

Summer 2019

Property Owners of Lovewell Pond...2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the Rappatak community lodge on Saturday, July 6, 2019 at 10:00AM. A lake update letter and dues form was sent to all members prior to the meeting. An agenda was provided at the meeting.

Introduction and Review of the Agenda - The meeting was called to order at 10AM by Gene Bergoffen and the agenda was reviewed. Gene thanked the 30 attendees for attending. The attendees approved the 2018 Meeting Minutes as written. Thank you to the Rappatak community for the use of the lodge for the meeting. It was particularly nice to have the meeting on the screen porch overlooking the lake. .

Nominations and Election of Officers – As we have done for the past 14 years, the attendees voted to extend the same Board members. Please consider serving as a board member. Just send Gene an e-mail at bergoffen@roadrunner.com and we'll get you up to speed. It's been 15 years for so many of us and time to transition with some new folks, new plans and new ideas to the LPA.

Invasive Plant and Inspection Program - Peter Wilkens noted that due to the more than double inspections performed at the boat ramp in 2018, the state approved Lovewell Pond for the full \$2000 Courtesy Boat Inspection grant for 2019. Peter submitted the grant application back in March and noted that Lovewell Pond inspected more than 1500 boats in 2018. This includes required trailers, canoes and kayaks. On one very busy day in 2018, Allison, our only inspector at the boat ramp, inspected 90 boats. That is quite a feat. This year's inspections started a little slower due to the weather and the flooding situation however it is definitely picking up. Only July 4th of this year, 67 boats were inspected. It seems that the Lovewell Pond boat ramp gets busier every year, particularly with the Saco River access, the media press, and the livery brochures. Lovewell Pond is definitely on the map. This increases the risk of invasive plant hitchhikers such as variable leaf milfoil, etc. on boats that are launched in the pond after possibly coming from another infested body of water. It also makes boat, kayaks and canoes and trailer inspections critical. The key emphasis this year is "Clean, Drain and Dry". Boaters are urged to clean off any mud, plants and animals from boats, jet-ski's, trailers and other equipment. The boat live well, engine and equipment should be drained well away from surface waters and anything that comes in contact with water should be dried between use at different lakes. Please also remind your renters of this and that they also need a Milfoil sticker on their boat. These can now be purchased on line. With all of the activity at the boat ramp, we could use some help, if not this year maybe next year. Please let us know if you can lend a hand, it will be so appreciated. Allison continues to do an amazing job and keeps things calm in a chaotic atmosphere, not to mention keeping her keen **eye out for those nasty invasives. She's a real pro and we are fortunate to have her as an inspector.**

Porta-Potty – There was some discussion about the porta-potty and it's late arrival down at the boat ramp. The state manages and pays for this. Although calls were made, it did not show up until later in the season. Because of the negative eco and lake ramifications of it not being in place earlier in the

season, we are looking into other options for next year to ensure timely arrival. This is crucial in keeping the lake clean and healthy.

Suspicious Plants - Some folks mentioned that they saw what appeared to be a large cabbage plant on the shoreline and when you touched it, it broke apart. We are looking into this. Also there was mention of a large snail found in the mud near the boat ramp. We need to be extra alert as there are some new micro-organisms out there now, such as Asian clams and snails. We ask that if anyone see's anything suspicious, that they place it in a zip lock bag, mark the location where it was found and the date and if possible a photo of the area and contact peter at peterwilkens@yahoo.com. We'll send it off for identification.

Plant Identification Paddle – This paddle, starting at the boat ramp, was scheduled for August 15 with Laurie Callahan, a biologist, however due to a scheduling conflict, it had to be postponed. Allison is working to possibly reschedule the paddle to sometime in September. Please e-mail Allison with your interest in participating at allisonforan29@gmail.com. A date will be provided.

Loons – The floating nest was placed out by Pine Island again on May 18th and a pair of loons began nesting on June 11th. They took turns sitting on the nest and keeping the eggs warm however as the time for hatching came, around July 7th, both sadly abandoned the nest leaving behind 2 unhatched eggs. This is the first time in 14 years that the nest was vacated by the loons.. very troubling. Per the Maine Audubon, abandonment could be caused by a number of things such as close boat and jet-ski traffic, human traffic or possibly fireworks. Loons do not tolerate fireworks well. We are surprised that the loon eggs are still sitting on the nest and that the eagles or wildlife predators have not found them. Next year, we will place a few floating signs near Pine Island alerting boats, jet-ski's and humans to keep a safe distance away from the nest. There isn't too much we can do about the fireworks but send out a friendly appeal to keep them to a minimum for the sake of the loons.

We've had a few strange loon incidents reported this summer too. We had a loon that seemed to be in a great deal of distress calling out for an extended time...maybe caught on something. We were alerted and Peter called the Maine Fish and Game. They were unable to respond for a few hours. We went back to the sight and the loon thankfully had freed himself. Later in the week, there was another report of a loon in distress near the boat ramp. It's thought that it might be the same loon. The folks from the Maine Audubon came and tried to capture the loon but to no avail. It put up quite a fight. About a week later the folks from the Audubon came back to the pond with a loon that was found on wet road pavement near a large puddle in Brownfield. After checking him out, they released him into Lovewell Pond. There is some speculation that this might be the same distressed loon??

We have not heard our loon mascot "Squeaky" this year. Has anyone heard his very distinctive high pitched loon calls???. We miss Squeaky and hope he just took a summer sabbatical from Lovewell Pond and will return back next year. We have however heard a loon with a raspy sort of call and wonder if he might have something caught in his throat. We haven't heard him in a while though. Has anyone else heard him? Hopefully he's ok and has not ingested a lead fishing lure which is poisonous to

loons and is also illegal in the State of Maine. Please take a minute to inspect your tackle boxes and dispose of any lead fishing gear. We love our loons...handle with care!!!

The Loon Count – This occurred on July 20th on a beautiful clear morning. We joined the Freidmans and were out on the lake with our binoculars from 7am until 7:30 am. We saw a total of 7 adult loons. We were sad not to see any chicks this year. We sent off our findings to the Maine Audubon. The comprehensive data should be available on their website around October. Check it out.

Water Quality Testing - Paul Fortin continues to perform seiki disk testing 4 times a year, testing for water clarity. The results have been good and water has been relatively clear. Josh Everett has coordinated the more extensive water testing. This data is collected and then sent off for analysis. It is also forwarded to the Saco River Corridor Commission for inclusion in their analysis from the Saco River. It's available at www.srcc.maine.org. Some folks have noticed that the water seems warmer this year and in some places almost hot. They are also seeing more algae bloom and weed growth in the lower end of the pond. A Level 3 plant inspection is slated for next year however Peter is checking with LEA to see if there might be a window for the survey this year. A Plant 3 Survey is the most comprehensive survey performed in the water by divers. The pond and plant life are examined below the surface. The last Level 3 Plant survey was completed 9 years ago. We now have a good established baseline to compare the findings. In an effort to maximize the benefit of the survey, it would be helpful if you could respond to the following questions and e-mail your responses to peterwilkens@yahoo.com

1. Have you have noticed any plant growth changes on your shoreline the past two years?
2. Have you seen any new or different algae blooms?
3. Have you seen any change to your below surface water condition?
4. Please identify where you are located on the lake and where the changes are located.
5. Provide any other information that will assist with the survey.

Buoys - The buoys are in good shape so little to report in this area.

Lovewell Pond Website – We are looking to re-activate the Lovewell Pond website. This is a great communication tool. Work is in process...stay tuned.

Review and Approval of the Budget – Paul Fortin provided copies of the latest budget to all meeting attendees. There was discussion for a Level 3 Plant Survey of the entire lake and the membership approved the appropriation of funding for this effort. The budget was reviewed and approved by the membership.

A Few General Comments: Thanks to everyone for receipt of your dues and special thanks for any additional donations also to Mark DuBois for the \$2500 grant used for overall lake maintenance. Our boat inspection program is paramount in keeping our lake healthy and enjoyable. Prevention from invasive plants is the key as it is enormously expensive to control an infestation after it occurs. Enjoy the rest of the summer and look up at the night sky every now and then and watch with delight, the many meteor showers flashing across the night sky...oh, and don't forget the amazing full moon show too. Ahhh!!! Maine and Lovewell Pond!!! Splendid!!!

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:10AM. The membership will be notified in the Spring as to the date and location of the 2020 Annual Meeting

Respectfully Submitted:

Colleen Wilkens, Secretary