

PLA Annual Meeting
July 22, 2023
9.00-11.00 am
Edge Lake Farm

Welcome- Jim Aiken, President

Jim welcomed everyone and thanked Sabin and the Porter's for the use of this facility. Each board member introduced themselves to the group in attendance.

Guest Speaker- Jon Balanoff (Executive Director of Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance) – Jon discussed the YCC projects as part of Province Lake Watershed Plan 319 Grant including mitigating run off. He spoke of many issues that deal with erosion and how AWWA will meet with owners free of charge to discuss landscape designs to help reduce nutrient loading to the lake. They helped 3 landowners with septic issues and that grant has run out for septic repairs. He spoke on the cyanobacteria problem on Province Lake. We need to keep working on methods to reduce phosphorus getting into the lake. Jon took questions from the floor. **ACTION:** Jon will look into the use of a compressor and get back to us. When Jon finished, he spent time aside with a few others about their issues with erosion. The point was made to be sure to use phosphorus free fertilizer and that organic fertilizer doesn't mean it is phosphorus free.

Nominations / Election of Directors – Jon Samuelson

Per the bylaws of the Association, Jim Aiken, as President, appointed a nominating committee to fill positions that were open on the Board. Those nominees were presented to the rest of the Board for approval at a recent Board meeting. All nominees are for a two-year term. Short Bios of the slate of candidates were posted on the PLA website with an email notification sent to members. People were reminded that they need to be a member to vote. The following people were nominated as new or continuing members of the PLA Board of Directors:

Peter Dinger – All voted in favor and Peter was voted back on the Board.

Mindy Schuman Vye – All voted in favor and Mindy was voted back on the Board.

Dr. Dennis Badman – All voted in favor and Dennis was voted back on the Board.

Larry Moody – All voted in favor and Larry was voted back on the Board.

Jon said nominations could be raised from the floor. One woman asked what the board members do. After a few answers were given Jon asked if she would like to be on the board.... Her answer was yes!

Marcia Fletcher was nominated from the floor – All voted in favor of Marcia and she is now a new member on the Board.

Vote for Profile Bank Signature – Jon Samuelson

Jon made the motion for Ryan Ruel 's (Vice President) signature to be on the PLA Profile Bank account. All voted in favor of Ryan's signature to be added to the Profile Bank account.

A motion was also made and approved to have the current President, Vice President and Treasurer automatically be on the signature list.

ACTION: Thom Townsend as Treasurer will work with Profile bank to see that since the bylaws say that the current President, VP and Treasurer are to be signatories on the account, if that would suffice for the bank. We would need to show the minutes naming those individuals each year a position changes.

Secretary's Report - Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes – Donna Luce, Secretary

The minutes from our last annual meeting were posted on the website with a notification sent out via email to all PLA members. Donna made a motion that we accept those minutes. Jim Aiken called for a vote and the minutes of the July 23, 2022 were accepted.

Financial Report – Jon Samuelson for Thom Townsend, Treasurer

Jon mentioned that Thom was not available for the meeting and he was nice enough to write up his report. As such, Jon stated he would just read his report as follows:

It is both my responsibility and my pleasure to present to you the annual Treasurer's report for 2022, the 11th year that I have been your Treasurer. I am unable to attend today's meeting due to a family scheduling conflict.

-We began 2022 with a balance of \$48,694.77.

-During the year we had an income of \$23,718.

-The major components were Members' Dues & Contributions (including company matches) \$13.4K, contributions from the towns of Wakefield and Effingham of \$7.4K (to offset much of our Lake Host payroll expenses), and Corporate contributions of \$2.7K.

-Our expenses during 2022 totaled \$22,410.

-Included were our Lake Host Inspection payroll expense of \$10.5K (of which \$7.4 is subsidized by the towns), Partnership contributions (primarily AWWA, LPC, UNH Lay Lakes, and NH Lakes) of \$3.9K, , Insurance expenses of \$2.1K,

beaver population control expense of \$3.0K, and Water Quality Testing of \$1.1K

-At the end of 2022 our Treasury had a balance of \$50,003.12, ... a net increase for the year of \$1,308.

-Looking forward into 2023, our major income sources and expenditures are consistent with past years. Nearly 70% of our members contribute greater than our Associations nominal membership fee.

-We are fortunate to maintain a healthy cash balance to allow us to rapidly respond to any emergency such as a milfoil or cyano-bacteria outbreak.

Financial Audit – Carl Davis for Michelle Schank

Carl, read the highlights of the report that Michelle created and the full report is as follows ... My name is Michelle Schank, and I am a member of the Province Lake Association and a homeowner at 100 Remick Road. Effingham, NH. At the request of the Province Lake Association, I have reviewed the Bank Statements and supporting documents generated from their operation during the January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022 period. Upon examination, I confirmed a Bank Statement balance of \$48,694.77 on January 1, 2022 for Profile Bank checking account ending in "1560". I reviewed basic checking account transactions totaling "Deposits" in the amount of \$23,693.09, "Checks/Withdrawals" in the amount of \$22,409.61 and "Interest" in the amount of \$24.87. As such, I confirm a "Bank Statement" balance on December 31, 2022 of \$50,003.12 which corresponds with the 2022 Treasurer's Report submitted by Thom Townsend. To the best of my knowledge, all records appear to be complete and maintained accurately with detailed monthly breakdowns for both income and expenses and supporting receipts. I applaud the meticulous bookkeeping of our Treasurer and thank him for the time and effort that he has put forth as a volunteer.

Membership – Ryan Ruel, Vice President

As of July 18th, 2023, we have 134 members who have contributed a total of \$10,765.00. This compares to last year at this time (July 17th, 2022) where we had 137 members who had contributed \$10,340.00. We ended the year (2022) with 162 members contributing a total of \$11,990.00. The current breakdown by membership levels is: Basic (\$25-29) 44, Protector (\$30-49) 7, Defender (\$50-74) 26, Champion (\$75-99) 5, and Hero (\$100+) 52. Of note, 30 members paid by PayPal, while 103 paid by check and 1 by cash.

Merchandise – Ryan Ruel, Vice President

-PLA has partnered with SpreadShirt to provide Province Lake merchandise via our merchandise shop:

<https://provincelakeassociation.myspreadshop.com>

- SpreadShirt offers a large variety of products to choose from: Shirts, Sweatshirts, Tote bags, Aprons, Stickers, Drinkware and More!
- Choose from an existing product, or customize your own: select the artwork, pick a product color, adjust size and position of the artwork to your liking.
- Payment via credit card or PayPal. Orders ship directly to you.
- SpreadShirt provides direct customer service for your order.
- SpreadShirt offers a 30-day return guarantee (customized items are returnable for exchange only).
- Additional: PLA receives a commission for every sale (~20% over cost + bonuses based on volume). SpreadShirt is a FREE service for the PLA to utilize. PLA is not required to maintain any inventory. We intend to add additional artwork over time.
- Sales Data (July 9th, 2022-July 18th, 2023): 17 unique orders - \$112.90 in commissions.

Water Quality & Monitoring and Cyanobacteria Program– Lorie Dunne for Katie Jones

Water Sampling: We collected water samples in collaboration with UNH on five days throughout the 2022 summer. The 2022 water quality report can be found on the PLA website if anyone is interested in more details. Overall, our phosphorus continues to be high, which is one of the main issues for cyanobacteria blooms. Unfortunately, the water clarity has also decreased from an average of 3.6 m in the 2021 report to 2.5 m in 2022.

-We have done two sampling days so far this year. We will get the results at the end of the summer, however, so far, the water visibility remains low.

-These water sampling efforts require volunteers to drive their boat (ideally a pontoon) for us to collect the samples. First, a huge thank you to the volunteers so far! There is also still time to volunteer this year if you are interested!

-We are looking for volunteer boat drivers on the following days:

-Monday, August 28

-Monday, September 25

-The sampling starts at 9:00 am and we are typically on the water for 1-2 hours.

-It's a great opportunity to help on the lake, learn about the water sampling efforts, and ask any questions you may have to the water quality experts from UNH.

-Please reach out to kjones@provincelake.org or anyone on the PLA board if you are interested in helping or learning more!

Cyanobacteria:

Unfortunately, cyanobacteria blooms, the typically green-looking accumulation of cyanobacteria that may contain toxins, are an ongoing issue on the lake.

-In 2022, we had a few localized and short-lived blooms in the beginning of June followed by a relatively clear July and August. Unfortunately, in September and October, we started to see more blooms with the lake entering a cyanobacteria advisory issued by the NH DES for a total of 27 days. These advisories are placed in effect when collected samples have a cyanobacteria density that exceeds 70,000 cell/mL. According to the NH DES “NHDES advises lake users to not wade or swim in the water during an advisory. Please keep pets and livestock out. The advisory is not based on a toxin evaluation and is intended as a precautionary measure for short term expose”.

-Unfortunately, as I’m sure most of you may have noticed, 2023 is not off to a good start. The lake was in a cyanobacteria advisory for a week at the beginning of June, and we have been in an advisory since July 6th with NHDES collecting new samples to test the cyanobacteria density every week.

-NH DES has some great resources online including a “Healthy Swimming Mapper” that provides more information about the current state of the advisory.

-Also, just a reminder, to either reach out to the PLA or the NHDES Bloom Report if you see something that looks like cyanobacteria. Some blooms can only last a few hours, so reaching out to the PLA would allow us to quickly grab a sample before it dissipates and provide additional information to NHDES.

Lake Host Program– Lee-Ann Cammett

As of Thursday July 20, 2023, we have inspected 312 boats and 252 of those boats are from Province Lake accounting for 81% of all inspected boats. Arrivals were 79% and only 21% departing. The busiest time of the day is between 10:00am and 2:00 pm. Our number of inspections are down from last year but the weather certainly has not helped.

We have a great team of lake hosts again this year with Sara, Paul and myself returning. Noelle has been a great addition to the team. I also want to thank the board members that helped cover a few shifts at the beginning of the season when we all had graduations obligations to attend. We may need a few volunteers for the fall.

Dam, Bailey Rd Bridge and Beavers – Mark Hempton

The water is high! The Dam is owned by the lake association. It has been there since 1994 and it's purpose is to keep the lake high in the summer and low in the winter. Compared to last year at this time, the lake is 13 inches higher than 2022. No boards have been put in this year, and for that matter, this may be the first time ever that no boards are put in at all. A new culvert was put in on Bailey Road this past Fall. The Dam was put in when the culverts were replaced back in the 90's and were placed too low and drained the lake too much. We will see if the new culvert works properly and perhaps my job will be eliminated. Mike Stevens checks for beavers and the flow below the culvert once a month.

Weed Watch Coordinator – Tucker Vye

Province Lake is presently and fortunately invasive weed free due to the efforts of the Lake Host boat inspections and our Weed Watch program. There are fourteen weed watch volunteers that back up the Lake Host program since not all boats are launched at the Towle Farm boat ramp. The weed watch volunteers check the shoreline looking for invasive weeds and so far, all has gone well. But we need more volunteers to keep this program working properly. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me after the meeting or send an email to weedinfo@provincelake.org. A point was made that if a lake goer sees a suspicious weed, care needs to be taken on touching or pulling it as improper handling could make things worse. It is best to report the weed to the PLA so a weed watch person who is trained can handle it. Contact Tucker at weedinfo@provincelake.org.

Loon Ranger's Report – Donna Luce

Donna shared how she became the Loon Ranger and how so many around the lake are enjoying seeing Bella with her parents. The full story is at the end of the minutes. Donna took a few questions after the report.

Other:

Bill Kane, president of Towle Farm, and Sandy the treasurer spoke about the need for an upgraded boat ramp. Towle Farm owns the ramp and pays taxes, insurance etc. on the ramp. They have contacted Ed Dolaher and are now contacting the state to begin plans for a ramp upgrade. An account has been set up for this purpose. They are asking the community to help fund the goal of \$10,000, by contributing \$25 a year for using the ramp. There is a sign and QR code at the ramp on how to donate by Venmo or check. They will have stickers for those who have contributed.

Q&A:

1. Why doesn't the association put out a notice to advise boaters to reduce the wake along the shore lines? **ACTION:** The Board did send out an email and FB post encouraging people to boat at headway speed near the shoreline and limit the wake.
2. The suggestion was made to have it possible for people to pay PLA membership using Venmo. **ACTION:** The PLA has been working with Venmo to get this set up, but there are some technical issues. We are hoping to have that resolved by next years membership drive.
3. People were encouraged to contact your legislator to talk about wake boats and the damage they case on shallow lakes. **ACTION: Deb Cunha** will get us the information on who to contact regarding this.
4. **ACTION: Marcia Fletcher** will get information to us regarding discounts on septic systems.

Upcoming events: Beach Cleanup- Saturday, Sept 9, 2023 at 9:00 am

The meeting adjourned at 11:00

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Luce, Secretary

PROVINCE LAKE LOON CHICK BELLA

Thank you, Jim, Mr. President, for saving the best for last! It's not about me but about our loon chick Bella. It's been a while since we have seen a loon chick on our lake and in the past, when the loons have nested, it has been over near Hobbs Brook. On May 28, Ralph Estabrook, the owner of the island, posted that the loons were nesting on Bella Island. Since our home is opposite the island, I volunteered to be the Province Lake Loon Ranger.

I have kept a journal of when board members and neighbors reported sightings of a single loon. Those were encouraging reports because that meant one of the loons was sitting on the nest. On Wednesday, June 14, no one had reported a loon sighting so when I saw two fishermen out beyond our dock, I called out and asked if they had seen any loons. One man said he had seen a single loon which was good news. On Monday June 19, Tom and Jan Townsend came to our house to deliver "Caution Loon Chicks" signs so we would have them when the chick hatched. Thirty minutes later, while we were visiting on our deck, we heard the loons and looked over to the island and saw the two loons with the chick swimming in between them! This chick hatched earlier than PL chicks in 2015, 2017, 2019 and at least two weeks earlier than other chicks on NH lakes this year. On June 20, I saw the same two men fishing and was able to tell them that that a chick had hatched! On Wednesday, June 21, the loon biologist, Sanne came over to the lake and along with the Townsends, and from our neighbors' dock, we watched the family of three swim around and feed the chick. We took Sanne to the island where, after some time, she was able to locate the nest.

Since the name of the island is Bella Island, it was decided to name the chick Bella. It has been a lot of fun hearing how people all over the lake have enjoyed seeing Bella, seeing their pictures, and posting some of my pictures assuring others that Bella is alive and well! As of today, Bella is 33 days old.

On Thursday July 20, we took Sanne out to observe the loon family of three. She told us how Connor Pond and Mud Pond both had loon chicks. While visiting friends on Connor Pond that day, we were able to see their loon chick. Then we drove over to nearby Mud Pond and saw the loon chick there. Three loon chicks in one day!!