



## *Saturday Pond Watershed Association*

40 Ridgewood Terrace

Otisfield, Maine 04270

### **SPWA Annual Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2025**

The meeting was held at the Otisfield Community Hall due to possible inclement weather.

**Attendees:** Amy Brown, Ray and Paula Archacki, Jacinthe Sirois, Bob and Wanda Wright, Sarah and Mike Barnes, Susan and David LaFleur, Kathy and Gregg Gonzalez, Amy Langevin, Jeri and Steve Markarian, Lee Dassler, Hildi and Eric Arnold, Joshua Gregoire, George Gallant, John and Kathy Cordts, Eric Williams, Scott Lennox, William Young, Julie and John Ywoskus, Ellen Attaliades, Abby Marble, Phil and Diane King

- **Introduction** - Julie Ywoskus opened the meeting and invited watershed members to contact any of the trustees if they want to get involved with any of the SPWA activities. Attendees introduced themselves.
- **Presentation** - Lee Dassler from the Western Foothills Land Trust and the Otisfield Conservation Committee spoke about the proposed Otisfield Community Forest at Moose Pond and invited SPWA members to participate in the planning process.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Amy Brown presented the Treasurer's report, which was discussed and approved. There is a balance of \$932.85, as of July 15, 2025. Upcoming expenses include annual web hosting fee, annual report fee, 2025 newsletter and postage, and donations to Lake Stewards of Maine and Maine Audubon. There are additional Saturday Pond stickers for sale.
- **Watershed Updates**
  - **Pond Water Conditions**
    - **Water Testing** - Steve Markarian explained how he does water testing each year; measuring phosphorus and clarity. Testing is performed at approximately 25 feet. He stated that water clarity is good, and tests found low levels of phosphorus, which is a very positive outcome. He sends reports to Lakes Stewards of Maine.
    - **Saturday Pond Dam** – Steve Markarian explained that the Town of Otisfield has straightened the tilted sluiceway wall and added a steel brace to support it.

- **Invasive Aquatic Plant Monitoring** – Sue LaFleur has patrolled the Pond this summer and has not found any invasive plants. She will send an inventory of native aquatic plants found in Saturday Pond to Lake Stewards of Maine. Sue attended an LSM Plant ID seminar this year.
    - **Ice In/ Ice Out** – Sue LaFleur shared that ice-in was reported to LSM on Dec. 4, 2024; ice-out on March 28, 2025.
  - **Pond Wildlife**
    - **Loon Update** – Julie Ywoskus reported on our work with Maine Audubon and its Loon Restoration Project. Our loon pair nested on the floating loon raft again this year. One of two eggs hatched; a loon chick was observed on the Pond. Sadly, after three days, it died. Maine Audubon noted that other loons appearing on the Pond and their aggressive behavior may have been a contributing factor. Julie performed the Maine Annual Loon Count on July 19 and observed 5 loons.
    - **Other Wildlife** – Members have observed common water snakes, bald eagle, great blue heron, turtles, ducks, raccoons, mink, otters, osprey, owls, hummingbirds, bluebirds and rose-breasted grosbeak.
  - **Watershed Communication** – Amy Brown
    - **Newsletter** - Thank you to Will Young for a wonderful job producing this year's newsletter. Members are encouraged to share ideas for next year's newsletter with one of the trustees or in an email to [saturdaypondwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:saturdaypondwatershed@gmail.com).
    - **Website** - [www.saturdaypond.org](http://www.saturdaypond.org)
    - **Email** - [saturdaypondwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:saturdaypondwatershed@gmail.com)
      - The previous [saturdaypondloons@gmail.com](mailto:saturdaypondloons@gmail.com) address is no longer active.
      - SPWA members are encouraged to provide their email addresses so that we share SPWA information with them electronically.
- **Saturday Pond Watershed Association Trustees** – Watershed members elected Susan LaFleur, Julie Ywoskus, and Phil King as SPWA trustees for a 2-year term.