

Shutesbury Board of Health  
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Mark Rivers, Chair  
Lake Wyola Advisory Committee  
September 14, 2018

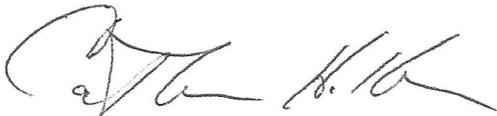
Dear Mark:

The Board of Health wishes to express its concern about the problem of erosion at Lake Wyola, which has been exacerbated by the heavy rains of this summer. As you know, there are numerous private septic systems and wells, some of them shallow, in close proximity all around the lake. The board fears that frequent flooding and excess runoff could result in well water contamination, both directly by runoff and as a result of the washing of leachate out of septic systems. In the latter case, septage could enter the lake and contaminate the surface water as well.

So far we have been fortunate enough, and vigilant enough, to avoid septic system contamination of both kinds in the lake area, and the Board of Health is determined to keep it that way. While much of the property around the lake is in private ownership, nevertheless the lake itself is a public resource for the town and the commonwealth, as well as significant wildlife habitat, that must be protected. Failure to address the underlying problems could well result in a large-scale threat to the public health.

The Board of Health supports all efforts, by the Lake Wyola Association, the Town of Shutesbury, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to mitigate the effects of excess runoff and protect the quality of surface and drinking water at Lake Wyola.

Sincerely,



Catherine Hilton, Clerk  
Shutesbury Board of Health