

**The Hogan Whitney Pond Association (HWP) Inc.**

2024 Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 29, 2024 at 9 AM**

Oxford Rec Center

223 King St, Oxford, ME 04270

**Association Officers**

<b>President – Tom Donovan</b> 154 Hogan Pond Lane (Oxford, ME)	<b>Vice President – Bruce Wilson</b> 36 Dunn Lane (Oxford, ME) <b>Vice President – Norm David</b> 58 Oak Lane (Oxford, ME)
<b>Treasurer – Rich Auren</b> 184 Hogan Pond Lane (Oxford, ME)	<b>Secretary – Mark Young</b> 158 Hogan Pond Lane (Oxford, ME)

**I. Greetings & Pledge of Allegiance (Tom)**

Tom opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and then Mark led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Call to Order (Tom)**

The Meeting was called to Order at 9:00 AM

All Officers were present at the meeting.

**III. Introductions name, pond (Group)**

All in attendance were asked to introduce themselves and state which pond they lived on.

Maine Senator Richard Bennett was then granted the floor to give a report on State legislation of interest to owners on the ponds (see State of Maine Legislation section)

At this point, President Donovan and the other Officers presented Web Site Master Dan McElreavy with a gift card as a “Thank you” for his good work on behalf of the HWP.

**IV. Last Meeting Minutes (Tom)**

A motion to accept the minutes from the 2023 meeting of the HWP was made, seconded and passed.

**V. Treasurers Report (Rich)**

Treasurer Rich Auren then presented the 2023 Treasurer’s report.

**INCOME**

Association Dues	\$	4450.00
Milfoil Fund Donation	\$	1675.00
Watershed Fund Donations	\$	415.00
Watershed Grant- Norway Bank	\$	500.00
DEP Milfoil Grant	\$	4275.00
US Treasury Refund	\$	275.00
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,590.00</b>

**EXPENSES**

Milfoil removal	\$	8465.64
Water Testing and Report	\$	1970.00
Legal fees	\$	310.00
P.O.Box Rental	\$	100.00
US Treasury Application	\$	275.00
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$11,120.64</b>

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**a) HWP dues structure (\$50, \$75, \$175)**

Rich went on to explain the new Dues Structure: \$50 for individuals and affiliates, \$75 for families and \$175 for lake stewards. Any extra donations will be lumped together for both watershed and milfoil remediation. Previously these had been separated.

The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

**VI. Open issues/items**

**a) State of Maine Legislation (Senator Richard Bennett)**

Maine Senator Richard Bennett was then granted the floor to give a report on State legislation of interest to owners on the ponds. Senator Bennett represents the Oxford Hills area and surrounding towns including Bridgton and Harrison. He is on the Appropriations and Government Oversight Committees among others. This is his second term as Senator and he has already served as a State Representative. He reported that all legislative activity for the current year has concluded until December.

Senator Bennett reported on 4 Bills of interest to our group.

**1. LD 2141 - An Act to Enhance Protections for and Better Address Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations in Inland Waters of the State (\$2M funding)**

LD 2141 would have appropriated \$2 Million to the Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Fund and placed more stringent watercraft inspection protocols on infested Inland Waters. This Bill did not pass but has been carried forward to any special legislative session.

**2. LD 1342 - An Act to Increase Funding for the Prevention and Control of Invasive Aquatic Species (increase annual sticker cost)**

LD 1342 increases the fees for new and renewal certificates for resident motorboats and personal watercraft as well as the fees lake and river protection stickers for the boats not registered in the State and for Seaplanes. The bill also changes the allocation of the collected funds. 30% (up from 20%) of said funds will now go to the Lake and River protection Fund. This act is now law; it passed both houses unanimously.

**3. LD 2101 - An Act to Strengthen Shoreland Zoning Enforcement**

LD 2101 strengthens Shoreland Zoning enforcement. Penalties which may be used by the Maine Land use Planning Commission and local communities include denying the issuance, or the revocation of, permits; the filing of a civil action against an owner or occupant; or claiming lien against the property on which a violation has occurred. This Law was passed and signed in to Law by the Governor.

**4. LD 2284 - An Act to Implement Recommendations in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Report on Wake Boats**

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2024 Annual Meeting  
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LD 2284 Defines “wakesurfing activity” (using a boat’s wake to surf). This Law requires more safety instruction and education and seeks to expand efforts to minimize the effect of erosion caused by wakes. This Bill was signed into law.

Senator Bennett emphasized the importance of Maine lakes to the state’s economy and encouraged all those in attendance to participate in the legislative process even if they are not registered voting members in Maine. Every bill gets a public hearing and any member of the public can submit written testimony on line or participate in Zoom hearings. He encouraged input from any interested party and thanked us for the invitation to meet with our group.

**b) Dam (grade control) status (Adam Garland, Oxford TM)**

The next item up for discussion was the report from Oxford Town Manager Adam Garland regarding the status of the Grade control project. Tom relayed information which Mr. Garland had emailed to him regarding the project.

The Town had applied for a congressional grant last year to help cover the costs of installing a grade control system to replace the Welchville Dam. Although the application process was simple, the Army Corps of Engineers needed to review and approve and this process consumed considerable time. Recently, thanks to the efforts of Maine US Senator Susan Collins, that approval was given and a permit to install the grade controls and access road was issued.

Now that the Army Corps has approved the project, the proposal has been sent to HUD (Housing and Urban Development) as they are responsible for reviewing and overseeing the grant and the disbursement of funds. Once that approval is given, HUD will send the funds to the Town and a contractor can be secured and the project can begin. Mr. Garland is cautiously optimistic about the project beginning in the fall.

Mr. Garland made a point of crediting Senator Collins with helping to “motivate” the Army Corps to finally review and approve the Town’s application. It wouldn’t have happened without her intervention.

Considerable discussion followed this report. Several people, Chris Glass among them, felt that the likelihood of any activity this Fall (2024) was tenuous at best. There were questions about how long it would take for the grade controls to be installed and the thought is 3 to 5 months. How long will it be before the Dam is removed? Big rain events will back over the spillway. It’s hard to be definitive about the effect of the grade controls until after the Dam is gone. How porous will the grade controls be? There are a lot of questions and a lot of unknowns

**c) Milfoil status (Rich)**

Next on the agenda was Rich Auren’s report on Milfoil. Rich started by encouraging everyone to register their boat’s because of the new funding bill which will put more money toward local efforts to remediate the problem.

**The Hogan Whitney Pond Association (HWP) Inc.**  
2024 Annual Meeting  
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**i. Plans for first year of \$24,280 Maine DEP grant**

In 2023, NE Milfoil worked 1 week on Hogan. They didn't do what Rich had requested, which was to work in the Bowyer, Sweet, Andrews area of the lake. There was major regrowth of Milfoil at the Southern end of the lake that they did work on.

This year we applied for, and received, a 2 year \$24,000 grant which will enable us to have 2 weeks of New England Milfoil this summer. The first week starts next week and there will be another later in the summer.

The DEP grant money requires a cash match, 50% from us, 50% from them.

Rich asked for volunteer help, even just spotting from a kayak, to assist in the pulling Milfoil effort.

A question was asked regarding the costs associated with having the Dashboat. We pay by the week, the range being \$8 to \$9k per week. The crew requires 2 divers and often an extra person on board.

There was concern expressed about the possibility that traffic between the lakes might lead to infection of Whitney. Rich recommends that everyone check their motor when entering Whitney from Hogan. We are doing all that we can to eliminate the problem, but some years are better than others.

The question was asked, could we pull it all out? Some lakes have done it, but that requires a lot of time and a lot of money. Chemicals won't do it. There are 2 types of Milfoil and the type we have doesn't respond to chemicals.

How far back does the Milfoil problem go? There was a big explosion of it in the early 2000's. Tripp lake doesn't have it. It can go upstream as well as down.

**d) Watershed status (Bruce, Katie Goodwin, Ecological Instincts)**

Katie Goodwin from Ecological Instincts presented a report which outlined opportunities and obligations associated with the problem. There has been considerable concern over the last decade regarding soil erosion problems. The problem is that too much phosphorus washes into the lakes from water runoff. We need to minimize the erosion to limit the phosphorus deposits. We have received 2 two year grants. The first one (2019 and 2020) totaled \$194,589 and the current one was budgeted at \$133,0410.00, to help combat the problem. We're currently in the 2d year of the second grant which is funded only thru the end of October.

According to the EPA and DEP using their best management practices, there is 5 to 10 times more phosphorus that is deposited from developed areas than from wooded areas. Both Hogan and Whitney are listed as "threatened". There are lots of issues due to runoff from Rabbit Valley Road. Winter storms have wreaked havoc recently. The Town had to do considerable emergency work this past winter.

Education and Outreach programs have been instituted and introduced in to the local school curriculum.

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2024 Annual Meeting  
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Katie described the Residential site visits. These visits are part of the process by which property owners can receive grant money for helping to reduce the impact of runoff from their property. The process for participation is as follows: Schedule a site visit by Ecological Instincts (our technical consultant and project manager). Receive a detailed plan for improvements. Review the costs. Sign an agreement. Document the hours and costs you expended. When the work is completed notify HWP for an inspection and then approval for grant reimbursement. The costs of mitigation are shared equally between the grant and homeowner with a maximum grant contribution of \$750.

Bruce Wilson then made the observation that there is a much greater sense of “community” among lake property owners, as a result of the growing range of HWP projects. Lots of people are working on projects. Examples are people like Chris Glass working on coordinating with the Town on the dam and Rich with his Milfoil removal work. Bruce handed out a list of various projects which people could consider to assist with which included the opportunity to sign up.

HWP has also connected with resident associations on Tripp and Thompson Lakes. There is a sense of a broader community due to similar concerns and problems and working towards potential solutions to these common issues.

Bruce mentioned that Hogan needs a volunteer to monitor the water quality on Hogan. This is already being done on Whitney.

- i. Review first year of \$133,000 Maine DEP grant and plans for this year**
- e) Tax Exempt (501c3) status (Tom)**
  - i. Maine Secretary of State 2023 Annual Report (\$35)**

Tom reported on the 501(c)3 tax status of HWP. Apparently we had achieved that status in the ‘90’s, but lost it for failure to file the required annual reports. We now have regained that status and we need to maintain it by filing the required reports and paying the annual fees. The tax exempt designation allows donors to claim a tax deduction and also will allow the Association to apply for a wider range of future grants.

## **VII. New business**

- a) HWP web site: [hoganwhitneypond.org](http://hoganwhitneypond.org) (Bruce/Dan)**

Bruce then gave an update on the HWP Website ([www.hoganwhitneypond.org](http://www.hoganwhitneypond.org)).. There have recently been 3000 visits to the site and there is all kinds information and items of interest posted on it. Thank you, again, Dan, for doing the hard work.

- b) Town Manager input**

In the New Business category, it was discussed that we (HWP) need more input from the Town Manager and more interaction with the Select Board. Chris Glass emphasized the importance of our speaking with a unified voice on issues like desired water levels. There

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needs to be more coordination between those controlling the dams on the lakes impacted (e.g. Thompson to Welchville).

**VIII. Question/answer session**

**IX. Adjournment (Tom)**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03