

The Island Pond Association, Stoddard NH 03464
48th Annual Meeting, August 9, 2025

Members and guests of the Island Pond Association (IPA) met at the Stoddard Town Hall at 6:30 PM for the annual business meeting and a program. There were 22 attendees.

Call to Order - President David Lesser called the business meeting to order at 6:32pm. Introductions of board members and audience.

Secretary's Report –Charlotte Lesser stated that the meeting minutes from last August were emailed to members for corrections and/or comments and that she received none. Motion to approve the secretary's report was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Membership Report - Charlotte Lesser reported that there were 39 memberships the past year.

Treasurer's Report - Donald Flemming presented the treasurer's report. He thanked members who donated extra money for our savings account (to be used in case of invasive species).

Motion to approve the treasurer's report was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Full treasurer's report at the end of the minutes.

New budget for 2025-26 – Donald Flemming

For the ensuing fiscal year, the Board recommends: \$50 to the Loon Preservation Society and \$300 to NH Lakes for the Lake Host program. \$100 for office supplies. Donald explained that we had an unexpected expense of \$100 for the rental of Town Hall for the annual meeting. The question was asked about why the "deposit" for the hall wasn't returned. It was explained that it was a clerical error due to a staff change. Jay Kahn asked for the reason why IPA makes a donation to the fire dept. Donald explained that it was for being so proactive in helping people living on the lake during flooding. They went house to house making sure everyone was safe and to see if anyone needed help.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) – Geof Molina and Steve Jacobs comprise the water testing team and collect water samples in four places in the lake (inlet, deep spot, boat launch, outlet) four times (May-August) a year which are sent to the NH DES in Concord. This year they were unable to do May due to flooding. June results came back in early July with high E.coli but we weren't notified. (An explanation was given during the presentation by DES. Staff change). Jay Kahn asked how other tested spots were for E.coli and Geof said low. Question about what causes E.coli – septic systems and animal waste. Geof explained that Island Pond has long-term good results, but all our results are right on the border of being a problem. Lots of rain & runoff which carries debris (both manmade & natural) causes ongoing problems as well as global warming. The Board is considering having a watershed management plan made. We need support and the cooperation of Highland Lake and support from the town of Stoddard to make the plan as well as money. The Lake Smart program was recommended to homeowners as a way to be aware of ways to mitigate problems caused by homeowners and to protect their property. The NH Lakes Association has a free booklet on the Lake Smart program. Calla asked a question about lots of trees down in the lake this year – does that affect the water quality? That question was answered during the DES presentation. (no it doesn't)

The most current VLAP summary report 2024 is on the website. The 2025 VLAP should be on our website by February 2026.

Lake Host Program – David Lesser is the treasurer for Island Pond & Highland Lake Lake Host programs. He 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 each required to submit a \$300 fee, which is part of our

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budget, 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. 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 14 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. She also stated that she has been training volunteers for Highland Lake. There was a very interesting discovery on Highland Lake this summer. A weed watcher found a patch of an unknown species. It was submitted to Charlotte who couldn't identify it, then to the DES who couldn't and then to a biologist who identified it as a rare native plant which is identified as endangered. It is called Bog Button and has a pink flower. Volunteers are always welcome to join the Weed Watchers – just contact Charlotte. cblesser@gmail.com

Monadnock Conservancy – Island Pond islands and marsh – David Lesser

Monadnock Conservancy is working with the Bonnie Taylor (Price) family to acquire 8 islands and the marsh between Birch Point Lane and Murdough Road. All of these properties will be put in conservation easements and will be monitored by the Conservancy each year. There is still a shortfall of \$35,000 to cover all costs of the transaction, and David Lesser/Bill Yaglou are meeting with as many lake homeowners as possible to encourage donations. It is hoped that the property acquisition by the Conservancy will occur this fall. Please feel free to make a donation directly to the Monadnock Conservancy in Keene or contact David Lesser or Bill Yaglou with questions (David's email is the same as Charlotte's!).

Slate of Officers

David Lesser stated that the board had decided to only present 2 positions (not 4) every year for a vote. The board selected Vice President and Treasurer. Donald Flemming is retiring as treasurer and the board presented Peter Girard as his replacement. Bob O'Brien has agreed to stay as VP. David asked for any nominations from the floor. As there were none, the 2 officers were elected unanimously. Next year the positions of president and secretary will be presented for election. Donald was thanked by the board for his many years of service as treasurer of IPA, a restaurant gift certificate was presented to him.

New business:

Paula Flemming stated that she heard that there's been a request to put more sand on the town boat launch on Rt 123 for swimmers. David said that it is called (according to the town) a boat launch, not a swimming beach. There is no sign currently about swimming. The issue is currently being discussed by the select board. The concern is that if the town decides that no swimming is allowed that residents will not be happy as it is a very popular spot to swim. Residents of Stoddard can let the selectmen know their feelings on this issue.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Charlotte Lesser, Secretary

ISLAND POND ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

Aug 8, 2025

TREASURER'S REPORT

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

GFA Winchester St, Keene

BOH 8/10/24 15,891.43

Interest earned 19.04

BOH 8/4/25 15,910.47

CHECKING ACCOUNT

GFA Winchester St. Keene

BOH 8/10/24 1374.80

Dues and donations 2425.00

Total 3799.80

NH Lakes 300.00

Loon Preservation 50.00

Stoddard Fire Dept 100.00

Stoddard Town Hall 100.00

Non-profit Reg. 32.00

Office and misc. 82.75

Total Expenses 664.75

BOH 8/4/25 3135.05

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES 2025-26

NH Lakes 300.00

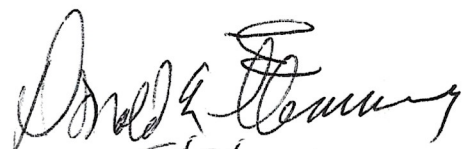
Loon Preservation 50.00

Stoddard Fire Dept 100.00

Town Hall 100.00

Office/Misc. 100.00

650.00


8/8/25



2024 VOLUNTEER LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM INDIVIDUAL LAKE REPORTS

ISLAND POND, STODDARD

OBSERVATIONS (Refer to Table 1 and Historical Deep Spot Data Graphics)

- ◆ **CHLOROPHYLL-A:** Chlorophyll level was low in May, increased to a slightly elevated level in mid-July, decreased to a low level at the end of July, and increased to an elevated level in August. Average chlorophyll level remained stable with 2023 and was greater than the state median and the threshold for mesotrophic lakes. Historical trend analysis indicates significantly decreasing (improving) chlorophyll levels since monitoring began.
- ◆ **CONDUCTIVITY/CHLORIDE:** Epilimnetic (upper water layer), Hypolimnetic (lower water layer), Inlet, and Outlet conductivity and/or chloride levels remained low and less than or approximately equal to the state medians. Historical trend analysis indicates stable epilimnetic conductivity levels since monitoring began.
- ◆ **COLOR:** Apparent color measured in the epilimnion indicates the water was moderately tea colored, or brown, from June through August. Average color decreased (lightened) from the highly tea colored conditions measured in 2023.
- ◆ **E. COLI:** Epilimnetic, Inlet, Outlet, and Town Beach E. coli levels were very low and less than the state standards for public beaches and surface waters.
- ◆ **TOTAL PHOSPHORUS:** Epilimnetic phosphorus level was stable and low from May through July and increased to an elevated level in August when algal growth was elevated. Average epilimnetic phosphorus level remained stable with 2023, was slightly greater than the state median, and was approximately equal to the threshold for mesotrophic lakes. Historical trend analysis indicates significantly decreasing (improving) epilimnetic phosphorus levels since monitoring began. Hypolimnetic phosphorus level was low in May and June and elevated in July and August, potentially due to phosphorus released from bottom sediments under anoxic (no dissolved oxygen) conditions. Historical trend analysis indicates relatively stable Hypolimnetic phosphorus levels since monitoring began. Inlet phosphorus levels fluctuated within a slightly elevated range for that station. Outlet phosphorus levels were slightly elevated in May.
- ◆ **TRANSPARENCY:** Transparency measured without the viewscope (NVS) was average in May, increased (improved) in June, decreased (worsened) in July, and improved slightly in August. Average NVS transparency increased from 2023 but was lower (worse) than the state median. Historical trend analysis indicates stable, yet variable, NVS transparency since monitoring began. Viewscope (VS) transparency was higher (better) than NVS transparency and a better measure of actual conditions.
- ◆ **TURBIDITY:** Epilimnetic and Outlet turbidity levels fluctuated within an average range for that station. Hypolimnetic turbidity levels were slightly elevated in July and August and lab data noted colored water conditions. Inlet turbidity level was slightly elevated in May following a storm event.
- ◆ **pH:** Epilimnetic and Outlet pH levels were within the desirable range of 6.5-8.0 units. Historical trend analysis indicates relatively stable epilimnetic pH levels since monitoring began. Inlet pH levels were approximately equal to the low end of the desirable range. Hypolimnetic pH levels were slightly acidic and less than desirable.

Table 1. 2024 Average Water Quality Data for ISLAND POND - STODDARD

Station Name	Alk. (mg/L)	Chlor-a (ug/L)	Chloride (mg/L)	Color (pcu)	Cond. (us/cm)	E. coli (mpn/100mL)	Total P (ug/L)	Trans. (m)		Turb. (ntu)	pH
								NVS	VS		
Epilimnion	3.2	5.98	8	59	32.7	4	12	2.79	3.25	0.80	6.56
Hypolimnion	-	-	-	-	33.2	-	14	-	-	1.15	6.11
Inlet	-	-	-	-	32.6	9	14	-	-	0.80	6.49
Outlet	-	-	-	-	33.3	1	10	-	-	0.57	6.62
Town Beach	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
Town Beach Deep	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-

NH Median Values

Median values generated from historic lake monitoring data.

Alkalinity: 4.5 mg/L **Chlorophyll-a:** 4.39 ug/L
Conductivity: 42.3 uS/cm **Chloride:** 5 mg/L
Total phosphorus: 11 ug/L **Transparency:** 3.3 m
pH: 6.6

NH Water Quality Standards

Numeric criteria for specific parameters. Water quality violation if thresholds exceeded.

Chloride: > 230 mg/L (chronic) **Turbidity:** > 10 NTU above natural
E. coli: > 88 cts/100 mL (beach)
E. coli: > 406 cts/100 mL (surface waters)
pH: between 6.5-8.0 (unless naturally occurring)



2024 VOLUNTEER LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM INDIVIDUAL LAKE REPORTS

ISLAND POND, STODDARD

Recommended Actions: Great job monitoring water quality in 2024! The improving phosphorus and chlorophyll trends are encouraging; however, phosphorus levels have remained within a higher range since 2021 and we should carefully watch how this impacts algal and/or Cyanobacteria growth. Lake clarity improved in 2024 and water color was much lighter due to drier conditions. Factors related to climate change such as shorter periods of winter ice cover, warmer water temperatures, drought conditions, and the increased intensity of storm events are creating an environment more suitable for cyanobacteria growth. Continue monitoring the pond in late spring/early summer for cyanobacteria blooms. Great job adding dissolved oxygen monitoring in 2024! This will help us to better understand if the hypolimnion experiences anoxia as the summer progresses and to what extent that occurs. Consider development of a watershed management plan to identify and quantify nutrient (phosphorus) loads to the pond and make recommendations on ways to reduce nutrient loading. If interested contact the NHDES [Watershed Assistance Program](#). Encourage shoreline property owners to be certified [LakeSmart](#) through NH LAKES' lake-friendly living program. Keep up the great work!

HISTORICAL WATER QUALITY TREND ANALYSIS

PARAMETER	TREND	PARAMETER	TREND
Conductivity	Stable	Chlorophyll-a	Improving
pH (epilimnion)	Stable	Transparency	Stable
Phosphorus (hypolimnion)	Stable	Phosphorus (epilimnion)	Improving

HISTORICAL WATER QUALITY GRAPHICS

