

**Peacham Pond Association Annual Meeting  
August 5, 2023 - Agenda - Hafner/Boswell Camp**

**Welcome:**

Introductions of all attending: we will go around the circle and each attendee will introduce themselves and where they live on the pond and permanent home.

Thank you to Hafners and Boswells (Luke and Aggie), board members and spouses:

Recognition of Board Members for the past year (2022):

President - Martha Winston  
VP - John Weaver  
Treasurer - Greg Crossan  
Secretary - Pat Wiedel  
Road Committee - Ryan Chapell  
Road Committee - John Guilmette  
Town Liaison - Allen Freund  
At large - Greg Matuson

**Highlights of our year:**

- PPA Merchandise - Jaime Guilmette

Jaime worked with Jeff Apfeld and his company. Together, they developed an online catalog of Peacham Pond merchandise. You hopefully received an email to view the online store for two weeks in early June. Unfortunately, the flood slowed the printing process and delivery process, but we now have all the merchandise ready for delivery. Please see Jaime if you ordered items. She also has t-shirts and hats from 2022 and surplus items from Jeff.

- Boat Ramp Improvements - John Guilmette

Emily Finnegan, district manager for Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District, has written a grant to start a design project for our boat access. We have lots of drainage, parking and snow plowing issues in our narrow access. Emily is working with our association, VT Fish and Wildlife and an Engineering Firm (Fitzgerald) to develop a plan to improve our access area.

- Lake Wise Assessments and first "Lake Wise Award"

Last summer the VT-DEC program, Lake Wise, made two visits to Peacham Pond to assess lakeshore properties. The Lake Wise assessment uses guidelines established to encourage using best practices on all land near the pond. After meeting and reviewing your property, Lake Wise responds with a report on improvements and/or a "Lake Wise Award" if you meet all of their criteria.

Mark Milazzo was awarded a Lake Wise Award last year for his property on Peacham Pond Road. This summer Lake Wise will be visiting several more properties. Stay tuned for the results.

- Dock Concert at Chapell Bay - Seth and Natalie Chapell presenting

**New slate of officers for 2023: (vote)**

President - Martha Winston

VP - John Weaver  
Treasurer/merchandise coordinator - Greg Crossan  
Secretary/Lake Wise coordinator - Pat Wiedel  
Roads/boat ramp/sponsors - John Guilmette  
Roads/boat ramp - Ryan Chapell  
Town liaison/boat ramp/GMP liaison - Allen Freund  
VIP coordinator - Greg Matuson

**Secretary's Report:** Approval of minutes from 2022 annual meeting (vote)

**Treasurer's Report:** Greg Crossan (vote)  
Presented and attached.

**Road Committee Report:** Ryan Chapell or John Guilmette  
Presented

**Loon Report:** written by Peacham Pond's new loon monitor Mark Milazzo and read by . . .

**Water Quality Reports:**

- Lay Monitors

Janice Guilmette, Pat Wiedel and Martha Winston traded off months and will complete the 2023 Lay Monitor reports. This program has gotten much easier to accomplish as Vermont matches their data collection records to neighboring states. That way they can combine data for better information on AIS transmission, lake warming and other regional issues. Now only 6 samples are collected during the summer (2 in June, 2 in July, 2 in August). And they are shallow water samples. If you are at the pond during the summer, we are looking for a new team to take on this "citizen scientist" job. It's easy! The results become our "Lake Scorecard" that is published every year on the DEC website.

- Greeter Program

Priscilla McCormick Sampson is our Public Access Greeter for the 6th year in a row. She is experienced, friendly, and takes her job very seriously. This has been a slower year at the boat ramp - floods and rainy weather have kept our visitors down.

The Town of Peacham helped out our cause last year and paid the difference between the state grant money and the rest of Priscilla's salary. The PPA had offered to pay her mileage and we did that - it amounted to Approx. \$950.

- VIP Program

We have 5 excellent patrollers working in our Vermont Invasive Patrollers program. They each have a viewing tube that allows them to see the aquatic plants along the shoreline. Each has a portion of the pond they patrol and then, after each patrol session, they turn in an online report to the state. I brought my viewing tube if you'd like to give it a try after the meeting.

Training occurs every summer - and all patrolling is done on your own time - it's fun, easy and a good way to get to know your aquatic neighbors.

Of course, we are looking for invasive species and want to be on the alert if they are sighted.

The state has an emergency response team if we have any invaders or suspect a problem.

- GPM Water Drawdown and flood response

We have completed year 3 of our drawdown plan. That means we have 2 more winters where the pond level will be lowered 6.6 feet or less. Then we will enter the second phase of the plan and for the next 5 winters, the pond will be drawn down 3.0 feet or less.

After that time the pond level will not be changed unless there are weather or other concerns. GMP was very responsive during the loon nesting time and the during the flooding rains. They were monitoring the pond level and in touch with us - very helpful.

### **Wake Boat Regulation Update:**

The state is finishing up public hearings this week on proposed wake boat regulations. There was an in-person meeting on August 1st, an online meeting on August 3rd and final written comments were due today.

New regulations seem very probable. If passed as written there will be several restrictions:

1. On lakes, ponds, and reservoirs with a minimum of 50 contiguous acres that are 500 feet from shore on all sides and 20 feet deep (eligibility rule)
2. Wakeboats must be 500 feet from shore at all times while engaging in wakesports (operating rule)
3. A wakeboat must stay in one lake per calendar year unless boat is decontaminated by a DEC-approved entity (home lake rule)

Peacham Pond is large enough to have a wake boat zone. There has been strong pressure to make the distance from shore 1000' instead of the proposed 500'. If that distance was increased Peacham Pond would not be large enough for wake boats to operate.

### **New Business:**

Road safety issue