

Star Lake Update – June 2013

Friends of Star Lake (FOSL)

1. **Dam Repair:** This project was undertaken by FOSL because the State of Vermont has determined that the dam at Star Lake is a “safety hazard” and that it must be removed or rebuilt. The reconstruction, funded in large part by the awesome \$500,000 gift of the late Patricia Nye, was begun in 2012 with the assistance of the VT DEC and a grant from FEMA. The initial work was a flood and hydraulic evaluation of the Star Lake watershed, and was the first step for determining a full design for the dam and spillway re-construction. FOSL has now contracted with the engineering firm, DuBois & King for the next step in the project. D&K will evaluate the current dam and outlet stream, prepare alternatives for reconstruction of the dam, advance the chosen alternative to final construction documents, and evaluate the beach and boat launch area for the removal of lake-bottom sediments. The target for completing this engineering is Dec. 2013. Depending on the timing for permits and construction season, repairs to the dam will hopefully begin in 2014.

2. **Weed Control:** For over a decade FOSL has been implementing an annual program to control invasive Milfoil and nuisance native weeds. Our objective is to maintain Star Lake as a partially open waterbody with some weed beds preserved as natural habitats and fishing areas. In 2012 FOSL used a mechanical harvester which deployed an underwater sickle bar to cut and remove the mowed plants. The results were excellent. The beach was completely free of weeds (and did you notice, no goose poop last year -- another FOSL volunteer project that is being implemented again this year). As for fishing, the weed harvesting opened lanes across the Lake and along the shoreline, so after many years of dense weed beds, it was an easy paddle into those favorite fishing spots....and so many of you told us that the fishing was better than ever.

For this coming summer FOSL has submitted a revised permit application to the VT DEC to again use mechanical harvesting, however, for 2013 we are seeking to target additional areas of the Lake. The out-of-pocket cost for this year’s treatment program will range between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

3. **2013 Annual Membership Drive:** Our thanks to all the Mt. Holly residents and friends who have become members of FOSL. Your contributions are vital to our annual weed-control program. Please consider renewing your FOSL membership for 2013, and if not already a member, please join us as we work to maintain Star Lake as an open waterbody, recreational area, and beautiful natural habitat.

Please renew, or become a new member, with your tax deductible contribution

Annual Membership Levels (checks payable to “FOSL”):

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Supporter | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Other |

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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