

Peacham Pond Association Newsletter

October 2019

Summer news and a look ahead . . .

2019 was a memorable summer on the pond. The loon parents in the north cove had a big healthy chick. Our Greeter program, staffed every weekend and holidays by Priscilla McCormick Sampson, logged and inspected 250 watercraft. The Association hosted a fun Family Day on a beautiful Saturday in mid July. The Town of Peacham installed five new culverts to help keep our roads safe. And the fall season has been colorful and peaceful. Much to enjoy and be thankful for!



We are very happy to be communicating online with our pond residents and extended family and friends. This allows us to share more news, reach all of you quickly if necessary and save money on printing and mailing. If you know someone who is not on our email list and would like to be, please send them to me!

All the best,

Martha Winston - PPA President

DUES - What do they do?

The Peacham Pond Association operates primarily on dues collected from camp owners. Dues for 2019 are \$20 per camp. They provide for:

- Public Access Greeter Program
- Free 2017 directory
- PPA website and Facebook page
- Peacham Pond Family Day
- Membership in FOVLAP (Federation in Vermont Lakes and Ponds)
- Reps at annual Lake Seminar and annual FOVLAP meeting
- Volunteers - Lay Monitor for water quality and VT Loon Watch

Contact our Treasurer, Barb Spaulding - bspaulding@fairpoint.net - with questions.

Or mail your dues to:

Barb Spaulding, PO Box 512828, Punta Gorda, FL 33951

DUES WILL BE RAISED IN 2020 TO \$30 PER CAMP.

The main reason for this increase is to fund the Greeter Program. Grant money from the state is reduced every year and we are dedicated to keeping this important program operating and growing.

This past summer PPA contributed \$500 to the Greeter Program.

Consider a Contribution or Memorial

As you may know, the Peacham Pond Association is registered as a not-for-profit organization in the State of Vermont. Our objective is to do good: sustain and improve water quality and roadways and enhance Peacham Pond's charm and universal appeal.

While working hard to accomplish these goals, we are also mindful of the great people that established as well as those who currently support this wonderful lifestyle and culture around the Pond... Starting today, we all have the opportunity to remember and celebrate our neighbors and friends of the Pond with a monetary donation to the Peacham Pond Association. Such donations can be made anonymously or with full transparency in a future newsletter and/or on the PPA website. **100% of your donation** will be used to sustain our Greeter Program established to proactively maintain Pond water quality by preventing the introduction of invasive aquatic plant and mussel species. Protecting our water is the single most important thing we can do for Peacham Pond and what a perfect way to honor someone while doing so!

Please contact Martha Winston or our Treasurer, Barbie Spaulding for more information.
Thank you!





New Look for our Annual Meeting

Attendance for our Family Day and Annual Meeting has gradually declined. The potluck meal, raffle and social time have been enjoyed by those who attend, but we are no longer covering the costs. We would like to gather, socialize and have our meeting with a new theme. Next year, we will move the date to the first Saturday in August. We will gather at the Noda's yard in the late afternoon. We will have drinks and shared appetizers followed by our annual meeting. A little shorter and sweeter and less "work" for our hardworking board members. Watch for more news in the Spring Newsletter.



Making Improvements?

If you are planning on making improvements to your property on Peacham Pond please use this helpful website before you begin. The Vermont Shoreland Protection Act of 2014 has guidelines that protect the fragile areas near our shoreline. There may be restrictions or permits needed if you are building, clearing land, cutting trees or landscaping. Please visit: https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/lakes/docs/Shoreland/Ip_ShorelandHandbook.pdf



Peacham Pond Greeter Program

This was our second summer with a Greeter Program at the Peacham Pond ramp. The purpose of the program is to educate boaters about aquatic invasive species (AIS) and inspect all watercraft before they enter the pond. We were able to fund this program through a grant from VT-DEC, plus matching \$500 contributions from our PPA and the Town of Peacham. Priscilla McCormick Sampson was our greeter again this year. She did an outstanding job working with visitors and residents. She inspected 250 boats from 4 different states and 46 different waterbodies. AIS are present in many lakes, ponds and rivers in and around Vermont. With this program and vigilant residents, we hope to keep AIS out of Peacham Pond.

A Busy Year for the Road Committee

Entering our second year, the main objective of the road committee remains the same: to improve the accessibility and safety of Class 3 roads on Peacham Pond. Our comprehensive assessment of the trees, culverts and boulders was shared with the Town, Green Mountain Power (GMP) and the Department of Fish & Wildlife. All three entities appreciated the proactive assessment and agreed to take action!

GMP and the Town decided several trees had to be removed to protect the electrical grid and improve road accessibility. This work was performed immediately and included pushing a few smaller boulders

back from the roadway. Since that time, additional trees falling into the roadway or creating a power line hazard have been addressed. On October 15th, GMP will be suspending power on Onion Point Road to remove additional power line hazards between the Steven's and Brown's camps. GMP has sent out notifications advising of this planned outage.

Work on culvert repair/replacement and boulder removal was deferred by the Town until this past Summer. The Town sent a crew to replace five culverts that were either damaged, corroded or the incorrect size. Road closures were required in order to perform this work. The Town provided advanced notification and insured impact to residents was held to a minimum. We will continue to work with the Town on those newly installed culverts that might also require the application of rip rap and/or gravel to minimize the effects of erosion and potentially accelerate their maintenance.

Fish & Wildlife also agreed with the importance of plowing and accessibility around the boat landing to prevent road blockages by ice fishermen. They did a nice job throughout last season! We will be having a similar discussion with them in the coming weeks.

This winter, a continued point of emphasis with the Town involves the timely post storm plowing and sanding of the roadways. This was problematic last Winter for year round residents and service vehicles attempting to enter or exit the pond (granted, it was a very difficult Winter in the Northeast Kingdom). To keep the focus, both coordinated and individual calls into the Town this Winter are expected.

Like always, resident comments and concerns are always welcomed and encouraged. Thank you!

Looking for creative people . . .

PPA has had great success in "Going Green". Our newsletter and emails reach 90 readers and we are only printing one flyer per year. Now it is time to get our website redesigned. We would also like to develop an online Peacham Pond Handbook. Would you be willing to add your tech expertise or creative flare to one of these projects?

Please contact Pat Wiedel to help - pkwiedel@gmail.com

Peacham Pond Board

Martha Winston - President - mwinston54@yahoo.com

John Weaver - Vice President - johnweaver@weaverprinting.com

Barb Spaulding - Treasurer and Secretary - bspaulding@fairpoint.net

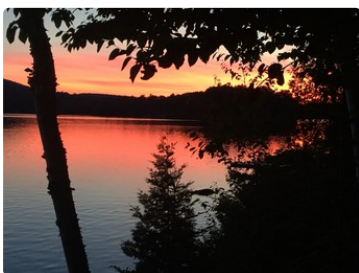
Patricia Wiedel - Social Media - pkwiedel@gmail.com

John Guilmette - Road Committee - johnr.guilmette@gmail.com

Ryan Chapell - Road Committee - RTChapell81@gmail.com

Dave Noda - Road Committee - dave.noda1@gmail.com

Judy Oro - Lay Monitor - orojudy@yahoo.com



Peacham Pond Association

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Minutes from Peacham Pond Association 2019 Annual Meeting

Peacham Pond Association, Inc.

Annual Meeting

7/13/2019

Hafner/Boswell Camp

Meeting called to order by President Martha Winston at 1:20 PM

Martha began by thanking the Hafner and Boswell families for use of their camp again this summer. She introduced the board, thanking them for their service. She thanked Kevin Wiedel for preparing the smoked brisket. We had many local businesses donating to our raffle this year in the form of gift cards and services. Those companies are: Larrabees; Marty's; Cabot Creamery; Cabot Hardware; Three Ponds; Fowler Septic and many pond residents. She introduced the new road committee: Ryan Chapell, Dave Noda, John Guilmette and Kevin Hudson. She also introduced our new pond lay monitors Ray and Judy Oro taking over for John and Martha Winston.

Martha then introduced the board members; President, Martha Winston; Vice-President, John Weaver; Treasurer and Secretary, Barb Spaulding and Board Members John Guilmette, Ryan Chapell, Pat Wiedel, Judy Orr, Dave Noda and Michelle Risley. The slate of officers will remain for this year but we will need to fill vacancies next year. In addition Barb Spaulding is holding 2 positions so if anyone is interested in taking over the secretary position, let Martha know. The motion was made to accept this slate of officers, motion passed. We have several interesting projects for the future; a new website, a Peacham Pond on-line handbook and drafting a Family Day on-line survey so please consider serving on this board. The minutes from 2018 were available on-line and on Facebook, motion was made to approve the 2018 minutes, motion passed.

Treasurers Report (a printed complete report was handed out at the meeting) – Al Blake had been treasurer for about 20 years so upon his resignation a new account was required at TD Bank. The rules have changed for associations and they required us to incorporate and then we filed for non-profit status. Upon taking over the Treasurer position the checkbook balance was \$1,814.94. At the family day picnic/annual meeting in 2018 we sold 63 lunches; 1 directory; 4 hats and we made \$204.00 on our raffle. In 2017 we made \$180.00 on our raffle. That money goes directly to maintaining the health of the pond. We hope to do even better with these present raffle gifts and we will send thank you notes to these donating businesses. Total income during the year was \$1,424 from family day and dues. In addition, we rolled the CD, which Al opened years ago, into our general account and that amount was \$593.86, leaving income at \$2,017.86. We had limited expenses through the year, most of it involved reimbursement for family day 2018; State of Vt incorporation costs; Town of Peacham Greeter program donation of \$500.00 to match their donation ; memorial gifts and gifts to the host and hostess of the annual picnic and a bonus to Priscilla McCormick- Sampson, our greeter in the amount of \$250.00. Our total expenses were \$1,649.06 leaving a current balance of \$2,183.74. The motion was made to accept the treasurer's report and motion carried.

Martha then asked for a moment of silence to remember Richard Beland who passed away over the year.

Martha then introduced Rick Scholes and recognized his hours of work as a Peacham Lister and thanked him for his informational meeting. Rick gave a loon report for the north cove. One healthy chick was born a few weeks ago, still doing well. Apparently a pair of loons tried to nest on a tuft of grass that proved too low and the nest was washed away. The pond has 16 resident loons.

John Guilmette then gave a fish report. There are many concerns about the bass in the pond and how they were introduced. This is unknown, many theories presented. Bass and trout will co-exist. A main concern about the increase in bass fishing is that it brings in more transient boats which increases the risk of unwanted invasive plants and harmful aquatic species.

Road Committee – The main objective of forming the road committee was to improve the accessibility and safety of the Class 3 roads around Peacham Pond. An assessment of the trees, culverts and

boulders around the pond was conducted and shared with the Town, Green Mountain Power (GMP) and the Department of Fish & Wildlife. In October, GMP came out and performed their own assessment and concluded that a number of trees had to be removed to protect the electrical grid. Subsequently, the Town came out, cut a few more trees within the road right of way and then chipped up all branches and removed some of the logs. Residents of the Pond and others locally were given the remaining wood. The placement and replacement of culverts will be done by the town of Peacham this summer. We have had numerous sink holes. Boulder removal will continue in preparation for winter to decrease the damage done to town plows. Ryan clarified that the role of the committee is to foster communication with the town. The committee has no authority to cut trees or move boulders and the town as a 49.5 foot right of way and has been exercising their rights to clear.

Martha then addressed the group. Her primary mission, since taking office, has been to sustain the health of the pond. The Greeter program is in the 2nd year. This year she asked the state for more money, in the form of a grant, and we were given less. The total cost of our greeter, with a raise to \$14.00 an hour, is \$3,800. The town of Peacham donated \$500.00 to assist us and we matched that amount out of our treasury. Our greeter, Priscilla McCormick-Sampson works each weekend from 6:00 AM until 2:00 PM. We really need more hours covered and would like volunteers to sign up to do so. She checked 240 boats from 3 states and 50 bodies of water. The risk we face is great, it takes one dirty boat. Martha attended a Vt training session on invasive species and learned that Lake Dunmore is fighting a milfoil problem to the cost of \$225,000 and this cost is borne by the residents and grant money. Peacham Pond residents need to be vigilant, especially those who have their own boat ramps. Zebra mussels are invisible to the naked eye, all bilges need to be cleaned and -----burped. We also are not certain whether the drawdown of our water is beneficial to fighting milfoil, it is unknown. The last order of business is the vote on the updated by-laws. These were last done in 1974. No significant changes were made but we included all properties on Onion Point and Peacham Pond roads for eligibility for membership. Motion was made to accept updated by-laws, motion passed. Announcements - Please make sure we have your up to date email address as all correspondence will be done electronically. Please let us know if you would like to be trained to assist with the greeter program. Kevin Hudson would be willing to pick up your scrap metal. Please support our raffle in order to support the health of the pond.

Adjourned at 2:00

Respectfully submitted by Barb Spaulding

President – Martha Winston – mwinston54@yahoo.com

Vice-President - John Weaver – johnweaver@weaverprinting.com

Treasurer– Barb Spaulding – bspaulding@fairpoint.net Send dues to: PO Box 512828, Punta Gorda, FL 33951

Social Media – Pat Wiedel – PKWiedel@gmail.com

Judy Oro – orojudy@yahoo.com

John Guilmette – johnr.guilmette@gmail.com

Ryan Chapell – RTChapell81@gmail.com

Dave Noda – Dave.Noda1@gmail.com

Michelle Risley – michellerisleyvt@gmail.com