

To: Community Preservation Committee (CPC)
Town of Harwich, Massachusetts

November 1, 2022

David Nixon, Chair, Recreation and Youth Commission Representative
Kathy Green, Real Estate and Open Space Committee Representative
Mary Maslowski, Planning Board Representative
John Ketchum, Conservation Commission Representative
Robert Doane, Historic District Representative
Joseph McParland, Housing Committee Representative
Elizabeth Harder, Housing Authority Representative
Larry Ballentine, Selectmen's Liaison
Carole Ridley, Selectmen's Appointee
Kelly Barber, Selectmen's Appointee

RE: 2023-24 CPC Application for Skinequit Pond Alum Treatment

Members of the Committee:

We, the undersigned Skinequit Pond property owners and abutters and members of the Watershed Association of South Harwich (WASH), are writing in support of the CPC application for Skinequit Pond Alum Treatment to be considered for Community Preservation Act funding in fiscal year 2023-24.

We support this application for the following reasons:

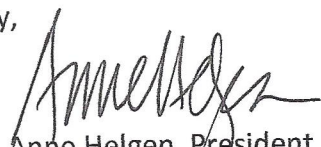
- The alum treatment specified in the application will address water quality concerns raised by the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP), which designated Skinequit Pond water quality "impaired" in its Pond assessment report. Skinequit Pond is the only freshwater pond rated impaired that is not in the CWMP plan for sewerage.
- Pond property owners, through WASH, have worked with the town for over 20 years to mitigate algae growth and improve water quality. This includes significant investment (\$100,000) to purchase and maintain the Solar Bee, as well as to fund the 2022 Water Resources Services water quality and sediment study for the pond that provided data for this application.
- CPC funding is needed to improve the overall health of Skinequit Pond waters, which is critical for maintaining and preventing the degradation of Skinequit Pond's biodiverse ecosystem and surrounding habitats, including the active herring run that originates in the Red River estuary.
- CPC funding will be used to mitigate public health concerns arising from significant, lengthy toxic algae blooms and to enhance recreational use by pond property owners, abutters and others in the surrounding area. In 2021, Skinequit Pond was closed to humans and pets for six (6) weeks between July and early September due to toxic cyanobacteria blooms. Many renters,

ancillary users and others are not always aware of the health risks due to the location of postings and lack of direct notification.

- The application meets the criteria of the CPC and aligns with Town goals around the restoration, improvement, and prevention of further degradation of freshwater coastal pond waters.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Anne Helgen, President, WASH
Joseph Seidel, Treasurer, WASH

Mike Curtin, Vice President, WASH
Andrew Thompson, Secretary, WASH

WASH Members

Sebastian Arcelus
Deborah Aynesworth
Stephanie Block
Martha Carmody
Frances Caruso
Joann E. Lippert
Susan Curtin
Michael Gilligan
John Ketchum
Kristin Kirchoff
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Martha McKennitt
Keith Peden
James D. Power IV
Carleton Rehr
Charles Sibble
Karen Sibble
Deborah Thompson
Sandy Thompson
Clea Winneg
Neal Winneg

Attached: Signatory authorities from signers.