

Clemons Pond Association
Hiram, ME 04041

October 21, 2021

Dear [Landowner Name],

Clemons Pond is a treasured resource for hundreds of people living in Hiram and beyond – from winter ice fishing to summer swimming, it offers something meaningful to all of us. **Historically, the pond has been extremely clean and healthy.**

The Clemons Pond Association (CPA) has been monitoring the health of Clemons Pond since 1988, as well as keeping abreast of the news from other ponds in the area. We have noticed a disturbing trend: **incidents of algae blooms in Maine ponds are on the rise.** These blooms can make the pond water toxic for humans and animals, diminish water clarity, decimate fish populations, and decrease property values (and therefore local tax revenues) along the shore.

Luckily, algae blooms are preventable. They are generally caused by a combination of three factors: excessive nutrients (namely phosphorus), heat, and light. Phosphorus generally enters water bodies via runoff from roadways and lakeshore properties, but it can also be carried by streams and gullies a distance from the shore. By managing erosion, fertilizer use, and runoff, we can greatly diminish the risk of algae blooms. **We invite you, as a landowner in the watershed, to join an effort to protect the pond, together.**

On May 7, 2022 we will be conducting a watershed survey to identify runoff risks and recommend modifications on lands around the pond. (Locally-led watershed surveys have been used successfully throughout Maine to document sources of pollution to lakes for over 20 years. They can be helpful in **tapping into funds to help landowners restore problem areas.**)

This process will consist of a team of local, trained volunteers, guided by a watershed specialist, walking along the shores of the pond, nearby roads, streams, and gullies to spot areas where runoff risks can be addressed. The recommendations from the survey will **provide landowners with guidance as part of a voluntary effort to protect the pond.** (These are generally landscaping tactics such as crushed rock or mulch beds, terraces, shrubbery, etc.)

We would like to include your land in this survey, but we will respect your property lines if you do not wish to participate. If you would like more information, choose not to participate, or no longer own property in the watershed, please reach out at the contact information below. **We hope we can count on you to be part of this effort.**

With warm regards,

Doug Bradley

President, Clemons Pond Association