

Province Lake Association Annual Meeting

July 20, 2013

Welcome: Jon Samuelson, President, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM and welcomed everyone to the annual meeting of the Province Lake Association (PLA). He thanked the Porters and the golf course for use of the facility and for the coffee and danish.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made to accept the 2012 meeting minutes as published on the Province Lake Association Web site. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Fundraising Report:

1. The breakfast hosted by Donna and Carl Davis to support the Lake Host Program and Watershed Management Plan was a big success. We doubled last year's attendance.
2. Raffle announcement. A 50-50 raffle will be drawn today. Tickets are being sold during the day for the Chiminea and other golf tournament prizes, but the drawing for these will occur at the golf tournament in a week.
3. Golf tournament on Monday July 29. This is a fundraising event for PLA. It's a great way to support the lake. It's a scramble format so you can be a poor golfer and have fun. There's a barbecue afterwards and raffles on some holes.

Septic survey: Anyone within 250 feet of the lake or a tributary will receive a copy of a septic survey in the mail asking that they complete the survey on-line or by mail. On Aug. 24 volunteers will be walking all of these properties and completing the surveys with the property owners if one has not already been completed and submitted. A \$100 gift certificate to Mulligans Restaurant can be won for completing it.

Volunteers are needed: for weed watching, septic survey, Lake Host Program, a webmaster, fundraising activities, water testing. Volunteer sign-up sheets are on a table.

Treasurer's Report: Thom Townsend reported.

This past fiscal year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 there was \$19,744 income. After expenses of \$19,777, we ended the year with \$5,688 in the checking account. In addition we have two CDs totaling about \$22,000 set aside for emergencies. Total assets as of June 30 are \$27,688.

Audit report. Michelle Schank audited the books for July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013. She reported that the bookkeeping is meticulous and accurate.

Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Membership Report: Peter Dinger reported that this has been a banner year. There are 32 new members this year who never joined before. We have 102 members this year, and had 110 last year. There are 58 people who did not re-up this year. Amounts received thus far are: \$1,850 in contributions sent with dues of \$2,550 for a total of \$4,400.

Other Business:

Lake Host Program: Mary McLoughlin oversees the operation of this program for PLA. We are funded in part by the NH Lakes Association and the towns of Wakefield and Effingham. We are required to match the grant via funds or volunteer time. The program is overseen by the NH Lakes Association. Lake monitors get trained and work at the boat ramps weekends and holidays during the boating season. We have grants to pay for their time but volunteers are needed to fill in when there is not enough coverage.

The Davis' hosted a breakfast fund-raiser in June that raised funds to cover some of the costs for the Lake Hosts as well as the Watershed Plan. We cannot afford to cover 7 days a week from 7 am to 7 pm, but would need more volunteers to cover more than the weekends (Fridays thru Sundays), all holidays, and first entire week of July. The town of Wakefield contributed more funds this year which allowed more coverage. If invasive weeds get into this lake it will fill the entire lake, be very costly to keep at bay, and we'll never get rid of them.

Website and Facebook: We have a newly designed Website this year and launched a new Facebook account. Members are encouraged to submit more items: information, photos, announcements, etc. Emails from members are the fastest way we can get information out to you on these media.

Noise on lake at night: Late at night there is sometimes too much noise. Please let neighbors know that come 11 pm it would be courteous to bring in the boats and shut off the music.

Recognition:

Volunteer of the Year: This new award is given to a non-Board member who does the most for the association.

Donna Luce was named Volunteer of the Year and given a gift certificate. Her participation was great during the Watershed survey and the fundraising breakfast.

Carl and Donna Davis used their vacation week and house to host a breakfast as a fundraiser. They fed about 180 people raising \$1800 for the Watershed Plan and Lake Host program, which will be doubled when you include the volunteer time that will be used toward the match.

Cyanobacteria blooms: This is in every lake, but only blooms when conditions are right. It was really bad around large parts of the lake during a couple of weeks in July. DES has taken samples. They issued a warning based on 3 samples one day that were extremely high, but yesterday the various samples were well below cutoffs for concern. The Watershed Plan will hopefully find ways to fix this problem. In the 1980's, an aerator was put into the lake in an attempt to deal with cyanobacteria blooms (currently this method is not known to be effective).

Open items from the floor:

1. Some discussion ensued about cyanobacteria to clarify some of what Jon said about it.
2. Some people have cut some really big trees although there were regulations about it. Response: The restrictions are less stringent now, and you can always cut down dying or damaged trees since they pose a risk. Leaving the stump protects the water edge. Hurricane damage also contributed to the need to cut damaged trees to prevent property damage. We know of no illegal cutting.

Watershed Plan: Carl Davis is chairman of the funded watershed plan project for the first 2-year segment. He introduced our guest speakers for a report on the projects progress thus far. The speakers were Forrest Bell & Jennifer Jespersen of FB Environmental and Sam Wilson of Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA). A brief summary of the major points is provided here.

Why a watershed plan is needed: Province Lake is impaired primarily due to cyanobacteria blooms, and the primary nutrient that contributes to these blooms is phosphorus. Phosphorus levels, while stable over the past 20 years, are higher in Province Lake (14.3 ppb) than most other NH lakes due to the shallow depth (9 ft. average, 16 ft. at deepest point). Levels in nature are about 7 ppb.

Steps involved in the watershed plan: The plan starts with assessment of water quality and the watershed, modeling of the watershed, recommending a target lower phosphorus level, and recommending Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are structural (e.g., road paving) or non-structural (e.g., having a road swept regularly). An action plan will be written, presented at public meetings (January 2014) and finalized by summer 2014. While some phosphorus occurs naturally in any lake, three types of sources of extra phosphorus involve fertilizer, erosion and septic systems. Fertilizer: The golf course switched to phosphorus-free fertilizers about 12 years ago so there appears to be no major source of fertilizers around. Erosion: A survey of erosion sources around the lake was completed in May 2013, and an analysis of land development plans (next 20-30 years) will be done. Septic: The septic system survey will be completed in August 2013 to look for septic systems close to the lake that are old, may be damaged, or are not pumped often enough.

In the 1970's, when cyanobacteria blooms occurred, aeration of the lake and adding copper sulfate were tried as remedies. There is no evidence that aeration had any effect, and we need to assess what that copper sulfate might be doing to lake quality now.

Some initial findings of the watershed survey:

1) Route 153 is a problem due to road edge erosion and run-off. We have held a meeting with ME and NH DOTs about putting a guardrail along the beach side, stabilizing the edge, and adding plants along the edge to filter run off. The guard rail would not only protect those needed plants and prevent deterioration of the road edge, but would keep people from launching boats in areas the Lake Host program does not monitor for invasive weeds.

2) Minor improvements are needed at the lake edge of the golf course.

3) The erosion survey developed a map of erosion sites. These occurred all around the lake and were not concentrated in any one area.

A) By land use: Of 61 erosion sites, there were 21 residential, 14 beach access, 12 along roads, 6 driveways, 3 at boat access areas, 3 shoreline and 3 misc.. Road sites are on 153, Bonnyman Road, and Baily Road.

B) By site remediation priority: 28% were high impact but low cost to fix (<\$500 for supplies, with Youth Conservation Corps providing the labor), 36% are medium impact, and 36% are low impact. Letters have gone out to landowners with the high impact sites. If you receive such a letter, call the Acton-Wakefield Watershed Alliance to develop a remediation plan.

A question and answer period was then conducted with a panel of watershed experts at the front of the room fielding questions from the floor. Those experts were members of FB Environmental, AWWA and NH DES.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Damaris J. Rohsenow
Secretary, Province Lake Association