



Saturday Pond Watershed Association

40 Ridgewood Terrace

Otisfield, Maine 04270

SPWA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – March 29, 2025

Attendees:

Trust Members-Steve Markarian, Susan LaFleur (Zoom), Susan Haber (Zoom), Amy Brown, Eric Williams, Julie Ywoskus.

Guests- Ellen Attiliades, Betty Wantz, Phil King (Zoom), Will Young, Jeri Markarian, Abby Marble, Jerry Haber (Zoom), Dave Langevin.

The meeting was hybrid and was recorded. Julie welcomed Trustees and other attendees who are interested in the Watershed Association.

-Meeting Minutes: Minutes for January 25, 2025, the Trustee's Special Meeting, were approved.

-Treasurer's Report: Amy Brown reported a balance of \$1283.60. Eric has updated the mailing list. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

-Water Testing: Steve Markarian described his method of testing using the Secchi Disc to measure water clarity (done 3x) and water grabs to measure phosphorus (1x during the summer). Phosphorus levels have been good for the past seven years. Results are sent to the State lab in Augusta for analysis. Will volunteered to assist Steve and will go for training.

-Invasive Plants: Sue LaFleur explained that Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) provides training and certification for the identification of invasive aquatics. A survey sheet is sent to LSM at the end of the summer which provides an inventory of the plant material found in the Pond. She encourages residents to accompany her on her paddles to learn what to look for.

Amy discussed Zebra Mussels which can spread easily and are found in New Brunswick and along the St. John River along the border of Canada and Maine. Ways to keep any invasive out of Saturday Pond include washing handheld boats, boat trailers, and draining the boat's bilge far enough away from the Pond, so that the water doesn't run back into the Pond. This information will be included in the Welcome Packets and in the newsletter.

-Loons: Julie provided an update on the condition of the loon raft, which may need additional dirt and plants. Maine Audubon will come out to install an avian guard. The loon nest will be monitored weekly and a "Don't Disturb the Loons" sign will be placed at Sam's Landing along with an additional sign in last year's location. The Annual Loon Count will take place on the 3rd Saturday of July. Dave LaFleur volunteered to install a webcam near the nest to monitor activities.

-Membership and Dues: Amy reported that a significant number of people have not paid their dues. The address label printed on the newsletter has a number that indicates the year that a member's

dues elapse. It was suggested that an article in the newsletter focus on the many activities in which the SPWA is involved and perhaps residents may feel more invested and join the Association.

-Communications: A newcomer's bag of resources is given to new members/homeowners and includes educational literature about loons, fishing lead free, shoreland zoning restrictions, information on hiking trails, boat registration requirements. Trustees will explore putting the various brochures in a small canvas bag and delivering them to a new resident's house.

-Dock Drop Bags: In past years, Amy and Julie have delivered a plastic bag to each dock, secured with a rock and containing information on the Annual Meeting Date, July 4th boat parade, and loon brochures. Jeri Markarian, Susan LaFleur and Ellen Attaliades volunteered to assemble the bags and deliver to docks in June.

-Communication with Members: Julie will request email addresses from all attendees at the Annual Meeting to expedite communication between the SPWA Board and the membership. A new email account will be set up and managed by designated individual(s) who will monitor the account and answer any questions. This will be a new position and Susan LaFleur and Susan Haber will monitor the account.

Steve will sell the remaining SPWA stickers at the Annual Meeting.

-Newsletter: Bill Bramswig is moving out of state. Both Bill and Robin assembled the newsletter, helped with layout and provided photos, for several years. Will Young volunteered to assist with the layout and Amy will collect the articles. Several topics were suggested for this year's edition, including Zebra Mussels, Chinese Mystery snails, loon activity, personal interest article, and land acquisition on Moose Pond by the Town. Articles should be sent to Amy by June 1st and the newsletter will be mailed by June 21st.

-Dam: Steve has had numerous conversations with Rick Micklon regarding dam repairs. The right sluiceway wall of the dam is leaning inwards and Micklon has engaged a welder to provide a temporary brace. The group discussed the need for a more permanent solution. The Town owns the dam on Thompson Lake and Pleasant Lake.

Ice out called on 3/28/25. Wildlife spotted were Barred Owls and Golden Eye Ducks.

-Annual Meeting: Trustees with terms expiring in 2025 are Susan LaFleur and Julie Ywoskus. Trustees voted to recommend this slate of Trustees to Annual Meeting for a vote, along with Phil King as a new Trustee.

Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 20th @ 10 AM. Julie will ask Lee Dassler to speak about the activities of the Land Trust.

Submitted by Susan Haber, Recording Secretary.