

Minutes: Clemons Pond Association Spring Meeting
May 28, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by President Doug Bradley, at Normie and Dave Limbert's home. A moment of silence was called for Clemons Pond neighbors who are no longer with us, in particular Dolores Leveque who passed away in January 2017, as well as for service men and women who gave their lives in service to the country and who are currently serving. Normie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report: Joanna Lerish read the minutes from the September 2016 pond association meeting. Victor Lerish made a motion to accept the minutes as written and it was seconded by Normie. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Limbert presented the treasurer's report for the period September 4, 2016 to May 28, 2017. The balance in September was \$710.14. Since that time, income from dues was \$40.00; expenses included \$35.00 for the Annual Report to Maine Secretary of State and \$50.00 for the Maine Lakes Society Dues for 2017. Our current ending balance is \$665.14. This was comparable to the balances in the spring of 2016 (\$557.21), 2015 (\$657.47), and 2014 (\$726.94). Sandy Tate made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and it was seconded by Normie. The motion passed unanimously.

Water Quality Report: Victor Lerish reported that the 2016 water monitoring season did not reveal unfavorable trends. Our average water clarity for last year was 5.37 meters which was slightly less than the historic average. Oxygen levels followed the usual seasonal pattern with typical late summer desaturation. Phosphorus testing done in 8/16 was stable when compared to the previous year at 7 parts per billion. We don't yet have the summary report from Maine DEP comparing Clemons Pond to the other ponds and lakes. The two testing events this spring show improving water clarity, encouraging given the recent rains and heavy pollen. Surface water temperature on 5/27/17 was 62.6 degrees F. We continue to participate in a long term climate change study at U of Maine Farmington. VLMP has developed a near Real-Time Data Website, to which there will be a link from our website. Data from our water clarity monitoring will be uploaded to this site. Thanks as always to Nancy Serrell for her continued assistance.

Invasive Aquatic Plant Report: Pam Mullens reported for Pat Clifford. An invasive plant survey was completed in September 2016 and no invasive plants were found. Earlier in the summer, the metaphyton was less prevalent than in previous years, but later in the season seemed to rebound to its usual levels. This was observed in other ponds in Maine and was possibly due to a reduced Spring runoff as a result of drought conditions. European Naiad was found growing in Spalding Pond, a 100 acre pond in York County. It was removed by hand by DEP staff and divers. That pond already had an infestation of variable leaf milfoil. Pat provided lists of upcoming Maine Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Invasive plant patrol workshops. The list is available at www.mainevlmp.org. The list will also be posted on our website.

Webmaster's Report: Doug reported for Dave Howard. A general downward trend in website usage continues (in the range of -30% to -35 %). The top 5 pages for this period trended similarly to past reports and are (in descending order): Home, Neighbors, Pond Business, Pond Life, Gallery. Maine and MA were the top states from which most of the websites visits originated. After one year, Dave's assessment of the new website hosting service is positive. No glitches or downtime in the hosting of the website have been noticed. If the association is happy with the service, he would recommend continuing with Interserver for our website hosting and domain name services for another year. The renewal payment will be due May 30. Payment: \$54 for web hosting and \$1.99 for domain name renewal.

In response to a question, Doug will ask Dave to discuss how the webserver counts hits. There was discussion regarding a Facebook page. Doug reported that it was been previously discussed and tabled. Sandy and Bill Tate's daughter in law, Michelle, offered to talk about what she had recently learned about the use of social media to improve usage. A discussion regarding the purpose of the website was started but continued under Other Business.

Loon Report: Chris Shields reported that the loon platform is floating and intact. The loons have returned but there has not been much activity on the platform yet this year. There are now two loons although 6 were seen at the start of the spring. Clemons Pond is large enough to support one pair.

Old Business:

- Annual dues for 2017 are due
- Issues related to the Day/Shepard property do not seem relevant and do not need to be carried any more.
- LakeSmart Program: Doug was told by someone at LakeSmart that they do not have the manpower to complete individual home assessments. Instead, he could pay someone from DEP to assess his property or the association could send at least two people to be trained by LakeSmart. Those people would then conduct the assessments. Doug saw a list of participating ponds and individuals on the LakeSmart website, and can see a trend of increasing participation. In discussion, Normie asked if someone from a different pond should do the assessments so that it is an independent assessment. Nancy noted that the program is not a legal program, just a volunteer educational program to learn how to make property better. Doug will go to one of the one-day training programs in July (5th or 7th), and will ask Dave to post the dates on the website.
- Shore Land Zoning: Doug spoke to Steve Sanborne, the Hiram code enforcement officer. The state has approved new regulations but the town has not yet decided which regulations it will adopt. The question was raised: Do the more restrictive regulations apply if the town and state disagree? Mr. Sanborne will come to the fall meeting and outline what is proposed in the new regulations and answer questions.
- Historical Committee Report: no report
- The fall meeting will be at Victor and Joanna Lerish's home.

New Business:

- The annual picnic will be July 15, at Charlie and Ava's camp, at 1 p.m. Dave Limbert will take care of notifications, Pam and Pat will do the shopping, Dave and Normie will

bring a gas grill and take care of set up, Doug will cook, and everyone will pitch in to help with clean up.

- In memory of Dolores Leveque, there was discussion regarding a donation to the Alzheimer's Association. Chris Shields moved that we donate \$50 to the Alzheimer's Association in Dolores' memory. Normie seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Officer elections: Dave, Joanna, and Doug volunteered to stay on for another term. We may need a nominating committee to fill the role of vice president. Chris proposed that we leave the question on the table and see if someone comes forth and volunteers to fill that role rather than set up a formal nominating committee. We will vote on the slate in the fall.
- The Spring 2018 meeting will be at the home of Margo and Steve Feeney, 224 Notch Road.

Other Business

- The beaver dam is creating a serious problem elevating the pond water level and may be contributing to the mosquito issues. There was discussion regarding beaver activity as well as known management strategies. Dave Limbert volunteered to contact the game warden regarding regulations. Nancy moved that Dave contact the game warden to see if the same rules apply in 2017 as in 2004. Dave seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Facebook link to our website: Doug recalled that two years ago the association decided not to have a link to Facebook. As the website currently meets the needs of the association very well, there was discussion regarding the actual importance of increasing web usage. The question was posed regarding the benefit of surveying association members to find out how the website might best serve them. Michelle offered to help develop a survey through a program called Survey Monkey. Doug will talk with the webmaster and turn this into an agenda item for the fall meeting.
- Victor reported that VLMP is holding a full day educational workshop on the last Saturday of July. He will be attending and invited anyone to join him. More information is available on the VLMP website.
- A discussion regarding mosquitos will be tabled until the fall.

Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Chris. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Lerish
Secretary

