



## *Saturday Pond Watershed Association*

40 Ridgewood Terrace

Otisfield, Maine 04270

### **SPWA Spring Planning Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2024**

**Attendees:** Ellen Attaliades, Bill Bramswig, Amy Brown, Sue LaFleur, Amy Langevin, Steve Markarian, Julie Ywoskus

- **October 2023 Trustee Meeting Minutes - Julie Ywoskus:** Minutes were reviewed and approved.
- **Treasurer's Report – Amy Brown:** Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.
  - **Balance:** \$1159.19
  - **Members:** 65
    - Members will let Amy know if any members need to be taken off the membership list
- **Watershed Updates:**
  - **Wildlife:** Recently, members have noticed various animals, including otters, fox, loons (2 resident), owl, deer, various types of ducks, and Canadian geese.
  - **Saturday Pond Dam – John Ywoskus:** The tilted dam sluiceway will be repaired by the Otisfield Roads Commissioner and paid for by the town. The gate now has a combination lock so that multiple people can access the dam. John and other residents will continue to monitor the dam and remove debris from the sluiceway.
  - **Ice In and Out:** Ice in occurred on 12/7/23. Ice out occurred on 3/16/24. This was the earliest ice out since we have tracked these dates.
- **Maine Audubon Loon Restoration Project - Julie:**
  - **Loon Raft:** The loon raft has survived the winter, but it is sitting low in the water and needs more soil, moss, and plants. Julie and Sue L. will collect and add these items to the raft in the next few days.
  - **Loon Monitoring:** Starting May 1<sup>st</sup>, members need to do weekly monitoring of loons, nesting, and chicks and report weekly results to the Loon Restoration Project. Members should let Julie know if they can help with this monitoring. Julie will provide links to online monitoring form.
- **Maine Audubon Annual Loon Count – Julie:** Saturday Pond's official 2023 loon count was 2. The number of loon chicks went up from 298 in 2022 to 411 in 2023. This year's loon count will be Saturday, July 20 at 7am. Members will let Julie know if they are interested in joining the annual loon count.
- **Water Conditions – Steve:** Steve will continue his water testing this summer.
- **Invasive Aquatic Plant Monitoring – Sue:** Patrollers will be getting out on the pond soon. LSM has announced 4 new plants to be added in 2023 to the list of "Aquatic Invaders". So far, only one,

Swollen Bladderwort” has been found in Maine. Many workshops and educational opportunities can be found on the LSM website. Maine Lakes Conference is on Friday, June 21, 2024, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM @ University of Maine at Farmington. Some SPWA trustees are planning to attend.

- **Watershed Association Communication:**

- **Newcomer Bags – Amy:** The newcomer bags contain brochures and other information important to lakefront owners, a copy of the 2023 SPWA newsletter and other items. Of the 15 bags we purchased, Amy and Julie have delivered 6 bags to new lakefront owners and have 1 that still needs delivery. There are 5 bags left. 3 bags were sold to watershed members. Members should let Amy know of any new lakefront owners.
- **Dock Drop Packets – Julie:** Julie and Amy will create zip lock bag packets including Maine Audubon Loon brochures, a booklet created by the Otisfield Resilience Committee with information for lakefront owners, and an annual meeting announcement. Packets will be placed on docks once most docks are in. Members will let Julie or Amy know if they are interested in helping with dock drops.
- **SPWA Newsletter – Bill:**
  - **Content Ideas:** Articles will include:
    - President’s Address: Lourdes
    - Retention Pond: Bill
    - Turtles: Amy
    - Invasive Plants: Sue L.
    - Water Testing: Steve
    - Loon Restoration Program Update and Annual Loon Count: Julie
    - Ice In/Out: Not assigned
    - Annual Meeting: Not assigned
    - SPWA Stickers, email addresses, dues: Not assigned
    - Other: Submit ideas to Lourdes
  - **Format:** Articles should be 300 words max. If there needs to be more information added, it can be added to the SPWA website and accessed through a Q code in the newsletter.
  - **Deadlines:** Articles should be edited by one other board member and then submitted to Bill by May 30. Bill will complete the newsletter and send out for printing. Newsletters will be mailed before the annual meeting.
  - **Email Addresses:** The board would like to work toward having members and newsletter recipients’ email addresses so newsletters can be emailed to recipients who prefer that. Newsletter will include a request for email addresses. We will discuss more in the future.
- **SPWA Stickers:** Steve purchased 150 SPWA stickers for \$99.75. We will sell them for \$2.00 each at the annual meeting and by request. There will be a blurb and picture of the sticker in the newsletter.

- **Annual Meeting:**

- **Date and Time:** The SPWA annual meeting will be held at the Pond View beach on Sunday, July 21 at 10am. Julie will check to see if we can hold it in the Otisfield Town Hall Annex in case of rain.
- **Proposed Slate of Trustees – Terms Expiring in 2024:** Amy Brown, Susan Haber, Steve Markarian