Public Health Cyanobacteria Bloom Response Procedures

Report of possible cyanobacteria

- a. Resident submits photo's by email
- b. Pond Visit Confirmation by Town Staff (if photo doesn't appear to be cyanobacteria or no photo available)

bloom

State Communication

- a. Public Health sends photo's to State Department of Public Health (DPH) for confirmation
- b. If State DPH recommends Public Health post advisory:

- i. Public Health posts advisory on the alerts Town Public Health website
- ii. Private ponds Public Health notifies residents that called, association, land trust, etc to post the advisory. Town Staff will post if there are areas adjacent to a roadway to do so.

Posting Advisory

iii. **Ponds with public access** – Town Staff (DMEA) to post public access areas points. Public Health notifies any residents that have called and Associations if contact information is available.

Visual Weekly

- i. Private ponds resident submits weekly photos and/or Town Staff has access via permission to conduct weekly inspection
- ii. **Public ponds** Town Staff conducts weekly inspection via public access points.

Inspections

- i. Per State Protocol a minimum of two weeks of no visual bloom either via a scum on the surface or cyanobacteria cells in the water column (check via a dock or wade 5-10ft out with waders). During swimming months Public Health considers extending the two-week period for confirmation.
- ii. Public Health sends notice to DPH that there has been a two-week period of no visible bloom for approval to lift advisory.

Lifting Advisory

iii. If funding is available (via Fall TM 2020), the Town may conduct cyanobacteria and microcystin analysis. This analysis should be conducted once the bloom has not been visible for at least one full week. Two tests may need to be taken to confirm cyanobacteria cells/ml is under the 70,000 threshold prior to contacting DPH for lifting advisory.