

**The Island Pond Association, Stoddard NH 03464**  
**46th Annual Meeting, August 12, 2023**

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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. There were 37 attendees.

Gloria Norcross, Conservation Program Coordinator for NH LAKES, did a presentation on **Cyanobacteria Blooms**. As a follow up information will be added to the Island Pond website on how to contact the NHDES cyanobacteria expert and how to report a suspicious bacteria bloom. We all need to keep our eyes on the pond to retain the good quality of our water body! The handout that was passed out at the meeting and several websites will be sent in a separate email.

Call to Order - President David Lesser called the business meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Announcement about card to sign for Bob O'Brien (IPA past president) who was injured this spring and unable to attend. Introductions. General announcement about a new NH law that requires out-of-state boats to obtain a NH sticker (\$20 a year).

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. A motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Membership Report – Charlotte Lesser reported that there were 33 memberships the past year. She stated that the year before we had 55 memberships which she attributed to members of the board going house-to-house.

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.*

#### 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. \$50 for office supplies. President David Lesser called for a motion on the proposal. Moved, seconded, and approved unanimously. Jay Kahn asked if the board had an issue during the year if they had the ability to access funds that weren't approved in the budget. D Flemming said yes, the board could.

Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) – Geof Molina said that generally the water quality is stable. Our lake had a cyanobacteria bloom both this year and last year. Phosphorus & chlorophyll are slowly going down which is good. E coli has been extremely low which is good. PH is stable as well. Geof Molina and Steve Jacobs comprise the water testing team and collect water samples four times a year which are sent to the NH DES. Water was tested for e coli right after the July flooding and came back negative. The most current VLAP summary report 2022 is on the website. The 2023 VLAP should be on our website by February 2024.

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 lower boat count year due to the rainy/stormy weather and flooding issues. 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.

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Weed Watcher Program – C. Lesser (head of the weed watchers) reported that there are 16 weed watchers 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.

Dam & drawdown update: David Lesser stated that the dam has all the components installed but according to the NH Dam Bureau the computerization of the dam controls won't be up and running until summer 2024. There were questions about the lowering of the dam during the flooding and conversations about emergency procedures which many felt were confusing. C Lesser stated that the Town of Stoddard will be holding a meeting, open to the public, on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss handling of townwide emergencies. Bob Beltz asked, what is the status of the Highland Lake dam. There was a conversation about the flashboards on the Highland Lake dam which did release a lot of water and were damaged. Highland Lake had to be lowered quite a bit for the repair work. Island Pond lowered because of the water released on Highland Lake. Scott Semmens asked about "flow rate" which no one had the answer to. D Lesser will talk to the new dam manager, Charlie Krautmann, about the questions and concerns raised.

Islands: David Lesser reported that the islands and some of the marshes (outlet & inlet) are being transferred to the Monadnock Conservancy from the Price family trusts. Here is the actual statement from the family: "Bonnie Price Taylor and daughter, Gwen Bethel Riley, report that arrangements for transfer of Islands, Wetlands on Island Pond From: The Beatrice D. Price Trust To: The Monadnock Conservancy is progressing well. Peter Troop, Conservation Project Manager, Monadnock Conservancy, is following Price Family wishes that these lands remain, in perpetuity, a natural ecosystem under Conservation Easement. The Monadnock Conservancy will provide oversight to assure these goals."

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 moved, seconded with a unanimous vote. Continuing Board Members are Bob & Anne O'Brien, David Lesser & Charlotte Lesser, Don & Paula Flemming, Geof Molina, and Harriet Beckwith.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.  
 Respectively submitted, Charlotte Lesser, Secretary

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

SAVINGS ACCOUNT at GFA			CHECKING ACCOUNT at GFA		
Balance on hand 8/13/22	\$13,355.22		BOH 8/13/22	469.35	
Transfer from checking	1000.00		Dues & donations	2000.00	
Interest earned	17.23		Return of deposit	100.00	
				2569.35	
Balance on hand 8/12/23	14372.45		Transfer to savings	1000.00	
				1569.35	
 <b>EXPENSES</b>					
Deposit Town Hall (refundable)	100.00	Loon preservation	50.00	Webpage renewal (3 yrs)	249.15
NH Lakes annual dues	300.00	Office (printing etc)	49.40		
 <b>BALANCE ON HAND 8/12/23</b>	 <b>\$ 929.80</b>				