

TO: Zebra Mussel Task Force

DATE: November 29, 2009

The Stockbridge Zebra Mussel Committee(SZMC) recognized that the most effective effort to keep Zebra Mussels out of Stockbridge Bowl was a combination of lake monitors at the Stockbridge boat ramp, and a boat wash.

Pam Sandler, a Stockbridge architect, had recently purchased the former Hall's Garage at the rear of 35 Main Street. The garage also had a 2 bay car wash, and Pam offered the car wash as a boat wash(BW) to the Stockbridge Zebra Mussel Committee. The car wash had closed in September of 2008.

In order to be operational, the mechanics of the BW had to be upgraded, specifically so that the water temperature could be maintained at 140 degrees. The SZMC spent approximately \$4600.00 to outfit the BW. A majority of the expenses involved new piping installed by a plumber, gas deposit, carpenter, and insurance. The BW had to be inspected and approved by the Town Water and Sewer Department as the BW drain emptied into the town's sewer lines.

Funds to equip the BW were contributed by the Town of Stockbridge, the Stockbridge Bowl Association, the Lake Buel District, Beachwood, Lake Drive, and Mahkeenac Terrace Associations, and many friends from Stockbridge. In discussing the BW with Mary Griffin, Commissioner of Fish and Game, and Rick Sullivan, Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the SZMC decided to offer a free boat wash.

The BW opened on September 5, 2009 and was closed for the season on October 12. The hours of operation were Monday 7-9AM, Wednesday 10AM-noon, Friday 5-7PM, Saturday 9AM-noon, and was manned by a trained operator(@\$20.00 per hour). The SZMC also paid expenses for electricity, and gas to heat the water. The BW extended hours on September 12, from noon to 8PM in anticipation of the Josh Billings RunAground triathlon on September 13. The BW processed over 300 boats including kayaks, canoes, and power boats.

We are presently planning for the 2010 season which would begin in late April 2010 until the middle of October. The SZMC believes that the BW could service all the lakes in Southern Berkshire County. However, the success of the BW to remain free for recreational boaters and fishermen depends on fund raising efforts. We will be in communication with lake associations and individuals to contribute to the BW. It is critical that we have financial support from the State of Massachusetts to the Stockbridge Boat Wash.

The goal of all of us, individuals and state agencies, is to protect our lakes from the invasion of Zebra Mussels. The lakes and ponds in Massachusetts are an important treasure for all our citizens, and we must make every effort to maintain and protect them.

George E. Shippey, Chairman
Stockbridge Zebra Mussel Committee