



Helping to Preserve Our Quality of Life on Cape Cod

The POCCA team supports the Home Rule Petition that the Orleans Select Board has voted unanimously on this summer. The use of fertilizers above our aquifer should be restricted to ensure drinkable water longer into our future.

It is up to us to protect our greatest natural resource, drinking water. By reducing the nutrient load of Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (K) we will be changing the equation of harm to our waters over time.

The value in completing this mission with the Orleans Select Board is unmeasurable yet necessary in these changing times where we see local ponds growing bacteria due to fertilizer use. Once fertilizers are added onto land it usually isn't absorbed fully by vegetation, thus with rain or irrigation nutrients will run-off over feeding algae in near by ponds. The algae grows faster than usual covering the pond, blocking light, taking oxygen out of the pond, creating an environment that becomes harmful to survival of fish and even dogs if they drink from it. Soon this habitat will evolve into a 'dead zone' – all due to fertilizer use.

What the Orleans Select Board is doing is bold, yes, but their intent is for a better future for ponds, estuaries and oceans as well. Anyone with property should get on board with this mission because having healthy surrounding waters is more than a joy like swimming, it is a necessity like drinking.

Gratitude goes out to the Orleans Select Board for having the forethought to strive for this goal. May every Cape Cod town do all they can to stop fertilizer use as well.

Respectfully,
The POCCA Cape Cod Team
Laura Kelley, President
August 16, 2022