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FRIENDS OF WHITEHALL

Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future

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February 2022

Dear Friends,

Friends of Whitehall (FOW) has completed our 16th year as an organization with the mission of preserving, protecting, conserving, and enhancing Whitehall State Park and Whitehall Conservation Area. In 2021, we were thrilled to be able to return to some of our regular events and activities, and to celebrate our highest membership ever, with 136 members!

We continued our efforts to protect the lake and surrounding area by holding our first cleanup in two years, removing trash and debris from the trails and boat ramp area. We also spread wood chips to protect the hundred-year-old maple tree in the Whitehall Conservation Area. We continued to monitor the water quality of the lake through our water testing program. In addition, together with DCR, we supported construction of a bog bridge by a stellar crew of volunteers from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) out of Rowe, MA. FOW paid for the bridge building materials and made a substantial donation to SCA in recognition of their conservation work. The new 60-foot-long bridge now allows visitors to cross a section of the lake perimeter trail that was previously practically impassable.

Finally, we resumed our educational programming with a well-attended outdoor presentation on birds of prey by Kathleen Regan, naturalist at the Mass Audubon Society Blue Hills Trailside Museum, featuring live birds.

We hope that you will renew your membership using the enclosed membership form. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining the FOW family today! We are also looking for volunteers for one or more small projects, and you can indicate your interest on the membership form.

FOW board meetings are continuing to be held via Zoom on the first Wednesday of each month until further notice. Please continue to check our website <http://www.friendsofwhitehall.org> and our Facebook page for the latest updates.

Yours truly,

Peter Regan, President