

Pleasant River Lake Association Annual Meeting Minutes
Beddington, Maine
Motto: Clean Water and Green Forests
prlassociation.org

August 7, 2021

If you have not yet paid your annual dues, please send a check, payable to *Pleasant River Lake Association* to:
Mr. Al Caron
11 Bradford Loop
Georgetown, MA 01833

<u>Annual dues for Full Membership:</u>	\$150.00
• Administrative Fund	\$10.00
• Dam Account	\$10.00
• Road Maintenance Account	\$130.00

<u>Annual dues for Associate Membership:</u>	\$20.00
• Administrative Fund	\$10.00
• Dam Account	\$10.00

Associate Membership is offered to members of either the *Beddington Road Maintenance Association* or the *Pleasant River Lake Homeowners Association*.

The annual meeting of the Pleasant River Lake Association was held at the Hesselstine camp and called to order by President Almquist shortly after 9:00 AM. Approximately forty association members and guests were in attendance.

President Fred Almquist welcomed all attendees and thanked Steve and Dean Hesselstine for hosting the meeting.

The association Officers and Board Members were introduced and recognized for their service during the 2019-2021 years.

- President – Fred Almquist
- Vice President – Dave Burton
- Secretary – Ellen Almquist
- Treasurer – Al Caron
- Board Member - Mary Harmon
- Board Member - John DeSantis
- Board Member - Art Thibert

President Almquist asked each PRLA member and guests to stand and introduce themselves and their family, tell where their camp is on the lake, where their home is, and indicate how many years they have been on the lake.

Item I: Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes and 2020 Annual Report - Ellen Almquist, Secretary

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 Annual Meeting was cancelled. PRLA Secretary Ellen Almquist wrote an Annual Report that was sent to the PRLA membership and posted on the association website. PRLA members voted to approve this document and the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes without a reading.

Item II Treasure's Report – Al Caron, Treasurer

			Balances from 2020		
			Administrative Fund	Dam Fund	Road Fund
		Initial Account Balance	\$2,760.13	\$13,255.50	\$9,738.74
			Administrative Fund	Dam Fund	Road Fund
		Total Dues Collected	\$660.00	\$740.00	\$7,580.00
			Costs Incurred		
		Maine Lakes Society Donation	\$150.00		
		Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program Donation (VLMP)	\$100.00		
		State of Maine for LLC for 2020			
		John Porter, Road Grading for 2020			\$2,691.00
		John Porter, Road Grading for 2020			
		Stationary and Mailing			
		Dam Maintenance			
Bridge Donations From Members	\$6,610.00	Additional Bridge Donations	\$1,000.00		\$2,390.00
Bridge Donation to the State of Maine	\$10,000.00				
			Administrative Fund	Dam Fund	Road Fund
		Total Costs Incurred	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$5,081.00
			Administrative Fund	Dam Fund	Road Fund
		Account Balances	\$2,170.00	\$13,995.50	\$12,237.74
		Total Account Balance	\$28,403.37		

47 Camp Owners Contributed Dues
8 Associate Members Contributed Dues

Item III Road Committee Report – Dean Hesselstine

Road Committee Members- Dean Hesselstine, Chairman,
Tom Smith, Coordinator
Committee Members: Fred Almquist, Ray Daily, and Al Caron

Our roads are in good condition. Grading has been done and brush cutting along the sides continues. Despite the heavy rains we have had this summer, the roads have not been affected. If you have concerns, please contact Dean. It was agreed by association members to allow the road committee to continue their efforts and the spending of the budget. However, \$1,000 will be retained to be carried into the 2021-2022 year as a reserve for emergencies. Dean reminded everyone the importance of slowing down and being aware of sharing the road with others – people walking, ATV's, and other vehicles. There have been too many incidents reported of excessive speed that have been the cause of close calls. Please help keep our roads safe.

If you are interested in getting involved and serving your lake community by being a member of the road committee, please contact Dean or any committee member.

Item IV. Water Quality Report – Ray Daily

YEAR	LAKE PHOSPHORUS LEVEL	NORMAL PHOSPHORUS LEVEL	DANGEROUS LEVEL
2017	5	4	15
2018	6	4	15
2019	6	4	15
2020	Not available	4	15
2021	Available in October	4	15

YEAR	WATER CLARITY
2016	20 feet
2017	18 feet
2018	17.5 feet
2019	15.5 feet
2020	18.5 feet
2021	16.5 feet

The best water clarity test was reported in 2016 at 20 feet. Since then water clarity has decreased. Ray stressed that many factors contribute to water clarity, however, it is a concern that the clarity of the water is consistently declining.

The best reported phosphorus level was in 2017 at a level 5. Since then phosphorus levels have increased. Ray did not receive his testing kit in 2020 in time to conduct the testing, which is done annually in September. Therefore, data is not available for 2020. The 2021 test will be conducted this fall.

Phosphorus is a danger to our lake. Ray distributed a pamphlet explaining how phosphorus enters the water and the steps that can be taken to keep it out of our lake. He explained that the higher the phosphorus level in the water, the greater the chance we will experience an algae bloom. Algae blooms kill lakes. We need to prevent this by keeping phosphorus out of our lake.

By each person implementing some simple fixes, a difference can be made. Simple things like directing rain water to a vegetated area where it will slow and seep into the ground and hold the phosphorus for plants; providing dry wells, drip edge drains, or rain barrels for roof run-off; cultivating a wooded buffer beside the lake; not washing boats, pets or you in the lake; picking up pet waste and putting it in the trash; plant vegetation downhill of parking areas; and pumping your septic system every three to five years.

Ray urged residents to be aware of what is going into the lake and to take measures to keep our lake healthy. To determine the runoff on your property, which can carry phosphorus, go outside during a heavy rain and observe where the water is creating streams. Taking action, such as building a berm, to stop run-off can make a difference.

So, please help to stop the decline in our lake's water quality and start immediately to implement steps to keep our lake in a healthy state.

Item V. Safety Committee Report – Loren Harmon

Loren reported that fire danger is always a concern and the drought we have experienced over the past several years has exacerbated this situation. The rain we have had during the month of July has given us some relief, however, we are not yet out of the drought. Our lake community is miles from emergency fire and rescue teams, so lake residents are urged to be vigilant and practice fire safety procedures. Loren reviewed the inventory of fire fighting equipment that is available and how to use it. Anyone interested in receiving training on this equipment, please contact Loren.

Our lake community has an emergency response team that has been called upon in the past. Ellen Almquist has acted as the coordinator/dispatcher for this team. However, with Ellen's recent health issues, she has not been at the lake this summer. Loren nominated Ray Daily to fill this vacancy, but Ray respectfully declined saying that he would prefer to be helping with any emergency that occurs. It was suggested that either Mary Harmon or Gail DeSantis fill this role until Ellen returns to the lake.

The authorized Life Flight Landing Zone on the East Pleasant River Lake Road is being maintained.

Loren reminded lake residents to be cognizant of sharing our roads with others and practicing safety. He asked that people slow down and to share the road with other vehicles, ATV's, motor bikes, motorcycles, and the many people who walk. He urged residents to be aware that going around corners can be especially dangerous. There is more pedestrian traffic so please give people room.

With more water vehicles on the lake, safety is becoming a concern. Please be aware that excess speed and the wake from motorized craft is dangerous to kayakers and other boaters. Your courteous, safe use of boats and jet skis' is appreciated.

An association member suggested that our lake adopt one day a month as a no motorized craft day. On this designated day, only kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, etc. would use the lake.

A REMINDER FROM LOREN:

We are a long way from help, so prevention is important. Please practice safety procedures.

Item VI. Dam Committee Report – Dean Hesseltine

Dean reported that the dam maintenance license is up for renewal in 2024. At this time, the dam is in good condition and there are no concerns or issues with it.

Item VII. Loon Count Report – Steve Hesseltine

On the designated day set by the Audubon Society for the state loon count, one loon was observed at our lake. Observers conducting the count are given one hour to survey the entire lake. Although only one loon was spotted this year, lake residents have reported seeing up to four adults and two babies throughout the summer. A nest was seen on the island this spring, but no activity has been observed and the nest is no longer there. This past week one adult loon was found expired by the dam.

Item VIII. PRLA Web Site Report – Karen Kenny Richard

prlassociation.org

During the summer of 2019, Karen Richard created and launched the Pleasant River Lake Association website. She created for us a visually pleasing and easy to use website that will serve as an invaluable resource to our members. Unfortunately, Karen is stepping down from this role and handing the responsibility of volunteer webmaster to Allison Braley. Allison is the daughter of Fred and Ellen Almquist and as Karen says, “The perfect person to take the website to the next level.” Allison is the Computer Science Teacher for RSU 25 and a consultant with the Maine Department of Education. She has experience developing and managing websites, so brings skill and knowledge to this project.

The association thanks Karen for her service to the Pleasant River Lake Association. Her time and efforts have been greatly appreciated.

Item IX. Remembrances – People on the lake who have passed away or are ill

No remembrances were reported.

Item X. Discussion and Approval of Association Dues

The PRLA Board of Directors recommended the 2021-2022 dues remain the same with no increase.

<u>Full Membership Annual dues:</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>
• Administrative Fund	\$10.00
• Dam Account	\$10.00
• Road Maintenance Account	\$130.00
<u>Associate Membership Annual dues:</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>
• Administrative Fund	\$10.00
• Dam Account	\$10.00

Associate Membership is offered to members of either the Beddington Road Maintenance Association or the Pleasant River Lake Homeowners Association

The association membership voted to accept the Board of Directors recommendation and approval was given to keep the annual dues at the same rate with no increase.

Item XI. Discussion and Approval of Revised PRLA By-Laws

Association members approved the motion to become a nonprofit Association under the laws of the State of Maine in August 2019. This action required the Association By-Laws to be reviewed and added to in order to meet the criteria as a nonprofit incorporation in the State of Maine. A document for consideration was developed by a committee established to perform this task. This document was presented to the Board of Directors and approved on September 4, 2019.

The association membership unanimously approved the revised by-laws.

Committee members who worked on this revision were:

- Fred Almquist, PRLA President
- Ellen Almquist, PRLA Secretary
- Mary Harmon, PRLA Board Member
- John DeSantis, PRLA Board Member
- George Wade

President Almquist thanked committee members for devoting their time and effort to this project.

The next review of the PRLA By-Laws will occur in 2026.

Item XII. Report on Parker's Cove - Dave Burton

Last summer two fires at Parker's Cove and two on the island were extinguished by association members. This prompted the PRLA leadership to ask Dave to contact the Maine Forest Service Protection Division to help solve this reoccurring problem. Dave worked with this department throughout the summer of 2020.

The state owned lands on our lake are for day use only. Camping, camp fires, and the destruction of the beach areas are illegal. The only way to stop these violations is to report these activities to the Maine Forest Protection Division. Forest rangers are prepared to issue fines. Besides finding it inappropriate, Dave and Fred do not want the role of lake police. So please help. If you see it, report it.

Many thanks to Dave for his persistence in getting the attention of the State in solving this problem.

**Per State of Maine Forest Service Protection Division
Reporting procedures for camping or camp fires at Parker Cove, Elsie's Point, the Island, and all public boat landings**

It is illegal to kindle fires or camp at Parker Cove, Elsie's Point, the island and at the public boat landing. For reporting camping or camp fires at these sites, call 207-973-3700. Tell the dispatcher to contact the Maine Forest Service Ranger covering the Beddington area and that you are reporting illegal camping and or camp fires at Pleasant River Lake. The Forest Service Ranger will issue tickets for camping and or camp fires.

If your call for camping violations was not addressed, you may contact Mark Deroche, Regional Manager Maine State Parks at 207-557-5788.

**See it report it – Call 207-973-3700
Offenders will be prosecuted**

Item XIII. Replacement of Bridge Over the Pleasant River - Fred Almquist

Replacement of the bridge has been delayed until September. The project will begin sometime after Labor Day. Association members contributed \$6,610.00 to this project. President Almquist thanked everyone who made a donation to this endeavor. The lake is getting a bridge with a life span of at least 75 years. It will be built on state property and will be maintained by the State of Maine. The one time donation made by PRLA has helped to make this replacement happen.

Item XIV. Open forum and discussion – compliments, complaints, concerns

- Dean and Steve Hesseltine were recognized for their work and devotion to the Pleasant River Lake Association. Appreciation was expressed for the quality of the roads and to Dean Hesseltine, who volunteers his time and energy to the care of our roads. Many weekends and vacation days Dean can be seen cutting brush along our roads and this is greatly appreciated by our lake residents.
- Fred and Ellen Almquist were recognized for the work they do for PRLA.
- A member asked whether all lake property owners are obligated to pay the road maintenance fee. President Almquist responded that due to the pandemic, face-to-face meetings have not occurred and this is an issue that has not been discussed with the Board of Directors. As he understands it, Maine law requires that any lot owner on a camp road has the obligation to pay for road maintenance to and from their property. Although other road maintenance associations on the lake take advantage of this law by sending bills and placing liens on properties, PRLA has not dealt with this issue.

- It was reported that on the Friends of Pleasant River Lake Facebook page, that a catfish had been caught by a lake resident. Many of the meeting attendees agreed that this most likely was a circumstance of misidentification.
- Please be aware that the Pleasant River Lake Facebook page is not an affiliate of the association. If you need association information, go to the website at prlassociation.org
- A kayak paddle was found on Dave Burton's beach. If you have lost a paddle or know someone who has, please contact Dave.

Item XV. Announcements

- The annual meeting is held on the first Saturday in August. Next year's meeting will be held on Saturday, August 6, 2022.
- Please be aware that you will find the minutes to the association annual meeting on the PRLA website, prlassociation.org. Documents such as minutes of meetings, by-laws, emergency procedures, etc. will no longer be sent to membership via email. Instead, you are asked to look for this information, as well as announcements, on the website. Documents containing personal information such as the directory and emergency response will not be posted on the website, but will be emailed to the association membership.
- A gentle reminder that sound travels easily across the lake and excessive noise levels ruin the tranquility of lake living. Barking dogs and the outdoor playing of music at loud volumes can easily disturb neighbors around you and across the lake. Acting as a responsible, courteous neighbor is appreciated by all.
- Please remember to go easy on our roads. The speed limit on the main road is 20 mph and 10 mph on the side roads. This speed allows you to respond to children playing in the road, adults walking, wildlife or other vehicles. Keeping our roads safe and in good shape is a priority and your help in this endeavor is greatly appreciated.

Item XVI. Election of 2021 - 2022 PRLA Officers and Board Members

The PRLA Board of Directors recommended the following PRLA positions of leadership be filled by:

- President- Fred Almquist, 1 year term ending on August 6, 2022
- Vice President – Dave Burton, 1 year term ending on August 6, 2022
- Secretary – Ellen Almquist, 1 year term ending on August 6, 2022
- Treasurer – Al Caron, 1 year term ending on August 6, 2022
- John DeSantis - Board Member, 3 year term ending on August 3, 2024
- Mary Harmon - Board Member, 2 year term ending on August 5, 2023
- Art Thibert - Board Member, 1 year term ending on August 6, 2022

No nominations came from the floor. The association membership unanimously voted to accept the slate of officers and Board Members recommended by the Board.

Item XVI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 am.

REMINDERS

Please send updated contact information to PRLA secretary, Ellen Almquist:
ellenalmquist@gmail.com

Respectfully Submitted By,
 Ellen Almquist, PRLA Secretary

