allowed in the lake: people that rent must make sure that renters are aware of this. For more information see the information on protecting our water quality see the information on Lake Stewardship posted on the Hammond Acres website: <http://www.hammondacres.org/>

Thank you to Lyne Laliberte for not only proposing a fundraiser, but for following through with it. Her shirts and hoodies campaign raised \$2,150.

Watch for the 2021 Meltdown announcement that Bob Labrie will send everyone. Fill out your date and time picks early. \$150 of the proceeds of Lyn's fundraiser will go to this year's Meltdown charity. Speaking of Bob, he has taken some awesome photographs of winter sunrises from various locations in the area using his drone. Who else would get up so early in the morning in the dead of a Goshen winter to do such a thing?

I would like to remind all members that you will soon be receiving the statement for 2021 club dues. The dues for the coming season have been set at \$495.00. In addition, the membership voted at the annual meeting last August for a special assessment of \$200 per year for the next 5 years. This special assessment is earmarked to pay for repairs known to be needed at the dam. We need to complete the repairs prior to the next inspection required by the Office of Dam Safety.

Finally, this about the plowing of roads in winter. For several years now the Hammond Acres Board of Directors has attempted to persuade the Goshen Select Board to plow all HAC roads that historically have been plowed, emphasizing that all our members pay property taxes to the town and that all homes should be accessible to fire department

equipment in the event of a winter fire or other emergency. Unfortunately, the Town takes the position that it will only plow roads with year-round houses and which meet certain town standards for road maintenance. Massachusetts law allows them to take this position since our HAC roads are classified as private roads. Currently, the only roads plowed by the town are:

- Birch Road;
- Hammond Circle;
- Lake Drive, except from the golf course to the bridge over the dam;
- Maple Road;
- Pine Road and
- Washington Road

Included in this mailing is a copy of the Town of Goshen Private Ways Ice & Snow Removal Policy for FY 2021, and the Town's Final Inspection Report for FY2021. We advise you of the Town's policy so that if your home is on a road you're the town does not plow, you can make alternative plowing arrangements to ensure winter access to your home for fire, police, and other emergency services.

I wish all of us a happy and healthy new year and a summer filled with joy at Hammond Pond. This year, the Hammond Acres Club will celebrate its 65th anniversary. We look forward to celebrating it with you in good health.

Best wishes,
Gerry Glasser