



Saturday Pond Watershed Association
40 Ridgewood Terrace Otisfield, Maine 04270

SPWA Annual Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2023

Attendees: Ellen Attaliades, Bill Bramswig, Amy Brown, John Cordts, Kathy Cordts, Jeff Ecker, Sarah Ecker, Lourdes Engel, Susan Haber, Jerry Haber, George Gallant, Laurinda Gallant, Karin Helgaard, Dave LaFleur, Sue LaFleur, Steve Markarian, Toni Rabasco, Betty Wantz, Will Young, Julie Ywoskus

- **Introductions:** Attendees introduced themselves
- **Treasurer’s Report – Amy Brown**
 - **Balance:** \$1357.54
 - **Dues Collected:** \$800
 - **Donations Collected:** \$160
 - **Donations:** Donated \$100 to Lake Stewards of Maine to support lake education and plant patrol training and \$100 to Maine Audubon
 - **Membership:** There are 62 SPWA members
- **Maine Loon Restoration Project Presentation – Toni Rabasco:**
 - **Loon Behavior:** Toni distributed and discussed “How Close is Too Close?” and “Living in Loon Territory” brochures which included discussion of loon behavior, nesting calendar, and what we can do to keep loons safe. She suggested one way to help was to join Maine Audubon to support their efforts. Toni answered multiple member questions about loons and the Loon Restoration Project.
 - **Maine Loon Restoration Project:** Toni presented information about the Loon Restoration Project. She discussed the loon raft that was built and launched in April at Saturday Pond by Maine Audubon and SPWA members, and the weekly tracking done by SPWA volunteers. There is greater potential for loon chicks on the pond through the work in this program. Toni gave examples of successful births on other lakes and ponds in the Loon Restoration Program.
- **Saturday Pond Dam Report – Julie Ywoskus / Steve Markarian:** Dan Peaco (previous dam keeper), John Ywoskus (current dam keeper) and Steve visited the dam in June and discussed its management. John and Steve removed debris and logs from the dam multiple times this season. Steve has removed brush around the dam. There are several tall saplings that are growing on the dam that will need to be removed eventually. One sluice way wall has tilted 9 degrees inward from vertical. John asked the Board of Selectman to send someone to look at the wall to determine the cause of the tilt and possible remedy.
- **Water Testing – Steve Markarian:**
 - **Water Quality/Clarity:** The water quality has been tested 4 times this year. Normal clarity is 5-6 meters, but this year’s tests ranged from 3.8 to 5.0 meters which is not as clear as in the past. This is possibly due to the large amount of rain we have had. Steve hopes the clarity will go up.
 - **Phosphorus:** Steve is waiting for paperwork from the State of Maine and will test in August. Readings are normally 5 but increased to 7 last year. Members should let Steve know if they see algae blooms near older camps so that he can test for phosphorus there.
 - **Water Temperature:** The group discussed whether water temperature should be monitored. A thermometer can be purchased but it would require regular calibration. George Gallant has a

thermometer that measures temperature and turbidity at 3 depths, and he offered to help with operation and monitoring.

- **Invasive Aquatic Plant Monitoring – Sue LaFleur:** Sue and other invasive plant monitors (Amy, Julie, Ellen) continue to monitor Saturday Pond for any possible invasive plants. They have only identified native plants. This is good news for Saturday Pond. Sue, Amy, and Julie attended the Maine Lakes conference (Together for Healthy Lakes) hosted by Maine Lakes and Lake Stewards of Maine on June 17, 2023.
- **Ice In/Ice Out Dates:** Ice in was December 21, 2022 and ice out was April 12, 2023.
- **Floating Logs:** There are several floating logs that need to be removed from the lake to prevent boats from hitting them. Dave LaFleur, Steve, and Jerry will move them. NOTE: As of 8/23, all logs moved from the lake should be placed on the shore at Sam's Landing. The Otisfield DPW will move them once several are collected.
- **Loons – Julie Ywoskus:**
 - **Official Loon Count:** Diane Burak and Julie conducted the official loon count on July 15. There were two loons, which in the number we have seen most of the season.
 - **Loon Monitoring:** SPWA members were trained and have conducted weekly loon surveys since April to determine if any loons have nested on the raft or elsewhere on the pond and if chicks were produced. Weekly findings were reported to the Maine Loon Restoration Project. Unfortunately, at this time we have not found a definite nest nor do we have chicks.
- **SPWA Newsletter – Bill Bramswig:** The newsletter had a lot of content this year. Next year, Julie will help with editing. Trustees should email content for next year's newsletter to Bill.
- **Minutes from April 30, 2023 Trustees Meeting – Julie Ywoskus:** The minutes from the April 30 Board of Trustees Planning Meeting were reviewed and accepted.
- **Board of Trustees Nominee Vote:** Trustee nominees (Lourdes Engel [filling open position], Sue LaFleur, and Julie Ywoskus) were accepted and voted on. Their terms will expire in 2025.
- **Fall 2023 Board of Trustees Planning Meeting:** Date TBD

By: Julie Ywoskus