



Saturday Pond Watershed Association

40 Ridgewood Terrace

Otisfield, Maine 04270

SPWA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2023

Attendees: Ellen Attaliades, Lourdes Engel, Jerry Haber, Susan Haber, Steve Markarian, Julie Ywoskus

- **July 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes - Julie Ywoskus:** Minutes were reviewed and approved.
- **Treasurer's Report – Amy Brown:** Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.
 - **Balance:** \$1312.19
 - **Dues:** \$540
 - **Donations:** \$135
 - **Members:** 64
- **Watershed Updates:**
 - **Wildlife:** Recently, members have noticed various animals:
 - Loons – 2 are residents, others come to visit occasionally.
 - Turkeys
 - Pileated woodpecker
 - Raccoons
 - Salamanders
 - Northern water snakes
 - Muskrat
 - Lots of small fish; some say fishing has been bad, some say it has been the best.
 - **Saturday Pond Dam:** A contractor has examined the tilted sluiceway wall and Otisfield selectmen are reviewing the cost to repair. They may wedge a board between the walls to hold them until the repair is done.
 - **Ice In:** Board members will work together to determine the ice out date.
 - **Maine Audubon Loon Restoration Project:**
 - **Summer 2023:** Our work with the Loon Restoration Project is complete for this season. The raft will stay in the lake, the loon sign is out and stored at Steve's, and Dave LaFleur will review the game camera footage and share what he finds.
 - **Summer 2024:** Next spring, we will restore the raft, if needed, put on some new soil and plants, and begin our loon surveys. The Loon Restoration Project staff will help us as needed.
 - **Invasive Species:** Some invasive species (including Brown Tail Moth caterpillars, Lantern Flies, and Asian Jumping Worms) are present in Maine and we may need to deal with them in the future.

- **Saturday Pond Water Conditions:**

- **Summer 2023 Water Quality Report – Steve Markarian:** Steve tested 8 times between May 28 and September 3, 2023.
 - **Clarity:** Clarity numbers were worse than normal throughout the summer. That may be a result of lots of rain, mud being pulled into the lake, and high water.
 - **Phosphorus:** Phosphorus levels have been very good this year.
- **Wake Boats:** Pond View's association has voted to ban wake boats from entering Saturday Pond from the Pond View launch. We discussed how to let lakefront property owners know of this change.
- **Invasive Plant Surveying – Sue LaFleur:** Sue led the invasive plant surveying effort again this year with Julie, Amy, and Ellen also surveying. The same native aquatic plants were seen this year, sometimes in the same locations in the lake and sometimes in other places and in different quantities. This is all normal and healthy. Saturday Pond does not have any invasive aquatic plants at this time. Sue summarized our results and submitted them to Lakes Stewards of Maine (LSM).

- **Watershed Association Communication:**

- **SPWA Newsletter**
 - **Content Ideas:** Members should submit content to Bill Bramswig. Content will be submitted in a 3-column format. Julie will create a template for 3 columns. Members will do group edits to make corrections (Julie, Ellen, Susan) before submission.
 - **Formatting:** Julie will work with Bill on final edit. Bill will do the final formatting.
 - **Format Ideas:** Members reviewed newsletters from other lake associations. We may want to visit using a 2-column format and using a higher-grade paper in the future.
- **Newcomer Packets/Bags:** Amy and Julie collected pamphlets and other information to include in the newcomers' bags. They put together bags of information to distribute to 7 "new" lakefront owners. Members discussed how to best identify new lakefront owners in the future so we can distribute bags to them.
- **SPWA Logo and Stickers:**
 - **SPWA Logo:** Members discussed updating the SPWA logo. Steve will consult with his son-in-law, Max, to create a new logo.
 - **SPWA Logo Stickers:** Steve will check price for printing stickers with Diane Burak/Vistaprint and a local business.

- **Election of Officers:** Lourdes Engel was voted in as the new SPWA president.

By: Julie Ywoskus