



December 15, 2020

Selectboard
Town of Charleston
5063 Vermont Route 105
West Charleston, VT 05872

To whom it may concern:

Echo Lake Protective Association of Charleston continues the Milfoil Prevention Program at the lake access. In 2020 our paid and volunteer access greeters performed 1290 watercraft inspections, an increase of 50% over 2019. We continued to have no confirmed instances in which milfoil was found on a boat at the access. We did submit to the State three samples found on boats before they were launched, however all results were negative for invasives. Our greeters are trained by the state to look for milfoil as well as other invasive species which are becoming an increasing risk to lakes in Vermont. Our work strives to ensure the continued pristine nature of Echo Lake and to maintain its status as one of the cleanest lakes in the state, thus preserving it as an asset to the town of Charleston.

Through a collaboration between ELPA and Siskin Ecological Adventures, an educational program is being presented to the third/fourth graders at the Charleston Elementary School. Again this year, ELPA will be funding this program by Siskin. We are also contributing to an after school program being presented by Northwoods Stewardship Center. By increasing the students' knowledge of the ecosystem impacting Echo Lake we are improving the long term preservation of the lake.

We continue to have volunteers maintain the Northwoods Shore Trail and parking lot as part of an ongoing commitment to keep the trails and shore area open and accessible. We encourage the Selectboard and all residents to take a walk or ski on the trails and enjoy this valuable community asset.

In the past, the town has been very supportive of our work by including an appropriation of \$1,000 to help pay for the lake monitoring. The Echo Lake Association respectfully requests an amount of \$1,000 be appropriated in the 2021 budget presented to the voters at the annual town meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Hunsicker
Treasurer
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