Dear Conservation Commission,

We are requesting Administrative Approval to conduct Diver Assisted Suction Harvest (DASH) of the non-native, invasive species, variable watermilfoil found in our pond during a survey.

In order for us to understand some concerns we had about our pond, Cushman Pond, we decided to have a vegetation survey done of our pond by Solitude Lake Management. During the survey on July 22, 2019, an area of non-native, invasive species, variable watermilfoil was found. See area of map on next page marked as “Sparse Patch of Variable Watermilfoil”. Solitude Lake Management has recommended Diver Assisted Suction Harvest (DASH) to remove this invasive species. DASH utilizes a pontoon boat and a single diver. The diver carries a long tube attached to the boat that vacuums up the target vegetation from below the surface while the boat above collects and stores the vegetation. DASH is most appropriate when addressing a small area of vegetation particularly when it is desired to avoid any spreading of the plant by it breaking apart and pieces floating away. The DASH will just target the invasive species. The concern is if we don’t address this non-native, invasive species in a timely manner the problem will get worse and potentially spread.

Based upon the findings above, we are hopeful that this extremely selective, manual technique for removal of an invasive species can be approved under Administrative Approval. We thank you for your consideration of our request for Administrative Approval to utilize diver assisted suction harvesting for the selective control of variable watermilfoil.

Sincerely,

Pinecrest Property Owners Association Board of Directors

Hubbardston, MA

