

## Province Lake Association Annual Meeting July 21, 2012

**Welcome:** Carl Davis, President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and welcomed everyone to the 40<sup>th</sup> 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.

-He announced the upcoming Chip-in for Charity events at Province Lake Golf Course. Each week one local non-profit will be identified to provide display space, and donate \$2 for each golf players who identifies themselves as playing on behalf of the organization. The organization must display information about their mission, provide an item worth \$75 or more for silent auction, and promote this "Chip in for Charity" drive through all means they have. We will be participating near the end of August; a sport bicycle was donated for the raffle portion by Charlie and Felicia Antonopolous.

-There will be a raffle today to benefit the PLA funds.

-He announced that the speaker this year will be Dennis Derby, water control device manager.

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made to accept the 2011 meeting minutes as published in Province Lake Association Web site. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marion Chouinard reported as of July 8, 2012, that we have \$7,944.60 in the checking account, and two Certificates of Deposit (CDs), for a total of \$21,899.29. The books were audited recently by Thom Townsend who reported the accounts and books to be in good order and properly documented. The report was accepted (with motion and second) unanimously. Marion was thanked for her service as treasurer and presented with a gift.

**Membership Report:** Jon Samuelson reported that we had 101 association members last year, up from 76 the previous year, a result of the extra efforts taken last year to increase membership. Jon sent membership reminders to all members in June using a new email database. A high rate of membership is needed in order to strengthen our weed control fund and activities and other lake protection activities. At this point, we have 65 paid members as of yesterday including 14 first-time members, with more trickling in today. We did a mass mailing of letters and applications (\$175 cost) to lake-front property owners this year. Of 400 lake-front property owners, we typically get about 25% participation; our goal is 50%.

**Weed Report:** Steve Craig reported that he has not seen or had reports of any invasive weeds in our lake to date. The Weed Watch program is formally set up, with 4-5 people involved. Three people are named and trained by Maine's certification program, with designated areas of the lake, to report to Steve monthly, and others trained by New Hampshire officials. Coverage is pretty good. Steve asked if someone would be willing to be the new coordinator for the weed monitoring program.

**Thanks and gratitude** are expressed to two people who have spent a lot of time and effort in developing our new programs this past year: (1) Mary McLouglin for developing the Lake Host program. (2) Donna Davis for coordinating various fund raising efforts.

**Lake Host Program:** Mary McLoughlin reported: The program is overseen by the NH Lakes Association. Lake monitors get trained and working at the boat ramps weekends and holidays during the boating season with grants to pay for their time but with volunteers needed to fill in when there is not enough coverage. PLA had to come up with about \$1000 of the funds and Donna Davis hosted a fund-raiser in June that raised \$1200 to cover this; grateful thanks were expressed for that. About 90-95% of the boat activity at the ramp is Province Lake residents, not from outside.

**Water Quality Report:** Norm Dudziak reported that 2011 was the 21<sup>st</sup> year of water testing, and the water quality was very good; in fact that there has been no significant change in our water quality over that entire period except for a drop in water transparency in the last few years; however, transparency was the best we have ever had in first two testings of 2012 in June and July. We appeared to have a cyanobacteria bloom in late September 2011 but DES would not test it because it was after swimming season. He advised powered watercraft drivers to go slowly in the shallows to avoid stirring up the bottom where phosphorus is stored, but to go fast in the deep areas to stir air into the water, for good fish health. His full report will be posted on the website later. Grateful appreciation is expressed to Steve and Mary Craig who do the bulk of the water sampling efforts and coordinate the sampling and transportation of water samples. Other information: Do not use lead fishing gear as it can kill loons; earthworms can destroy forest floor so be careful about disposing of worms. The old Web site for water quality reports was lost due to carrier discontinuing the service but a new site is in progress.

**Website Report:** Members are encouraged to submit more items: information, photos, announcements, etc. We have a new Contributing Editor: Bob Moore, from the Province Shores campground.

**Loon Report:** Mary Craig reported that there are two pairs of loons on the lake this year, one near the nest on the Hobbes Brook inlet and the other based near the golf course. No baby loons have been spotted yet but there are unconfirmed reports of one baby loon. If anyone sights a baby loon, please report this to Mary Craig.

**Watershed Plan:** Carl Davis reported: He is chairman of proposed watershed plan for the first 5-year segment. Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA) does a lot of erosion control for lakes; did watershed analysis for several lakes, and has been very active in helping us with this plan. The plan involves local through state level involvement. We are developing a plan of action and budget. We have originally thought we had been preliminarily funded for \$30,000 at the state level but had to match that with \$20,000. However, we are now are targeted to be funded at \$140,000 (60% grant 40% match) and need to contribute no cash if we contribute a certain number of volunteer hours. We will do a one-day watershed survey next Spring of anything that could adversely affect the quality of the lake. Volunteers will be trained to conduct the survey. Landowners will be contacted and can notify us that they refuse to allow us to do the survey on their land. Then we hire an environmental engineer to prepare a report of problems, needs and plans. This will result in a report of best management practices for the lake. Within a couple of years we will start implementing the improvement plans. We are considered a very important lake at the state level to streamline this process so our pre-proposal was quickly approved and had funding re-allocated by the state to us and our first proposal is being fast-

tracked. NH DES says our phosphorus levels are too high so they are interested in having it reduced. No findings will be mandatory but landowners will have information about what they could do to prevent erosion.

AWWA is available to do assessments and remediation of personal property erosion issues at property owners' request.

**New shoreline protection laws:** New Hampshire redid most of the act and it became effective this year. It loosened many regulations considerably. There is a website that is informative: DES.NH.gov, select Shoreline Protection Act.

**Water Control and Lake Level:** Dennis Derby reported:

The dam project was initiated in 1993 after several years of very low water. The process was started to get all the permits, a bill was passed by the NH legislature to authorize the dam. Estimates ranged from \$35,000 to \$10,000. A state engineer designed the dam for us. It was built in 1994 for \$12,000, with the town of Effingham contributing half of that. It is a concrete sill on the floor of the river with side abutments to hold 8' long squared logs (4 or 6" high) in place allowing up to 18" high barrier. This results in a slow exit of the water. We put in logs after spring run-off, on April 6 this year due to the extremely dry Spring. Logs come out around Columbus Day to allow water to recede before winter to prevent damage from ice to shoreline properties. The state monitored our activities for 3 years then stopped monitoring. PLA owns the dam, owns an easement on the property, and insures the dam. We have to allow some water flow into the river to support creatures that live in the river (not due to legislation or regulations, but based on common sense). Tucker Vye is in training to take over and helped to put in the logs this year.

Carl Davis reported that the beavers inhibit the outflow every year in recent years so we have needed to hire trappers to breach the dams and lower the river levels.

## **New Business:**

### **Election of officers**

The Nominating committee presented a slate of new officers to be voted on as follows:

President: Jon Samuelson  
Vice President: Pete Dinger  
Secretary: Damaris Rohsenow  
Treasurer: Thom Townsend

Each motion was made and voted on separately and each was passed unanimously.

### **General Discussion by members:**

Norm Dudziak asked what the plan was to recruit volunteers for the Watershed Plan. Jon Samuelson said that we need to wait until the plan is all approved. Then we will ask for volunteers via the new email distribution list, the Province Lake Facebook (not affiliated with the PLA), and flyers.

Dave Lajoie asked about any bald eagle sightings since he had not seen any this year. Several members reported having seen the eagles flying and fishing. While the original nest is somewhere up Hobbes Brook, there is a new nest this year on Point Road and the eaglet was banded by the Audubon society.

Tony Chouinard asked if we would consider using PayPal and consider changing the name of the organization to Friends of Province Lake (no motion was made). Jon Samuelson reported that the bylaws are being reviewed for any needed changes. We are looking into becoming a 501c.3 organization. We are looking into PayPal as a way to pay for dues. PayPal would cost us \$1 per membership but if we are a 501c.3 organization it would cost us less.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Damaris J. Rohsenow  
Secretary, Province Lake Association

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