

The Island Pond Association, Stoddard NH 03464
45th Annual Meeting, August 13, 2022

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

Andrea LaMoreaux, President, NH LAKES did a presentation on LakeSmart Living at Island Pond!

Whether you live along the shoreline of Island Pond or up the hill, there are simple things you can do in your home, on your property, and out on the water to help keep the lake clean and healthy. Andrea joined NH LAKES in February 2007 and brings a comprehensive understanding of how to effectively work with volunteers, the ecology and health of the state's lakes, and protecting and improving lake health. She coordinated the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Volunteer Lake Assessment Program for six years before joining NH LAKES.

Her presentation (pdf) will be sent by email to all members and will be on our website www.islandpond.org under documents.

There was a short presentation after the program and before the business meeting by Geoff Jones from the Stoddard Conservation Commission. Earlier this year, the Stoddard Conservation Commission entered into a \$1.3 million deal to purchase the undeveloped land by next June. The property, between Walker Road and Eva Lane, contains 4,000 feet of shoreline at the southern end of Highland Lake. The group aims to preserve its plantlike and wildlife habitat which includes geese, loons, moose, deer and otters. In addition to public access to scenic trails and a launch site for canoes and kayaks, the group also plans to convert an existing rustic cabin into a classroom for James Faulkner Elementary School and add campsites for other youth groups such as Kroka, a wilderness expedition school. In addition to the property costs, the addition of legal fees, appraisals and other expenses, the project will cost a total of \$1.5 million. The group just received a federal grant of \$600,000. The conservation commission has also applied for a \$500,000 grant from the N.H. Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, and is seeking to raise \$200,000 in private, local donations. The commission said previously that it aims to raise all the money privately, with no taxpayer dollars. A fundraising letter will be sent to Island Pond property owners sometime soon.

Call to Order - President David Lesser called the business meeting to order at 8:12pm

Secretary's Report –Charlotte Lesser stated that the meeting minutes from last August were emailed to members for corrections and/or comments. No one emailed her back with additions or corrections. She asked for additions or corrections, and none were made. A motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Membership Report – Charlotte Lesser reported that there were 55 memberships the past year, up from 39 the year before. She attributes that to a house-to-house distribution of membership forms last summer.

Treasurer's Report - Donald Flemming presented the treasurer's report. 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 said that generally the water quality is stable. Our lake had an algae bloom both this year and last year. Phosphorus is slowly going down which is good. E coli has been extremely low which is good. PH is stable as well. Geof Molina, Don Flemming, and Steve Jacobs comprise the water testing team and collect water samples three times a year. The most current summary report 2021 is on the website. The 2022 VLAP should be on our website by February 2023. Question was asked why the chlorophyll levels were up? Andrea Lamoreaux (NH LAKES) said it is from the algae in the water. Phosphorus is one culprit. Geof said extra non-washed sand on homeowners' beaches is one problem and also the use of fertilizers. Helen Semmens commented that deck washing solutions often contain phosphates. Question was asked about how many sampling spots in Island Pond? Inlet, outlet, deep spot. The NH DES samples the town boat ramp area.

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Lake Host Program – David Lesser stated that the program is now run by Chase Germaine, a seasonal resident on 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). There will not be a final boat survey count until September, but indications are that this will be a high boat count year due to the mostly excellent weather. Since there is only enough funding 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.

Weed Watcher Program – C. Lesser (head of the weed watchers) reported that there are 13 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. This year the NH DES sent 15 new Weed Watcher packets of information and links to a training and informational video. She also said that a small weed watcher group has started at Highland Lake and that she provided the training.

NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET

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 David Lesser called for a motion on the proposal of this year's contributions. Moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Dam & drawdown update: Charlotte presented info sent in an email by Corey Clark from NH Dam Dept.

The dam department recently received the permits from the State of New Hampshire Fire Marshal's office, and they are now working to schedule the electrical installation work. Highland Lake Dam is in the same situation and they're hoping to schedule work at both sites at the same time. Once they are both up and running the Dam Bureau will be able to monitor both sites from our Concord office. While they won't be synchronized to each other, the Dam Bureau will be able to make operations at both dams from Concord at the same time. Their hope is that this will minimize lake level fluctuations currently experienced when operations are made manually at the dams.

For more information, please contact Corey Clark, NHDES Dam Bureau at corey.j.clark@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-8871.

Slate of Officers – David Lesser 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectively submitted,
Charlotte Lesser, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

SAVINGS ACCOUNT
at Cheshire County Federal Credit Union

CHECKING ACCOUNT
at CCFCU

Balance on hand 7/30/21 11838.97
Transfer from checking 1500.00

BOH 8/14/21 1319.35
Dues & donations 1100.00

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Interest earned	16.25		<u>2419.35</u>
Balance on hand 7/29/22	<u>13355.22</u>	Transfer to savings	1500.00
			<u>919.35</u>

EXPENSES

Deposit Town Hall (refundable)	100.00
NH Lakes annual dues	300.00
Loon Preservation	50.00

BOH 8/13/22 469.35