**Pleasant River Lake Association Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Beddington, Maine**

**Motto: Clean Water and Green Forests**

[**prlassociation.org**](http://prlassociation.org)

**August 3, 2024**

**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**

**Annual dues for Full Membership: $150.00**

**Annual dues for Associate Membership: $20.00**

***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 Hesseltine camp and called to order by President Fred Almquist shortly after 9:00 AM. Forty-two association members and guests were in attendance.

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

The association Officers and Board Members were introduced and recognized for their service during the 2023-2024 year.

* President – Fred Almquist
* Vice President – Dave Burton
* Secretary – Ellen Almquist
* Treasurer – Al Caron
* Board Member - Mary Harmon
* Board Member – Mark Leff
* Board Member - Art Thibert

President Almquist asked each PRLA member and guests to introduce themselves and their family, tell where their camp is located on the lake and where their home is.

**Item I. Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes - Ellen Almquist, Secretary**

PRLA members voted to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes without a reading.

**Item II. Treasure’s Report – Al Caron, Treasurer**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  | **Balances from 2023** |  |
|  |  |  | Administrative Fund | Dam Fund | Road Fund |
|  |  | Initial Account Balance | $1,960.13 | $14,920.50 | $12,973.99 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Administrative Fund | Dam Fund | Road Fund |
|  |  | Total Dues Collected | $520.00 | $520.00 | $5,870.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **Costs Incurred** |  |  |  |
|  |  | Maine Lakes Society Donation | $150.00 |  |  |
|  |  | Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program Donation (VLMP) | $100.00 |  |  |
|  |  | Web Site |  |  |  |
|  |  | State of Maine for LLC | $50.00 |  |  |
|  |  | John Porter, Road Grading |  |  | $4,295.00 |
|  |  | John Porter, Culvert Work |  |  | $5,000.00 |
|  |  | Stationary and Mailing |  |  |  |
|  |  | Dam Maintenance |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Administrative Fund | Dam Fund | Road Fund |
|  |  | **Total Costs Incurred** | $300.00 | $0.00 | $9,295.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Administrative Fund | Dam Fund | Road Fund |
|  |  | **Account Balances** | $2,180.13 | $15,440.50 | $9,548.99 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **Total Account Balance** | $25,969.62 |  |  |

43 Camp Owners Contributed Dues

8 Associate Members Contributed Dues

Note:

6 members paid dues for 2024-2025 in advance of the August 2024 annual meeting

Steve Hesseltine paid $300 and that money was part of the 2023-2024 report.

PRLA members voted to approve the budget as presented.

**Item III. Road Committee Report – Dean Hesseltine**

Road Committee Members- Dean Hesseltine, Chairman,

Tom Smith, Coordinator

Committee Members: Fred Almquist, Ray Daily, David Leff, and Al Caron

Dean reported that the grading of the roads has been completed and brush cutting along the sides will be done this fall. Due to weather changes and more traffic, our roads suffered this winter. The East Pleasant River Lake Road was put back together, but it was a great deal of work to do so. A culvert was donated and installed near the entrance to the East Pleasant River Lake Road from Route 9. The cost for this work was $5000. The road is plowed during the winter by lake residents. Harold Beal plows our road and other camp owners also contribute to keep the East Pleasant River Lake Road open. Dean reminded everyone that speed contributes to washboarding and stressed the importance of slowing down and being aware of sharing the road with others – people walking, ATV’s, and other vehicles. Residents were cautioned about blind corners and the danger this presents.

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 PHOSPORUS LEVEL** | **DANGEROUS LEVEL** |
| **2017** | 5 | 4 | 15 |
| **2018** | 6 | 4 | 15 |
| **2019** | 6 | 4 | 15 |
| **2021** | 13 | 4 | 15 |
| **2023** | 6 | 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 |
| **2023** | 14 feet |
| **2024** | 7 feet |

Ray asked residents to be aware of putting phosphorus into the lake – especially from soap, fertilizers, and roof runoff. He urged camp owners to go outside when it is raining and observe where runoffs from the rain are and repairing these streams to prevent phosphorus from entering the lake.

For information on how to protect our lake, visit the following websites for:

* Pleasant River Lake Association
* Belgrade Lakes Association
* Maine Lakes Association
* LakeSmart
* Lakes Environmental Association
* Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

PRLA is a member of the Maine Lakes Association and the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. Ray has been trained by MVLMP and sends our lake data to this organization.

**Item V. Lake Protection and Conservation Report – Serena Williams**

LakeSmart is a state-wide outreach program through Maine Lakes that educates lake front homeowners to manage their land to protect water quality. The program is free, non-regulatory, and voluntary. Participating homeowners receive individualized suggestions for keeping pollutants out of lake waters. Serena is our Pleasant River Lake trained LakeSmart consultant and is available to appraise your property and offer suggestions for keeping pollutants out of our lake. Through the LakeSmart program, our association can receive support and educational materials to assist in our goal of keeping our lake healthy. The biggest threat to lakes is algae blooms, which is caused by phosphorus. Algae blooms decrease property values, is a health threat to humans, and costs lake front property owners millions of dollars to eradicate. Fred and Ellen Almquist had their property evaluated by Serena and her supervisor, Caroline Murray. Caroline is our area LakeSmart representative based in Milbridge. The evaluation was easy, nonthreatening, and very amiable. If you would like to have your property appraised, please contact Serena.

Serena, Ray Daily and Doris Daily have received milfoil training. Although Pleasant River Lake does have public boat launches, they are seldom used. There are RB&B’s and rental properties on the lake. People in these rentals are bringing water vehicles with them and we do not know what is coming to our lake via these boats, jets skis, kayaks or canoes. Therefore, we ask that all rental property owners be vigilant if their renters come with a water craft. Camp owners are urged to survey their shoreline for any suspicious plants and if found, to contact Serena.

Serena may be contacted at:

[Serenawilliams1023@gmail.com](mailto:Serenawilliams1023@gmail.com)

**Item VI. Safety Committee Report – Jennifer Dunn Ellis**

Residents were reminded to display their assigned E911 number in front of their camp. DO NOT DISPLAY YOUR LOT NUMBER. Emergency services, ambulance or fire vehicles, will be given your E911 address by the dispatcher when an emergency is called in and personnel will be looking for your E911 address. Therefore, you are urged to display your E911 number in a prominent place in front of your camp. An E911 sign can be purchased on Amazon.

Some street signs are missing on our roads and work is being done to replace them. Also, signs at the Life Flight Landing Zone are showing wear, so they will be replaced or given a make-over.

A thread for the PRL Emergency Response Team is being worked on. This will allow a message to be sent to team members giving the location and the type of emergency members are responding to. This will give a faster response time and will be a more efficient method. Doris Daily will continue to act as our Emergency Response Team dispatcher.

Residents are urged to purchase a good first aid kit to have on hand.

**A REMINDER**

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

**Item VII. Dam Committee Report – Dean Hesseltine**

The Pleasant River Lake dam and the land it sits on is owned by the State of Maine. Many years ago, the state was going to dismantle the dam. If it had not been for the intervention of Loren Harmon, our dam would have been gone. As a result, the state issued a license for the dam to Loren. State officials wanted to communicate with a representative of the Pleasant River Lake Association and not the association directly. Loren became the representative of the PRLA. A few years ago, this license was transferred to Dean Hesseltine and has been extended for another five years. Dean reported that the State of Maine is still considering the rebuild of our lake dam. The new dam would be a rock ramp dam modeled after the dam on the St. George River. The association leadership has been assured that the replacement of our current dam would not affect lake water levels. This past spring, the state placed transducers in the lake to monitor lake levels. No information from this has been shared with Dean. Since 1995, 45 dams have been removed in the State of Maine. Concern about the removal of our dam was voiced. Money for the dam is still being collected through PRLA dues. The transfer of this fund to pay for other projects was discussed. However, opposition for this was voiced. Dues collected from associate members contributes to the dam fund plus the Pleasant River Lake Homeowners Association has contributed to this fund in the past. Therefore, transferring the dam account to other accounts would not be feasible.

**Item VIII. Loon Count Report – Steve Hesseltine**

On the designated day set by the Audubon Society for the state loon count, ten loons were observed at our lake. Observers conducting the count are given one hour to survey the entire lake. Although no chicks were spotted this year, a lake resident reported seeing two babies this summer.

Did you know?

Loons are visual predators. Minimizing runoff and siltation to maintain water quality is critically important to their ability to fish and find food for their young.

Loons are sensitive to disturbance on their lakeside nests and on the water. Being aware of where loons are and keeping a good distance away, especially in canoes and kayaks in wetlands and shallow water, will help minimize stress.

Loons nest right next to the water where boat wakes can flood the nest and wash the eggs away. Keeping to headway speed as required in the 200-foot Boater Safety Zone will reduce this risk.

Loons can pop up unintentionally in the path of oncoming boats. Boat strikes are thought to be one of the leading causes of adult loon mortality in Maine. Watching for loons while boating can help reduce this risk.

Loon predators include skunks and raccoons that can make quick work of loon eggs. Reducing attractants to keep these predators away from nesting areas will help improve loon nesting success.

The ingestion of lead tackle and the entanglement of loons in monofilament line (not biodegradable) are ever-present problems for loons in Maine. To help keep our loon population healthy for years to come, it is best to fish lead free, properly dispose of lead tackle and recycle monofilament line.

Five simple actions you can take to protect the loons on our lake:

* Fish lead-free.
* Remove monofilament line from the lake and its shoreline.
* Stay at least 200 feet away from loons and loon nests when boating.
* Maintain a “no wake” speed withing 200 feet of shore.
* Seal outdoor trash cans and feed pets indoors to deter predators. *Pleasant River Lake Homeowners Association*

**Item IX. PRLA Web Site Report – Ellen Almquist**

In 2019, the Pleasant River Lake Association membership approved funding to support the creation and maintenance of a website. Karen Kenny Richard acted as the volunteer webmaster and developed the website using GoDaddy. Karen resigned as the webmaster in 2021 and passed this position to Allison Almquist Braley, daughter of Fred and Ellen Almquist. GoDaddy has become very expensive, so Allison is in the process of switching the PRLA website from GoDaddy to another server. The new server will cost $25 annually. Allison will continue as the volunteer website administrator.

[prlassociation.org](http://prlassociation.org)

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

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

A moment of silence was held for

Tim Gates

Brian Letourneau

**Item XI. Discussion and Approval of Association Dues**

The PRLA Board of Directors recommended the 2024-2025 dues remain the same with no increase.

Full Membership Annual dues: $150.00

Associate Membership Annual dues: $20.00

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

An increase to the road maintenance fee was suggested and discussed. Due to the increase in grading costs, weather changes, and more traffic on our roads, the cost of repairing and maintaining roads is rising. It was suggested that incremental fee increases start. Much discussion was held. It was noted that the Pleasant River Lake Homeowners Association road maintenance fee is currently $225 with an increase each year. There has been no increase for over ten years in the PRLA road fee. It was decided that this is an issue that the Board of Directors should investigate and make a recommendation at next year’s meeting for the 2025-2026 budget year.

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 at this time. The Board of Directors will discuss this issue and make a recommendation about an increase to the road maintenance fee to the membership at the 2025-2026 annual meeting.

President Almquist stated that thePRLA Board of Directors wants members to understand that membership in the association is voluntary. The fee to join is $20.

Paying the road maintenance fee is not voluntary. Maine law states that each property owner serviced by a private road is obligated to pay their share of the cost of maintenance. PRLA has determined that the cost to each property owner for road maintenance is $130.00. Lot owners on

Shore Road

Pine Point Loop

Point Lane

Dick Allen Cove Road and

Birch Point Circle

have an obligation to share in the cost of road maintenance.

Up to this time, the Pleasant River Lake Association has chosen not to enforce the path available by this law to collect maintenance fees from those who choose not to pay their share. The PRLA would like to continue this voluntary practice and hopes everyone realizes the importance of doing their fair share.

**Item XII. Associate PRLA Membership**

The Board of Directors recommended that an associate membership to PRLA include voting rights on all PRLA issues except the matters concerning PRLA roads. They would be eligible to serve in leadership roles of the PRLA – Water Quality Officer, Safety Officer, Webmaster, Lake Protection and Conservation Officer (Milfoil Invasion and LakeSmart). When an opening is available on the Board of Directors, the sitting board may fill this vacancy with an associate member. Membership to the Board of Directors is limited to one associate member.

An associate membership would be at a cost of $20. This would be the fee for joining PRLA, which is an association for all lot owners on or around the lake. This membership is available to lake lot owners who belong to the Beddingon Road Maintenance Association and the Pleasant River Lake Homeowners Association. Members belonging to these associations already pay road fees for the roads they use to get to their camp.

PRLA membership voted to adopt this policy for associate membership.

**Item XIII. Disposal of Brush**

The dump is now accepting the disposal of brush. It was reported that brush has been dumped on property owned by the State of Maine. Lot owners were reminded that brush should not be dumped on private property.

**Item XIV. Naming of Bridge**

The PRLA unanimously voted to name our new bridge The Harmon Bridge in honor of Loren and Mary Harmon.

**Item XV. Firefighting Equipment and AED Machines**

The Town of Beddington is loaning PRLA an AED machine. The town is asking that this machine be stored in a secure location, so it has been decided it will be stored at Bill Richard’s garage in a weather protected and locked box. Bill has cameras at his garage that will provide the security town officials asked for. The AED machine will be available from May to November and training will be made available. The association will pursue the purchase of a second machine to be located near Shore Road or Pine Point Loop. Association members voted to allocate $150 from the administration fund to purchase a storage cabinet for this machine.

Association members voted to spend up to $1000 from the administrative fund to purchase a portable firefighting pump and related accessories. Due to past efforts by Loren Harmon, the association has hose and nozzle. Training will be provided for using the pump. Residents were reminded of past fires on the lake when fires were fought using pails to contain the fire until the Beddington Fire Department arrived. Fred Almquist and Ken Tonneson have joined the BFD and urged others to also join. The BFD meets at the fire station every third Thursday of the month.

Loren is looking for a home for his firefighting pump and water tank.

If responding to a fire, it is recommended that volunteers come dressed in leather boots, a long sleeve shirt, and long pants. Please bring with you buckets, rakes, and shovels.

**Item XVI. Liability Insurance**

PRLA Board Member Mark Leff, has investigated the cost of liability insurance for our association and found the price to be higher than expected. One company would not submit a quote because of our dam. Mark is seeking a cheaper quote and asked the membership if they would contact their insurance company for a quote and pass the information on to him.

**Item XVII. Election of 2024 - 2025 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 2, 2025
* Vice President – Mark Leff, 1 year term ending on August 2, 2025
* Secretary – Ellen Almquist, 1 year term ending on August 2, 2025
* Treasurer – Al Caron, 1 year term ending on August 2, 2025
* Board Member – Steve Hesseltine 3 year term ending on August 7, 2027
* Mary Harmon - Board Member, 2 year term ending on August 1, 2026
* Art Thibert - Board Member, 1 year term ending on August 2, 2025

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 XVII. Recognition of Dave Burton**

Dave Burton has served as the PRLA Vice-President since 2015. During his tenure, Dave took the lead for working with the State Of Maine Forest Service to enforce the ruling of day use only on state owned properties on our lake. Due to his efforts, camping and camp fires at Parker’s Cove have significantly decreased. His devotion to the association and our lake community is greatly appreciated.

**Item XVIII. Retirement of Fred and Ellen Almquist**

Fred and Ellen Almquist are announcing their retirement from their leadership roles in the Pleasant River Lake Association. They will serve the association as President and Secretary for this coming year (2024 -2025), but will not seek re-election at the next annual meeting. Their term of service will end on August 2, 2025.

**Item XIV. Retirement of Al Caron**

Al Caron announced his retirement from his leadership role as PRLA Treasurer. His term of service will end on August 2, 2025.

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

* Residents who live year round on the lake and those who spend winter weekends at their camp, were thanked for looking after the camps on the lake during the winter months, especially after storms. Communication with camp owners were especially appreciated.

**Item XV. Announcements**

* The annual meeting is held on the first Saturday in August. Next year’s meeting will be held on Saturday, August 2, 2025.
* 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.

**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 XVI. Adjournment**

Respectfully Submitted By,

Ellen Almquist, PRLA Secretary