

PLA Annual Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, July 18, 2020  
9.00 Zoom Recording (posted on the PLA website)

The meeting began at 9:00. Lorie Dunne, President welcomed everyone to this recorded version of our 2020 PLA Annual Meeting. A recorded Annual Meeting was deemed the most appropriate way to communicate this year with our membership given COVID-19 and our goal is to keep everyone healthy. She thanked all who have helped keep our lake healthy and clean. She also thanked our numerous partners: Towns of Effingham & Wakefield, NH Lakes, AWWA, NH DES, Green Mountain Conservation Group and NH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program and UNH

Lorie then did a round table to introduce each member of the PLA Board, Water Quality Coordinator and Dam Master. The following people spoke of where they are on the lake and their duty on the board: Lorie Dunne, Jim Aiken, Thom Townsend, Donna Luce, Carl Davis, Pete Dinger, Rick Greene, David Lajoie, Jon Samuelson, Mindy Schuman Vye, Tucker Vye, Steve Craig and Mark Hempton.

Business Reports:

**Secretary's Report: Donna Luce**

Several weeks prior to the meeting, a survey was sent electronically to all members of record as of July 1, 2020. These members were asked to vote on approval of the minutes of last year's meeting as well as approval of nominated board members. The Minutes of the 2019 PLA Annual Meeting were unanimously approved. The following people were unanimously approved to fulfill another term: Thom Townsend (2 yr), Donna Luce (2 yr), Carl Davis (2 yr), Jon Samuelson (2 yr), Rick Greene (2 yr), Tucker Vye (2 yr) and David Lajoie (1 yr).

**Financial Report: Thom Townsend,**

Thom began his report saying that it is never too late to pay your dues.

2019 began with a balance of \$44,636.

During the year we had an income of \$24,200 with the major components from members' dues and contributions: \$9.6K contributions from the towns of Wakefield and Effingham of \$4.4K to offset much of our Lake Host payroll expenses, and grant money of \$8.0K, coordinated by AWWA, as reimbursement for the recently completed lake bottom Sediment Study by Don Kretchmer.

Our expenses during 2019 totaled \$20,800. Included in this were the Sediment Study expenses of \$6.9K, our Lake Host payroll of \$5.0K, Partnership contributions (primarily AWWA and NH Lakes) of \$2.7K, water quality sampling and testing by UNH of \$1.8K, Insurance expenses of \$1.7K, and beaver control expense of \$1.5K.

At the end of 2019 our Treasury had a balance of \$47,992, a net increase for the year of \$3,400.

Looking forward at 2020, our income remains strong and expenses are consistent with past years. Barring any surprises, I expect we will again have a few thousand dollar positive-net for 2020.

Thom's final note: in case you missed it at the beginning of this report, it is never too late to pay your dues. The books are always open. Use PayPal or mail a check to PLA, PO Box 24, Effingham, NH. He also added a special thanks to those who have been able to repeatedly contribute above our nominal membership level.

### **Financial Audit– Carl Davis for Michelle Schank**

The bank statements and supporting documents generated during January 1, 2019 thru December 31, 2019 were reviewed. Michelle 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. She applauded the meticulous bookkeeping of our treasurer and thanked him for the time and effort that he has put forth as a volunteer. The Audit Report can be viewed as a separate document at the Province Lake website.

### **Membership – Jim Aiken, Vice President**

The current membership is 132 and on August 4, 2019 the membership was 126. The total received is \$8,104.00 and on August 4, 2019 the total was \$8,045.00. There are 7 new members and 125 returning members. The trend is more people paying by Paypal. Here is breakdown of people who gave: Basic up to \$25 = 57, Protector \$26 to \$49 = 14, Defender \$50 to \$74 = 26, Champion \$75 to \$99 = 2 and Hero \$100+=32. Those who choose to list their names on the website are 127 people and 4 opt out.

### **Water Quality & Monitoring and Cyanobacteria Program– Steve Craig**

The data from last year's water quality monitoring is on web page from the job done with Don Kretchmer on the sediment study. He could not be here with us this year to give the report and hopefully we can have that report next year.

Typically, we sample the lake once a month from April to October. Samples are taken from the deep spot and four tributaries coming into the lake. We sample for different types of nutrients and phosphorous. All data is sent to the lab and we receive results from DES or UNH. The directive for Province Lake Monitoring Plan is in coordination with NH LLMP (Lakes Lay Monitoring Program) and NHDES. Due to COVID-19 constraints, this sampling is not being done this summer.

There are two phases to Cyanobacteria research. One is through UNH by twice a month sampling. Active bloom samples will be sent to Green Mountain Conservation who will determine the density of the bloom.

### **Lake Host – Dave Lajoie**

Our lake host program works closely with NH Lakes program to provide information about invasive weeds and other important information. They provide courtesy boat inspections including canoes and personal water crafts upon entering and leaving the lake at the Towle Farm ramp on Bonnyman Road near 153. This prevents invasive species entering our lake. The inspectors also provide information on the NH law of clean, drain and dry of all boats entering NH waters. Currently Province Lake has 4 paid inspectors covering 50 hours a week. The coverage began on May 22 and will continue until September 7. Funding is provided by PLA membership, grants and local community support. All ramp activity is reported to NH Lakes. No invasive weeds have been found.

### **Dam & Bailey Rd Bridge – Mark Hempton**

The dam is located off Province Lake Road on Bailey Road at the outlet of South River. It is a small dam where boards are placed to maintain the Province Lake water level. In the late spring the boards are put in to maintain a high water level and in the fall the boards are dropped to minimize ice damage along the shore. The dam was installed by the PLA in the early 90s when culverts were installed too low. The Town of Effingham is looking to replace the culverts and has hired an engineering company to do a study. If they are replaced in a proper way we would no longer need the dam and our lake water quality could be improved. Another study is being done on culverts in our area by the Green Mountain Conservation Group. This includes the culverts under Bailey Road and the data will be used to support the Town of Effingham's work.

We also have a beaver expert monitoring the beaver activity on South River. They build dams which can negatively affect the water level of Province Lake. He will manage the beaver population so as to not impact the lake level, leaving some in the South River outflow wetlands to conserve the character and health of the wetlands.

### **Weed Watch – Tucker Vye**

Currently there are no invasive weeds on our lake. There are 14 weed watchers covering the 12 miles of shoreline. The volunteers check their area once a month from June through September looking for weeds that are not native to our lake. We would like to get more volunteers to keep Province Lake free from invasive weeds. Please consider becoming a volunteer by contacting me at [tavye@msn.com](mailto:tavye@msn.com) or calling me at 603-475-5691. **ACTION:** An email will be sent soliciting volunteers and Tucker's contact information will be on the website.

### **Loons – Thom Townsend & Steve Craig**

We have loons on the lake. They arrived in late April, they spent most of May cruising around the lake (at this point Thom shows a loon crossing the screen) and much of June they visited the nest. They began nesting on June 26 and there was hope we would have a successful hatching, but on July 3 the loons were gone and there was no egg on the nest. The signs have been taken in and the nest will soon be taken in.

Steve reported that the loon chick was murdered last year. According to the necropsy which was done by Tufts University, the damage was consistent with another loon attack. UNH now has the loon to look at lung tissue for cyanobacteria. Steve hopes to hear the result of that study soon and will share the findings.

### **AWWA – Jon Samuelson**

Linda Schier stepped down as AWWA's Executive Director in October, but remains on the board.

Jon Balanoff took over from Linda as Executive Director. He was program director for about 6 months while learning from Linda. He is a young energetic man with some new ideas and a passion to carry the torch forward.

The Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) crew has been hired and is hard at working doing projects. Thus far, there is only one on Province Lake that actually was just completed on July 13.

AWWA will be assisting PLA with applying for another remediation grant with NH DES, and Lorie will discuss the details in a moment.

Province Lake has way too much phosphorus in the water. The grants help fix some items, but it takes all of us to do our part as well. If you have an erosion issue where sediment etc. is flowing into the lake, please contact AWWA and have a Technical Assistance Survey done on your property. It is a free service that will tell you what can be done to help. You then may become a Project Host to have the YCC crew come out and help with the project. Also, if you have a lawn, make sure you are using phosphorus free fertilizer if you are using any at all. By law, all fertilizer bought in NH is phosphorus free.

Finally, AWWA, like the PLA relies on donations from folks that care about their lake, so if you have the means, please consider contributing to AWWA. You can donate at their website [awwatersheds.org](http://awwatersheds.org)

## **Watershed Plan – Lorie Dunne, President**

The work completed by Don Kretchmer in 2019 on the PL Phosphorus Study is on our website. We had planned to have Don as our guest speaker this year but hope he can do so for the 2021 PLA Annual Meeting if COVID 19 allows.

Sally Soule (NH DES) and Jon Balanoff (AWWA) are working on the pre-proposal for PL Watershed Grant due on Sept. 18.

The proposed project will include YCC BMPs, another round of septic system replacement cost share funding, work to stabilize the beach area near the intersection of Bonnyman Road and Route 153 (in partnership with the landowner - Province Line Assoc.), and general outreach.

They may also reach back out to NHDOT to see if the guardrail along Route 153 can be extended from where it ends now to the NH/ME state line (the grant would pay for guardrail materials and possibly labor - but more discussions with NHDOT are needed to finalize).

Questions regarding this meeting can be submitted to [president@provincelake.org](mailto:president@provincelake.org) and [provincelakemembers@gmail.com](mailto:provincelakemembers@gmail.com). Questions and answers will be posted on our website [www.provincelake.org](http://www.provincelake.org) by August 8.

### **Upcoming event: Beach Cleanups:**

Saturday, August 1 at noon

Saturday, September 12 at 9am.

In closing, the PLA thanked members for their patience and understanding in this time of COVID-19. We hope to meet in person next year for our Annual Meeting and in meantime wish all our members good health.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 by Lorie Dunne, President

Respectfully Submitted,  
Donna Luce, Secretary