

FRIENDS OF PONTOOSUC LAKE WATERSHED INC.

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MISSION STATEMENT

AUTHORITY:

The Friends of Pontoosuc Lake/Watershed Inc. is a nonprofit corporation. It was originally established in 1981 as the Pontoosuc Advisory Board by the Berkshire County Commissioners, the Mayor of Pittsfield, and the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the Corporation are to achieve the following:

- A lake in which high water quality standards are maintained,
- A lake in which nuisance aquatic vegetation is held in check,
- A safe and sound dam, capable of maintaining water elevation at the appropriate levels,
- A watershed in which high environmental standards are maintained, and
- A lake which can be enjoyed by the citizens for a variety of uses and the provision of facilities to support these uses.

ACTIVITIES

Consistent with the above objectives the Corporation shall undertake a variety of activities including the following:

ADVISE AND SUPPORT Provide advice and assistance to all agencies responsible for the management and maintenance of Pontoosuc Lake and its watershed. Provide input from the viewpoint of lake users and provide assistance in obtaining funding or any other help needed or requested by these organizations. Recommend lake management activities which promote water quality and weed control, fish and wildlife, lake recreation and water safety, and public education. Organizations and agencies supported shall include the following:

- The City of Pittsfield and any departments or boards thereof,
- The Town of Lanesborough and any departments or boards thereof,
- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and any of its agencies, and
- Any other organization responsible for or with an interest in the watershed or the lake.

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COORDINATE Provide planning coordination among the various boards and organizations making decisions which impact the lake and the watershed, and help plan specific projects such as a weed control program. Provide a sounding board so all interested parties can make their views known.

COMMUNICATE AND EDUCATE Work to inform the community at large of matters concerning the lake and the watershed through newsletters, posting of signs, informative meetings, and any other appropriate means.

VOLUNTEER ACTION Organize and conduct volunteer activities in support of the objectives such as lakeshore cleanup, shoreline surveys, water quality monitoring, maintenance of a reference library, and any other appropriate volunteer activities.