



TOWN OF FALMOUTH RESOLUTION

For the Town of Falmouth to Support the 2020-2030 Highland Lake Watershed-Based Management Plan

- WHEREAS,** Highland Lake is a 623 acre lake with an 8.5 square mile watershed located in the Towns of Falmouth, Windham and Westbrook, Maine which is fed by springs and streams, outlets into Mill Brook at the southern end of the lake which flows into the Presumpscot River prior to emptying into Casco Bay; and
- WHEREAS,** Highland Lake is the closest lake to Maine's most populous city, Portland, and is quite developed with 283 properties inhabiting the lake's shoreline with an additional 1,100 throughout the watershed. Because of this, Highland Lake is currently listed on both the State of Maine's lists of Threatened Nonpoint Source Priority Watersheds and the Lakes Most at Risk from New Development; and
- WHEREAS** Highland Lake has experienced water quality issues for many years and was put on the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) impaired water quality list in 1990. At that time, organizers received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to mitigate water quality issues, outlined in the 1999 Highland Lake Watershed Management Plan and the 2003 Phosphorus Control Action Plan. The successful call to action led to the Lake being removed from the impaired water quality list in 2010; and
- WHEREAS,** more recently, water quality has declined, and there is a threat that Highland Lake may return to an impaired status in future years should water quality trends continue to decline with the continued occurrence of annual picocyanobacterial blooms in late July/early August. If relisted, it would become the only one of Cumberland County's lakes to be impaired; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2018 the Highland Lake Leadership Team was created for the Towns of Windham and Falmouth, the Highland Lake Association, the Maine DEP and the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) to work together to improve and maintain the water quality of Highland Lake for the benefit of residents, the Towns and future generations; and
- WHEREAS,** throughout robust stakeholder collaboration of the Highland Lake Leadership Team and its designated subcommittees, an updated Highland Lake Watershed-Based Management Plan was written with a goal to maintain Highland Lake's Class GPA status by reducing phosphorus loading while continuing to investigate additional causes for the lake's water quality decline and picocyanobacterial blooms; and
- WHEREAS,** to achieve the goal mentioned above, the Plan provides strategy and schedule for reducing phosphorus loading to the Lake over the next 10 years (2020-2030).

Resolution No 140-2020

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FALMOUTH, ASSEMBLED THIS 22ND DAY OF JUNE, 2020, THAT:

The Town of Falmouth supports the 2020-2030 Highland Watershed-Based Management Plan and delegates the Highland Lake Leadership Team to oversee the implementation of the action items within. The Plan is adopted as a guidance document to be consulted and implemented by the Town to the extent that such implementation is consistent with, and supportive of, Town assets, actions, programs, ordinances, policies, and procedures, and to the extent that implementation actions may be approved by the Town on a case-by-case basis.

Attest: _____
Ellen Planer, Town Clerk

Date: _____