



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

April 2, 2019

Mr. Michael Frey, Sassaquin Pond Reservation Trustee

Mr. James Gurney, Sassaquin Pond Reservation Trustee

Mr. Dennis Audette, Acting Sassaquin Pond Reservation Trustee

Gentlemen,

This letter is to request that you remind your Trustee members of the importance of protecting Sassaquin Pond. The Conservation Commission has jurisdiction over the pond and that area 100' upland from the Banks of the pond (referred to as the 100' Buffer Zone). Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) also border the pond in some areas and also have a 100' Buffer Zone. These Resource Areas are protected under the MA Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c131 S40) and Regulations (310 CMR 10.00 et seq.) and the City of New Bedford Wetlands Ordinance (Article VII).

Permits may be required from the Conservation Commission to undertake an alteration of a Resource Area or its 100' Buffer Zone. Alterations include construction activities and the destruction of vegetation, including clearing brush and removing vegetation. The Commission does provide individual permission to homeowners who need to remove a tree for safety reasons or potential property damage. The most significant area of Buffer Zone protection along the pond is the 25' Setback from the Resource Areas. It is a written policy in the Wetlands Ordinance to consider this a No Disturb Zone. The No Disturb Zone extending from the Banks of Sassaquin Pond provides Bank stabilization and wildlife habitat. The shading of the pond by the No Disturb Zone is also an important feature. Shade provides habitat for different species of plants, wildlife and fish.

We also ask that you remind your trustee members to not fertilize their lawns. Nutrient runoff from fertilizer is one type of pollutant that can be addressed by individual homeowners. Nutrient runoff contributes to algal blooms in the pond which we are trying to curtail. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to protect Sassaquin Pond.

Sincerely

Craig Dixon, Chairman
New Bedford Conservation Commission