



*Saturday Pond Watershed Association*  
40 Ridgewood Terrace      Otisfield, Maine 04270

## SPWA Annual Meeting Minutes – July 25, 2021

Note: This meeting was conducted via zoom due to rainy weather.

**Attendees:** Ellen Attaliades, Bill Bramswig, Amy Brown, Sarah Ecker, Susan Haber, Jerry Haber, Diane King, Phil King, Sue LaFleur, Steve Markarian, Robin Nureck-Bramswig, Eric Williams, Julie Ywoskus

- **Introductions**
  - **Treasurer's Report – Amy Brown**
    - Dues collected: \$600
    - Annual web hosting: \$143.88; Domain \$30/\$40 year
    - Donation: Will donate \$100 to LSM
    - Balance: \$1254.27
    - 57 SPWA members
      - New members: Karin Helgard, Tina Attaliades, Maud & Curt Cronkite
    - Eric Williams will validate bank record to balance
  - **Association Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022**
  - **Pond Water Conditions**
    - **Dam Keeper's Report:** There is no updated dam report for 2021; In May 2021, Dan Peaco stated that the water gauge was ordered by the town and would be installed once received
      - Pond Water Level: The Town of Otisfield controls the boards in the dam; SPWA never wanted to control the pond water level and preferred the Town to be in charge. If the water level on the pond is higher it can damage berms around the pond; if berms are underwater, they can erode into the pond. The use of boulders to prevent erosion is not a good idea
    - **Water Testing: Steve Markarian:**
      - Steve tested 6 times so far in 2021; will test about 12 times total
        - April 6: 7 m
        - May 1: 7m
        - 5.9m
        - 5.8m
        - 5.6m
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- 6.1m
    - Very low boat traffic this year; rain washes contaminants into lake
  - **Lake Monitoring for Invasive Aquatic Vegetation – Sue LaFleur:** Sue has been out twice to monitor for invasive plants. There has been a significant amount of rain. More Pond Weed was found this year but invasive plants were not observed. Sue and Amy attended LSM webinars this year.
  - **Ice In / Ice Out Dates:** Ice In: Dec 8, 2020. Ice Out: April 1, 2021; Ice in/out dates have been tracked since 1998.
  - **Fish Die Off:** 2020 fish die off has not reoccurred this summer. State biologists discussed the 2020 occurrence and surmised that warmer water due to climate increase allowed conditions that permitted the die-off. The group considered whether it would be helpful to have a state biologist attend a meeting. The group discussed whether tracking water temperature might be useful data to collect. Susan H will ask the State. Will has tracked water temperature over a period of time. Should the temperature be checked at the same depth?
- **Pond Wildlife:**
  - **The Official Loon Count** was reported by Robin Nureck-Bramswig. On July 17 Maine loon count day, Robin, Eric and Hildy Arnold counted 2 adult loons. One flew toward Moose Pond. Earlier in the summer, the loons made 2 nests (original one started by Phil & Diane King's dock & completed nest was in northwest corner across from Great Oaks). The loon was on nest; no sign was erected in order to not draw people toward it. The nest was abandoned (maybe flooding or predator taking egg?) and Robin reported the count to the State.
  - **Other Wildlife:** Bald eagle, osprey, heron, turtles, mink, weasel, deer, fox, turkey, skunk, moose (Bell Hill Rd, Big Hill), owl, ducks, fewer coyotes
  - **Seaplane:** A Seaplane landed and took off from southwest cove. Should this cause concern about invasive plants?
- **Watershed Communication:**
  - **Boating on Saturday Pond Brochure:** Jerry Haber put together information to distribute to homeowners to address concerns about larger boats & larger wakes
    - **Brochure Contents:**
      - How boat wakes affect the lake
      - How boat wakes affect other people using the lake
      - What determines the size of a wake
      - What boat owners can do to lessen the size of their wake
    - **Comments:**
      - Who is the audience?: Boat owners on Saturday Pond
      - What is the purpose?: To educate people
      - Should we wait to put in newsletter instead?
      - Boating guidelines for Saturday Pond is on website; how does this relate to Jerry's brochure? This is more specific about boat wakes; how many people actually use the website? Can we update this brochure to include

new wake information? Can we write newsletter article and point to updated brochure on website?

- Should we distribute on docks each season?

- **Decision:** Jerry will update current brochure to include wake information & newsletter will include article with pointer to website brochure; can also give to people launching boats; can distribute at Pondview meeting

- **Newsletter:** Great newsletter; good content and format

- **May 8, 2021 Board of Trustees Planning Meeting Minutes – Julie Ywoskus:** Minutes were reviewed & accepted

- **Board of Trustees Nominees Vote:** Trustee nominees (Susan LaFleur, Robin Nureck-Bramswig, Julie Ywoskus) were accepted & voted in; terms will expire in 2023

By: Julie Ywoskus

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