
# WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION

Wolfeboro Waters Quarterly E-Newsletter
Edited by Reilly DeBow and Abigail Adams

***Wolfeboro Waters*** is a committee created in response to the Town of Wolfeboro's concerns about the water quality of our lakes and ponds.

We came into existence after the first cyanobacteria outbreak occurred in Winter Harbor on Lake Winnipesaukee in 2018.

We are a committee of volunteer citizens appointed by and reporting to Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen.

We have initiated communication and outreach programs to develop more community awareness and involvement in protecting these precious resources.

Wolfeboro Waters.org

***We hope you will join us.***

**The New England town meeting is one of the purest expressions of democracy in the world. The tradition dates back to the earliest times of our settlement. Citizens have the opportunity to openly discuss and debate the issues affecting them, and by their votes direct how those issues will be managed for the coming year. The subject matter of all business to be acted upon at the town meeting shall be distinctly stated in the *WARRANT ARTICLES*.**

# IN THE NEWS

## *Great News In the March Voting Results*

***Pictured:*** the ravaging damage caused by stormwater run off making its way into Winter Harbor.

**Warrant Article 14 has *passed*.**
This article in the Town Warrant addressed a known stormwater threat to the Winter Harbor area of Lake Winnipesaukee.

The mitigation of this washout will benefit the waters of Lake Winnipesaukee by decreasing the amount of nutrients (phosphorus) washed into the lake water.

This warrant article addresses the inadequate drainage system in Port Wedeln which is unable to handle the volume of stormwater coming off the Town road and is washing out Port Wedeln beach.

This project will mitigate the beach washout and lessen the amount of phosphorus going into Lake Winnipesaukee in Winter Harbor.

**Warrant Article 38 has *passed*.**
This article adds to the non-capital reserve account set aside for best management practices that address stormwater runoff.

This non-capital reserve account sets aside funds for best management practices to address stormwater runoff and to match 319 grants for construction of best management practices.

The citizens of the town are supporting the efforts to keep our waters clean!

*The health of our lakes and ponds is of paramount importance to the environment, to the enjoyment of our beautiful town, to our property and to the local economy.*

## Water Quality

The Good, The Bad, and The Potentially Hazardous

**Good water quality has many different dimensions, including being clear (low turbidity), odorless, having low salinity, being neither acidic nor basic (neutral pH), and being well oxygenated. High quality waters support a wide array of native plants, animals, and microorganisms living in and around the lakes.**

**However, as concentrations of (non-toxic) nutrients increase (e.g. of phosphorous, nitrogen, and iron), waters go through an aging process characterized by major growth of plants, algae, and cyanobacteria. This can be a natural process that typically takes thousands of years.**

**Human activity that results in increased concentrations of nutrients in the waters can cause the process to advance rapidly (years).**

**Freshwater scientists and environmental agencies classify waterbodies into three trophic categories oligotrophic (good), mesotrophic (threaten), and eutrophic (poor).**

Wolfeboro Water samplers (working with Wentworth Watershed association, Rust Pond Association, Mirror Lake Association, Lake Winnipesaukee Association and University of NH) have been sampling the waters of Wolfeboro from ice out to ice in for many years. Samplers work hard and generally go out on the waters every 3-4 weeks in order to sample our lakes and ponds for clarity, phosphorus levels and for cyanobacteria.
In addition, special sampling is underway in Winter Harbor as this was the area where we saw a cyanobacterial bloom in 2018.

# DID YOU KNOW?

**Cyanobacteria** (formerly known as blue-green algae) are photosynthetic bacteria that utilize the sun's energy but also behave as bacteria. Cyanobacteria are some of the *earliest* inhabitants of our waters around the world. So, they naturally occur in all our lakes, though in relatively low numbers in New Hampshire.

Many species of cyanobacteria grow in colonies or large concentrations to form surface water "BLOOMS." Blooms are usually blue-green in color and consist of thousands of cells. Research indicates that cyanobacteria abundance increases as lake nutrients increase, however, each type of cyanobacteria has its own unique requirements for growth.

There are serious concerns associated with high concentrations (BLOOMS) of cyanobacteria. Many types of cyanobacteria produce toxins (toxic chemicals also called cyanotoxins) and have been reported to adversely affect humans, pets, and livestock globally.

## What Can You Do?

## IF YOU SEE A CYANOBACTERIA BLOOM:

CALL:
NH Department of Environmental Services Hotline: 603-848-8094
*and*
Wolfeboro Dispatch Center: 603-569-1444
(Snap a photo if you can!)