

Clemons Pond Association Meeting May 26, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Hunt at 10:20am at Bill & Sandy's house. President Richard Hunt called for a moment of silence for our Clemons Pond neighbors who are no longer with us and all who have given their lives in service to our country and those who are presently serving. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Harold Gillman.

Secretary's report: Sandy Tate read the report and Walter Novak made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Harold Gillman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Treasurer's report: Harold Gillman read the report in David Limbert's absence. There is an ending balance of \$633.86 in the account. Walter Novak made a motion to accept the report as read. Paul Sweeney seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Water Quality report: Sandy Tate read the report in Victor Lerish's absence. The monitoring season for 2012 was uneventful with respect to changes in water quality on the pond. Water clarity ranged from 4.6 to 6.7 meters with an average of 5.4 meters. This was only 0.2 meters less than our historic average and very close to the average for all monitored Maine lakes. We did not see the significant loss of water clarity seen in many lakes and ponds last June following the period of very heavy rainfall.

Total phosphorus levels in late summer remained at 6 which is our average. Rising phosphorus could have put us at risk for a serious algae bloom. This is very sensitive to shoreline development, run-off into the pond or leaking septic discharge into the pond will be closely monitored if there is development along "Shepards" property. Oxygen levels down to 13 meters from late spring into fall with levels below 4-5 meters starting in late summer.

Trips to the pond this spring showed excellent water clarity of 6 meters or more. Water temperature on surface on May 19th was 63 degrees and 44 degrees at the bottom. Oxygen levels were excellent.

Web Master's report: David Howard reported that the web site is working on the analytics. Since the Fall 2012 association meeting to 5/26/13 there were 1013 visits to the website, 2556 page views, average of 2.5 pages per visit. Months with the most visits during this time frame: September 2012 with 167 visits. Months with the least visits during this time frame: February 2013 with 88 visits. The general trend in website visits since the Fall 2012 meeting has been a downward one, but the most recent couple has indicated a modest reversal in that trend. New visitors vs. returning visitors during this timeframe: 50% - 50%. 96% of visits are from the US, with the top 5 states being: 1) MA; 2) ME; 3) NH; 4) TX; 5) WV. He also stated that the site can be used to put up items members have for sale.

Loon report: Chris Shields said that the loons have been seen on the nesting platform.

Old Business:

Annual Dues: President Richard Hunt reminded members that the annual dues were now payable for the 2013 year.

Day Site Development/ Sheppard's Property Development: Only one house can built on the property because of unresolved right of way problem.

Historical Committee report: No report.

Power boats on the pond: The petition was signed at the Fall 2012 meeting and submitted. Pursuant to a letter acknowledging receipt of our petition, Bill Tate had a telephone conversation with Becky Orff, Secretary Specialist, Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and was advised the following:

- A public hearing with the Commissioner in attendance will be scheduled in Hiram probably starting at 6:30 PM
- The hearing can be scheduled within 17 to 24 days

- A notification will be published in the 5 major state newspapers requiring a one week time frame
- Commentary will conclude 10 days after the hearing
- Should the Commissioner favor our petition, it will then go to a 10 person panel for a final vote
- A member of that panel will be present at the hearing and report back to the full panel
- To facilitate as many association members as possible, we determined to schedule the hearing next spring

As the petitioner of record, Bill Tate is expected to make the argument for its passage and thereafter, the meeting will be open for discussion. Bill requested from the membership today any, strategy to determine our best argument to be put forth. Several suggestive comments made by the membership during the meeting will be presented at the hearing. Harold Gillman stated the town hall meeting room can be made available after hours to accommodate the hearing. Tuesday July 9th or Wednesday July 10th may be possible dates. Members were advised that letters with your comments concerning this matter can be sent if you are unable to attend. Bill Tate will contact Secretary Orff to start the process and report back to President Richard Hunt.

Invasive Aquatic Plant report: Sandy Tate read Pat Clifford's report that stated that the Maine Volunteer Lake program has scheduled 2 workshops for our region this summer:

- 1.) Introductory Workshop will be held on Thursday, July 11, 2013
- 2.) Field Workshop will be held at Bickford Pond on Saturday, August 10, 2013

Times and exact locations are yet to be determined. Also, the Maine Lakes Environmental Assoc. may schedule an evening invasive aquatic plant ID lecture at their office in Bridgton and she will pass on the details when they are available.

New Business:

July Picnic: The picnic will be held the 3rd Saturday in July, 7/20/2013 at 1 pm at Victor & Joanna Lerish's cottage. Volunteers for the various tasks are:

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| Phone – Louise Novak & Sandy Tate | Shopping – Pat Clifford |
| Set-up – Paul Sweeney | Clean up – Harold Gillman |
| Cooks – Tony Materna & Pat Clifford | Trash – Harold Gillman |

Meetings: Harold & Dolly Gillman will host the Fall 2013 meeting. Volker & Dot Tolls will host the Spring 2014 meeting.

Other business: Cola still has not corrected Clemon's Pond Assoc. listing.

Do to the increase in cost for supplies and postage for our mailings, it was discussed and agreed upon that future notices and meeting information will be done by e-mail and posted on our web site. Secretary Sandy Tate will update the member's e-mail addresses and those who do not wish to have their e-mail address used will continue to receive postcards.

Vice President Harold Gillman updated the membership with the events in the town and state ie. fireworks law, school renovation budget, availability of the Hiram newsletter, new items that can be recycled at the transfer station, and beware that we still have moose in the area!

Sally Williams discussed the upcoming Library Sale. Plants and books will be on sale. Also membership applications for the Hiram Historical Society were made available. The next meeting will on June 8, 2013.

President Richard Hunt asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Walter Novak made a motion to adjourn. Harold Gillman seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. President Richard Hunt adjourned the meeting at 11:22 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Tate, Secretary