

Province Lake Association Annual Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2015

Welcome: Pete Dinger, President, called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM and welcomed everyone to the annual meeting of the Province Lake Association (PLA). Pete introduced the board members, encouraged people to volunteer, buy PLA logo clothing and donate to the PLA.

A motion was made to accept the 2014 meeting minutes as published in Province Lake Association Web site. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Membership Report: Mindy Schuman-Vye

PLA membership is currently at 135 members with \$3,375 in paid dues and \$2,420 in additional donations for a total of \$5,795. It is noteworthy that 44% of members have made an additional donation.

Treasurer's Report for 2014: Thom Townsend.

(plus a preliminary view of the first half of 2015)

Balance on hand on January 1, 2014 was \$37.5K. During 2014, PLA income from all sources was \$43.2K, while expenses were \$40.0K.

Major contributions to income came from:

- Members (dues and contributions) totaled \$5.9K
- State of NH grant: \$16.6K
- Towns of Wakefield & Effingham contributed \$4.0K
- Fundraising yielded \$3.2K (net)
- Trust fund grant: \$10.0K

Major expenses were:

- Lake & Watershed Protection research & plan: \$23.4K
- Initial runoff remediation projects: \$6.5K
- Lake Host Weed inspections: \$3.6K
- Insurance & admin expenses: \$2.0K
- Association partnerships: \$1.5K

During the 1st half of 2015, we have received

- State of NH grant: \$4.7K
- Fund raising breakfast; \$1.8K (net)
- Membership dues & contributions: \$5.8K
- Sale of Province Lake apparel Logo Items: \$1.0K
- With offsetting expenses of:
 - Water quality analysis: \$1.3K
 - Water run-off project at boat ramp: \$1.8K
 - Lake Association partnerships: \$2.5K
 - Lake Host weed watching payroll: \$4.0K
 - Province Lake apparel Logo Items: \$1.0K
 - Admin & miscellaneous expenses: \$0.3K
- PLA cash balance is \$42.7K (which includes both working capital and long term reserves).

Auditor's Report: Michelle Shank

The bank statements and supporting documents generated from their operation during January 1, 2014 thru December 31, 2014 were reviewed. She confirmed a starting balance of \$37,198.76 on

January 1, 2014 and the ending balance of \$40,376.50 on December 31, 2014. She acknowledged the treasurer's report and all records appear to be complete and maintained accurately with detailed breakdown for both income and expenses and supporting receipts.

The Treasurer's Report and Auditor's Report were moved, seconded and accepted unanimously

Fund-raising breakfast: Donna Davis

The breakfast was attended by a record 235 people resulting in \$1800 cash revenue. The 30 volunteers generated \$7300 in matching funds for a total of \$9100. The attendees expressed thanks to Donna and Carl Davis for hosting this fourth annual breakfast event and to the volunteers helping with all the work.

Weed Watching: Carl Davis:

Catching the weeds early is very key to weed control. All sections of the lake shore (with the exception of along Rt. 153) are covered by volunteers conducting a monthly weed watch during the warm weather months. To date no invasive plants have been discovered in Province Lake water.

Water Sampling Report: Steve Craig

Sampling is conducted at five locations April through October and deep areas May through October. The four main tributaries are sampled each year and during storm events. Beavers constructed a dam inside the Bonnyman culvert in the island cove causing the wetland area water to rise to road level. Wakefield contracted to remove the beavers and clear the culvert. UNH is assisting Steve with the monthly sampling and conducting the testing in the UNH labs. The 2014 UNH water quality results are posted at provincelake.org.

Lake Host Program: Pete Dinger

The PLA is funding an additional day of boat inspection for invasive species at the ramp for 2015. With support from NH Lakes, Wakefield and Effingham, coverage is provided by the Batchelder family every Friday through Monday plus the week before and after July fourth. This is the fourth year the Batchelder's have been hired to conduct the inspections. To date no invasive species have been found.

Water Control and Lake Level: Tucker Vye

No beaver activity on the South River. Water control is good.

Pete Dinger on behalf of the PLA recognized two outstanding contributors to Province Lake **Steve Craig** for his long-term work taking water samples in all kinds of weather. He was given a sweatshirt, hat and gift certificate.

Donna Davis for her tireless dedication to conducting fundraising events and coordination of numerous events to benefit Province Lake. Donna was given a gift certificate.

General Discussion and questions from attendees:

- We lost two of our past presidents this year including Bob Connelly. Recently deceased long term residents at Province Lake will be memorialized on the PLA web site.
- Cyanobacteria - no blooms have been noted to date.
- Concerns were expressed about parking along the beach adjacent to Rt. 153. It was noted that this is of general concern and will be considered as part of the current road erosion project.
- Is Province the only lake in the 7 lakes region that does not have invasive weeds? No, but several lakes near Province do have Eurasian Milfoil. Boat inspections are very important to maintaining our

invasive free status. We do need volunteers to fill in for the Batchelders when they cannot cover the boat ramp or to provide additional coverage.

- Rt 153 second annual litter cleanup is scheduled for Saturday August 29th - Donna Davis requested people save broom sticks to be made into “pickers” for the cleanup.

Watershed Grant Status Presentation: Linda Schier AWWA & Sally Soule DES

Grant #2 was awarded;

- Princeton Hydro was selected as the contractor to develop an erosion control plan for Rt. 153 and Bonnyman Road.
- The two residential properties with the most significant contribution to erosion into the lake will be targeted for design and implementation of erosion control measures.
- Ten high risk septic systems will be identified and evaluated free of charge.

-Sam Wilson is the coordinator of the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance Youth Conservation Corp. Five local students hired for the summer continue the installations of BMP erosion control measures at area lake properties

-Work with the Golf Course is ongoing – Province Lake Golf Course is working towards certification as an Audubon approved site.

-Peter recognized and thanked Sally & Linda for their tireless work and dedication to obtaining and managing the DES/EPA grants for Province Lake.

Presentation: Chris Martin Senior Biologist from NH Audubon provided an entertaining and informative overview of an eagle’s life

50/50 Raffle was won by Diane and Rich Olson who donated the entire winnings to the PLA – a most generous gesture that was much appreciated.

Jim Murphy made a short presentation looking for input the Gaffney Library improvement project. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Luce
Secretary, Province Lake Association

NOTES ON BALD EAGLES

- The bald eagle was on the NH endangered list in the 1970's
- This was removed in 2007
- The average life span is 20 to 30 years
- They eat water based animals - birds, ducks, geese, gulls, herons, muskrats & turtles
- The white tail and head does not appear until the eagle is 3 years old
- The plumage of the young serve as effective camouflage
- They steal food from other birds including the osprey
- They stay in this area all winter
- Winter food is road kill
- The immature eagle is larger than the adult because their feathers are larger to aid them in taking off. As adults these feathers molt
- Night roost sites gives shelter from the cold
- They have been monitored for over 30 years on the second Saturday in January
- They breed around the age of 3 or 4
- By March they are laying eggs
- They maintain the nest year round
- They lay 1 to 3 eggs and incubate for 35 days
- Late winter snow storms can cause a failure in incubation
- The young are 11 to 12 weeks old before they take flight but continue to depend on parents for food
- There are currently 27 active nests, 24 successes and 41 young eagles
- Common cause for the death of young eagles is carelessness when eating road kill and hit cars when taking flight