

Peacham Pond Association
Annual Meeting - 7/31/2021 - 5:15pm
Agenda

Call to Order: Martha Winston called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm

Welcome

Martha welcomed our guests and thanked them for taking time out to gather in person for the annual Peacham Pond Association (PPA) meeting. She thanked Pinky Van Schagen and the family of Mary Read for hosting on their beautiful lawns.

She shared her appreciation to board members and their spouses for their help with setting up tables, decorations, food, sign-in, door prize and clean-up. She acknowledged it was nice to not be meeting via Zoom as we did last year. To respect the continued state protocols in place due to Covid, this year's meeting features simple fare and a BYOB format.

Approximately 40-50 people attended the meeting, many of them for the first time.

Martha thanked the Board Members who served this past year (2020).

President- Martha Winston

Vice-President- John Weaver

Treasurer – Barbie Spaulding

Secretary - Pat Wiedel

Road Committee - John Guilmette and Ryan Chapell

Board member - Greg Crossan

Town Liasison - Allen Freund

Social Media Consultant - Michelle Risley

Martha highlighted the accomplishments of the board this year, noting that most of the work was completed via Zoom. Highlights included:

- Researching the new GMP draw down plan for Peacham Pond and sharing that information on email and through a Zoom meeting with Green Mountain Power (GMP) reps and VT-DEC officials along with interested pond owners in early 2021
- Designing and constructing a new PPA website, led by Michelle Risley. This work represents a 12-week labor of love by Michelle, with input and support from Pat, John, Martha, Barbie, Rick Scholes, and Mark Milazzo. Built on SquareSpace, the website ([www. peachampondassociation.org](http://www.peachampondassociation.org)) is intended to serve as a resource for PPA members. The organizing pillars – Connect, Learn and Preserve – ground the content toward a vision of preserving our lake and its surroundings now and in the future. Martha encouraged members bookmark the website to enable quick access to pertinent lake documents and news. She

shared the board will reach out to area businesses in the coming year to serve as sponsors for the website. This will hopefully generate enough income to pay for the site and more.

New Board for 2021:

Martha thanked Barbie Spaulding for her service on the board as treasurer. Our accounts are in good order and Barbie registered the association as a 501(c)4. Greg Crossan graciously volunteered to be our new treasurer, and we welcome him. The slate of officers for the 2021-2022 year is as follows:

President- Martha Winston
Vice-President- John Weaver
Treasurer – Greg Crossan
Secretary - Patricia Wiedel
Road Committee - John Guilmette and Ryan Chapell
Town Liasison - Allen Freund

Michelle Risley will continue to update and improve the website, but will not be an active board member.

Members unanimously approved the slate of officers for the 2021-22 year.

A Moment of Silence was given to honor members that passed this year: Mary Read, Joan Witham and Gordon Holt. A contribution of \$100 was made to an organization selected by each of their families in their memory.

Reports:

- Treasurer
 - John Guilmette read the report (attached) prepared by Barb Spaulding, who was not able to attend the meeting. Some facts to note:
 - \$1970 in dues was contributed from 63 camps
 - \$1135 was donated to support the Greeter Program
 - \$2440.18 of income was generated this year
 - \$1005 represents expenses this year
 - \$300 bonus was given to Priscilla for her outstanding work as our Greeter

The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted by the members.

- Secretary
 - Minutes of 2020 annual meeting were included in the fall newsletter and copies were available today on the information table. Members unanimously approved the minutes.

- Road Committee
 - Ryan Chapell shared that plowing and sanding of the roads went out to bid last year. A man from St. Johnsbury was awarded the bid, and some initial issues were quickly resolved with help from Jeremy. No funds are available for culvert work this year. Trees will be worked on once Peacham procures another backhoe. A number of Ash trees were removed by the town to prevent the spread of Ash Borer disease.

- Loon Report
 - Rick Scholes reported that while loons in Vermont are doing well, none are currently nesting on Peacham Pond. The loon biologist is not sure what the problem is, and there is some speculation that perhaps the low water levels this year played a role.

- Water Quality
 - Martha shared water quality work now encompasses three components to address multiple ways to educate, prevent and identify Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). These components are the Lay Monitor Program, the Greeter Program (now in its 4th summer) and the new VIP Program.
 - Lay Monitor: Janice Guilmette and Pat Wiedel are our new team. They will collect 9-10 water samples this summer and conduct a water clarity test each time. The water samples are collected and analyzed by the state of VT for phosphorus and chlorophyll levels. The data is published as part of our Lake Scorecard - on the website! Please review when it is posted later in the year. We are optimistic that the lake drawdown will help our water quality by providing more aquatic plants to filter the spring run-off.
 - Greeter Program: Priscilla McCormick-Sampson has returned for a 4th year as our greeter. Thus far, she has logged over 400 boats this summer. She is currently paid \$14.00 an hour.

Our grant funding changed a bit this year. We are required to fulfill the exact amount of hours estimated in our proposal. That means the state is contributing a little over 1/2 of the amount of the project and we need to contribute the rest. Our greeter fund, which initiated last summer, raised \$1,300. The Town of Peacham pledged to contribute \$1,100. Together with the grant dollars we will be able to cover the cost of having Priscilla at the boat ramp 3 days a week all summer (she is now there Fridays from 7-3 as well as weekends and holidays). The total projected cost is \$5,544 for this summer.

- VIP Program: Martha proudly shared this summer marks the introduction of the Vermont Invasive Patroller Program on Peacham Pond. Training volunteers to paddle into the varied coves of the pond to identify native and non-native aquatic plants supports our goal in educating ourselves and our community on pond health. Kudos to the following individuals who responded to the call to get involved: Nancy Dickson, Jim and Patti Taffel, Jan Trepanier, Michelle Risley, Mark Milazzo and the Crossan family. Some of these volunteers have been trained through an online class on plant identification and an on-the-water session to learn how to monitor for invasive species and report their findings. These volunteers provide an important defense for the pond. In addition, they assist us in earning in-kind volunteer hours necessary to fulfill our greater grant requirement. To receive all of our grant money this year, we need approximately 100 volunteer hours.

New Business

- Logo: Micheal DePinto, a friend of the Curtiss family, created and donated this new design for us to use on our website and anywhere else we choose. We are thrilled to consider ways to market our pond using the new logo!
- Martha requested volunteers to help with our Facebook page and merchandising using our new logo. Donna VanSchagen volunteered to assist with the Facebook page, and Donna will also help locate a company to create merchandise with our new logo. Our goal will be to have items for sale next summer. We thank Donna for assisting with these two projects.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia Wiedel