

**The Island Pond Association, Stoddard NH 03464**  
**44th Annual Meeting, August 14, 2021**

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Members and guests of the Island Pond Association (IPA) met at the Stoddard Town Hall at 7 PM for the annual meeting and a program.

Call to Order - President Bob O'Brien called the business meeting to order at 7:10pm

Secretary's Report – Charlotte Lesser stated that there hadn't been an annual meeting in 2020 due to COVID. Members were sent an overview of 2020 business in lieu of minutes. No one emailed her back at the time with additions or corrections. Charlotte suggested that the overview of 2020 be accepted. She asked for additions or corrections and none were made. A motion to approve the overview in lieu of minutes was unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report - Donald Flemming presented the treasurer's report. Ours savings account at Cheshire County Credit Union currently has \$11838.97 and the checking account currently has \$1319.35 Dues & contributions this past year were \$3345. Donations this past year included: \$50 to the Loon Society and \$300 to the NH lakes Association (Lake Host Program) Motion to approve the treasurer's report was moved, seconded and approved unanimously. Full treasurer's report at the end of the minutes.

Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) – Geof Molina presented the final results from all the 2020 water testing. These will be available on the website [www.islandpond.org](http://www.islandpond.org) He summarized the results of the three water samplings and they show that our lake is very stable. Geof Molina, Don Flemming, and Steve Jacobs and Phoebe Brary comprise the water testing team and collect water samples three times a year. Sampling has been completed for June and July. The most current summary report (2021 monitoring) will be posted on the website when it becomes available. The State does ecoli testing at the boat ramp. We did have an algae bloom earlier this summer.

Weed Watcher Program – C. Lesser (head of the weed watchers) reported that there are 15 members who have been out regularly keeping an eye out for invasive weeds & animals both in their designated areas and on the pond in general. As of today nothing suspicious has been found. Volunteers are always welcome to join the Weed Watchers. She did report a new finding of bryozoans, a phylum of simple, aquatic invertebrate animals, which are a sign of a healthy lake.

Lake Host Program – David Lesser (Point Person) reported. Lake Host: As a volunteer, I coordinate the lake host programs at Island Pond and Highland Lake. This program is run by the NH Lakes Association and both IP and HL associations are required to submit a fee to have the program. The town of Stoddard also contributes a generous monetary amount to allow us to run a program from Memorial Day until mid-September. There is a paid assistant coordinator, Candia Campbell, who handles all the logistics of scheduling and overseeing the hosts at all 3 sites (2 on Route 123 and 1 at the Highland Lake marina). I will not have a final boat survey count until September, but the inclement weather likely means a smaller number of inspections than the over 1,000 ones completed at IP last year. Since we only have the funds and personnel to monitor boats on weekends, holidays, and fishing derby days there are obviously boats entering and leaving both lakes during weekdays. Hopefully those boaters read the lake host informational signs at all 3 ramps and check their boats/trailers themselves. To date this season there have been no discoveries of any invasive plants or animals in either lake, which is important to us since the Highland Lake water flows into our lake. Thanks to Candia and the volunteers who are available to fill in as needed as the Island Pond ramp. This is my 8th year of running the program so I will most likely not be continuing to do so next year: if you or someone you know around IP or HL is interested in assuming this position, they are free to contact me for more information. Shallow lakes are very susceptible to invasive species proliferation, something that has happened to many lakes in NH and other parts of the country. Swimming, boating, fishing, and property values are all adversely affected should this occur, so I hope someone steps up to protect our precious waterbody.

For the ensuing fiscal year, the Board recommends a contribution of \$50 to the Loon Preservation Society and \$300 to NH Lakes for the Lake Host program. President O'Brien called for a motion on the proposal of this year's contributions. Moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

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Dam & drawdown update: The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Dam Bureau has announced that starting on September 7, the process of lowering Island Pond in Stoddard by 3 feet to the winter drawdown level will begin. Also starting on September 7, the process of lowering Highland Lake in Stoddard and Washington by 1 foot will begin, although the lowering of Highland Lake to the winter drawdown level of 3 feet will continue on October 11. Depending on weather, the drawdown will likely take 2 weeks to a month. The lowering of both impoundments are necessary to give enough time to facilitate the installation of three new gates at Island Pond Dam prior to winter. The installation of these gates are necessary for the eventual automation of gates located at both Island Pond Dam and Highland Lake Dam. For more information, please contact Corey Clark, NHDES Dam Bureau at [corey.j.clark@des.nh.gov](mailto:corey.j.clark@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-8871. Mr. Clark will be attending the Town of Stoddard Board of Selectmen meeting on August 23, 2021 at 7:00pm to discuss the project and to answer any questions. David Lesser added the fact that the gates are already there, they just need to be installed.

Slate of Officers – Bob O’Brien presented the slate of Officers recommended by the Board: David Lesser as President, Bob O’Brien as Vice President, Donald Flemming as Treasurer, and Charlotte Lesser as Secretary. A motion to approve the slate of officer was a single vote from the Secretary was made. The new board was voted in. Continuing Board Members are: Bob & Anne O’Brien, David Lesser & Charlotte Lesser, Don & Paula Flemming, Geof Molina, and Harriet Beckwith.

David Lesser and the board honored Bob O’Brien’s 26 years as President with a bench with a plaque which will be placed on the boat ramp on Rt 123. The Town of Stoddard approved the location.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.  
Respectively submitted,  
Charlotte Lesser, Secretary

A program “The Natural Resources of Stoddard” was presented by R. Scott Semmens. The Conservation Commission of Stoddard (SCC) is currently putting together a natural resource inventory of the town. Stoddard is home to unique topography and many natural communities of plants and animals. Sixty-six percent of the town of Stoddard is conservation land supported by a combination of private and public entities. There are several lakes and ponds nested within the town surrounded by hills and ridges. There are dozens of trails allowing access to some very unique plant and animal communities. The SCC hopes to inspire greater usage of the town’s natural resources and solicit help in documenting some of the important habitats such as vernal pools, cataloging the many species of birds, plants and other wildlife within the town, and to help foster a better understanding through education and outreach on how to live with our neighboring animals and to protect and sustainably manage our many natural resources.

**ISLAND POND ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**August 14, 2021**  
**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**Savings**

Cheshire County Federal Credit Union	
Balance on hand 6/15/20	9809.97
Transfer from checking	2000.00
Interest earned	<u>29.00</u>
Balance on hand 7/30/21	11838.97

**Checking**

Cheshire County FCU	
Balance on hand 6/15/20	674.97
Dues/contributions	<u>3345.00</u>
	4019.97
Transfer to savings	2000.00
Loon Preservation Com.	50.00
NH Lakes	300.00
IPA Web Page	243.15
Supplies	<u>107.47</u>
Balance on hand 8/14/21	1319.35