

City of Marlborough  
Conservation Commission  
Notice of Intent  
Notice of Public Hearing

September 22, 2025

**Abutter Notification**

Notice is hereby given that the Marlborough Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on October 2, 2025, at 7:00 PM at Marlborough City Hall, 140 Main St. City Hall.

Petition: Fort Meadow Commission has applied for a wetland permit to continue the annual drawdown of Ft. Meadow Reservoir for aquatic vegetation control, shoreline maintenance and emergency flood control. They are also requesting a drawdown this year to being on October 15, 2025.

The Notice of Intent was filed under provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, G.L. c. 131, §40. Plans and other information will be available in the Conservation Commission office at City Hall Monday thru Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Or by calling 508-460-3768. All interested persons are invited to the public hearing.

Gary Pelletier  
Fort Meadow Commission  
Chairperson



CITY OF MARLBOROUGH  
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752

## Fort Meadow Commission



TOWN OF HUDSON  
Hudson, Massachusetts 01749

September 2025

Dear Resident of Fort Meadow Reservoir:

**RE: Proposed Lake Drawdown to begin October 15, 2025 for the winter**

Both the Hudson and Marlborough Conservation Commissions are reviewing the Ft. Meadow Request for a permit to allow for the lake to be drawn down annually or as needed. Final results of these hearings will hopefully conclude on October 9<sup>th</sup> in Hudson to allow for this drawdown. If there is any delay in the timing you can check after Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> on the Ft. Meadow Commission Web Page accessible from the Marlborough City Website and the Hudson Town Website. Regardless of the drawdown dates the following provides you notice of the drawdown and steps residents abutting the lake need to follow:

The City of Marlborough and Town of Hudson will begin a **drawdown of Fort Meadow Reservoir on or after October 15, 2025**. The drawdown will result in a four-foot drop from the normal highwater level of the reservoir. Approximately 15-20 days will be needed to draw the reservoir down 4 feet, which translates into a daily drop of about 2-3 inches, (weather permitting). Once we reach the 4-foot drop we will keep the lake water level down through the winter and begin **refilling the lake on or before March 1, 2026**.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the drawdown and provide some useful information about weeds and algae and projects around the lake so you can be better informed and help us better protect the lake.

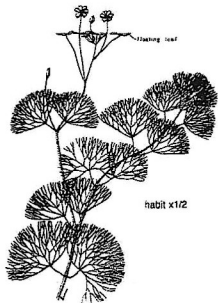
This year's draw down is to allow for:

1. Weed Control
2. Control of the Asian Clam
3. Removal of accumulated sand from storm drains/ drain repair.
4. Repairs of walls and beaches

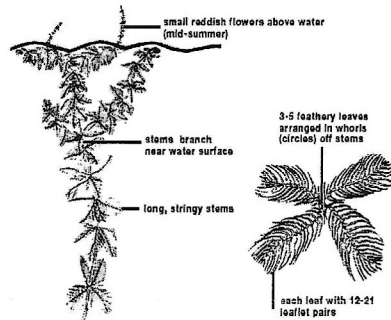
Each of these activities is described in more detail below; permits are needed for some of these activities so please read carefully.

1. **Weed control** - Residents may wish to take advantage of the drawdown to manually remove weeds from the drawdown area. No permit is needed. The weeds collected should be disposed outside the lake in a manner which will prevent them from washing back into the water or decomposing on the beach and leaching nutrients back into the water. If we have a good hard freeze and no snow cover for a few days this will kill the weed roots that are exposed. We hope this will help control some of the invasive weeds. Problem weeds this year are Eurasian and variable water milfoil and Fanwort (aquatic) and small remaining patches of Phragmites (in water and on shoreline).

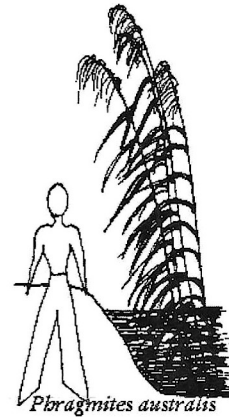
Fanwort -  
(*Cobamba caroliniana*)



Eurasian watermilfoil  
(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)



*Phragmites australis*



Phragmites which is the very tall (8-10 feet) grass was found growing in only a few sections of the lake. The past three years of fall treatment have been successful at reducing the abundance of this grass along the shoreline. If you see it returning to your property, please let us know so we can keep it under control.

2. **Asian clam control** – The past drawdowns seem to be having an impact on the Asian Clam (*corbicula fluminea*) population introduced a while ago. The good news is that this clam is at the northern boundary of its range and seems to be keeping itself in check and not reproducing as fast as predicted. Our hope is that the drawdown will freeze the clams that are exposed and keep their abundance in check. They live an inch or two below the sand layer and will not survive a freeze.
3. **Removal of sand from drainage pipes**- The Marlborough Department of Public Works (DPW), Street Division will be inspecting the street drainage pipes that enter the lake throughout the drawdown period. They will be doing repairs and removing sand as time permits. However, should you notice any issues and/or potential problem areas during the drawdown period please report them to Marlborough DPW Dispatch at (508) 624-6910 ext. 33300.
4. **Minor repairs of walls and beaches**- Although the drawdown is later this year and it will be colder, if residents wish to do repairs to your walls, remove old sand and add new sand to beaches, etc., while the water level is down, **you will need a permit** for this work. You can obtain a permit for this work from your local Conservation Commission. To apply for a permit, or if you have questions, please contact your Conservation Commission to obtain the necessary forms. You can reach **the Marlborough Conservation Commission at 508-460-3768 and the Hudson Conservation Commission at 978-562-2948**

As in the past, since residents are not to put permanent structures on the land under the water you are **required to remove your docks from the water for the winter.** We will be refilling the reservoir in March during a time when there maybe ice cover. When the water rises with floating ice during refilling, this will damage your docks.

Please protect our lake – To learn more about how you can protect the lake and do your part to keeping the lake clean please visit the City and Town Ft. Meadow Commission web sites at: [Fort Meadow Commission | Marlborough, MA](#) ) and [Fort Meadow Commission | Hudson MA \(townofhudson.org\)](#). You will find:

Ft. Meadow Commission Rules September 2024

Stormwater pollution brochure

Tree Removal Policy – Marlborough

Tree Removal Policy – Hudson

Buffer Zone Restoration

Please read and share with your neighbors. We want to encourage everyone to think about planting a vegetated tree and shrub buffer strip between your yard and the lake to better filter runoff. In addition, the Marlborough & Hudson Conservation Commissions have a tree cutting policy which requires tree replacement near wetlands to restore the tree canopy. You'll find information about protecting buffer zones, a list of native plants, tree removal policies and how to clean your boat to keep invasive weeds out as well as annual reports about the lake health. Also included are the rules for the lake revised by the Fort Meadow Commission September 2024.

Working together we can improve the water quality of the lake. If you have any additional question, please contact me at [gpell24@outlook.com](mailto:gpell24@outlook.com) or the Marlborough Conservation Commission at 508-460-3768 or Hudson Conservation Commission at (978) 562-2948.

Enjoy the fall.  
Sincerely,

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Gary Pelletier  
Chairman

E-mail: Marlborough and Hudson Con. Com; Mayor Dumais; Hudson Select Board; Marlborough City Council; Chuck Thebado – Marlborough Recreation; Steven Santos- Hudson Recreation; Ted Scott– Interim Marlborough DPW Commissioner; Eric Ryder- Hudson DPW Commissioner.