Agenda

Peacham Pond Annual Meeting

July 30, 2022 - Hafner/Boswell Camp

**Welcome**

Introduction of all attending: Members introduced themselves and shared where on the lake they live.

Thank you: Aggie and Luke Boswell and Charlie and Marion Hafner for hosting. (Flowers)

Board members, spouses and volunteers who helped today.

Recognition of Board Members for 2021:

President - Martha Winston

VP - John Weaver

Treasurer - Greg Crossan

Secretary - Pat Wiedel

Road Committee - Ryan Chapell and John Guilmette

Town Liaison - Allen Freund

**Highlights of our Year**

* + - * PPA Merchandise - thanks to Ryan Chapell and Jaime Guilmette for working with Cardinal Enterprises to design and print and now sell the new t-shirts and hats. Katherine Nelson is helping sell on the west side. Please put your name in the raffle if you’ve not already done so, to get a free item!
      * 2022 PPA Directory – Many thanks to John Weaver and his company, Weaver Printing for working with our advertisers, designing and printing our pond directory. We attempted to update our PPA spreadsheet and be 100% accurate - I’m certain we failed! Please keep us up-to-date as addresses and emails change.
      * We reached out to the Caladonia County Natural Resources Conservation District for some potential funding. Currently, we have not received funding from them, but we had our first Lakewise visit from Emily Finnegan. She and I visited Mark Milazzo’s camp in late May. He will qualify for a Lakewise Award! She is back to evaluate Rick Scholes/Annette Lorraine’s camp on August 9th. Emily also found some funds to work on the boat ramp and try to solve some drainage and parking issues. You will see that work being done in the coming year.

**New slate of officers for 2022**

President - Martha Winston

VP - John Weaver

Treasurer - Greg Crossan

Secretary - Pat Wiedel

Road Committee - Ryan Chapell and John Guilmette

Town Liaison - Allen Freund

New board member: Greg Matuson

The Matuson family resides in southern New Jersey. Greg is a senior executive at a local community Bank. Priscilla is a retired high school English teacher and homeschools their two teenage daughters Ainsley and Sydney. They plan on utilizing their camp year-round.

Vote for new PPA board: motion/2nd/discussion/vote

A moment of silence was offered in honor of our Peacham Pond neighbors who passed away this year:

Stanley Flink - donation to VINS Nature Center

Judy Oro - donation to “Plant a Tree”

Gary Hudson - donation to PPA

**Treasurer Report:** Greg Crossan (attached)

**Secretary’s Report:**  Minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting were published in the fall

newsletter and are available on the sign-in table.

Vote to approve passed.

**Road Committee Report:** Ryan Chapell

Ryan shared the winter was a trying year for those year-round on the lake. The town currently bids out the work for the winter. Due to budget cuts, the town was unable to mow both sides of the road this year. Hopefully, the town will be able to rent a mower next year or collaborate with another town. Some potential light work might be done in late fall. The roads were graded in late spring. Ryan will continue to work with Jeremy at Peacham Town as needs arise.

Kevin H. shared his frustration with roads, as much tax money is given from our camps and roads are the primary service we receive as a result.

Seth shared that on Rt. 232 the new strategy is to open-up the roads to let more sunlight in to dry out the roads and prevent limbs from falling on the roads.

Another concern was expressed by Mo regarding the condition of Rt. 232. Chuck shared work is slated to be done on this over the summer…approximately 6 miles. Ryan’s understanding is that only culverts will be done this year, and the road work later on.

Ryan will share the contact number for concerns on Rt. 232 so pond members may follow-up with concerns.

**Loon Report:** Courtesy of Rick Scholes

“Our Peacham loons were not successful this year. GMP’s lake water levels, six or seven inches above the 2020 level, should not have been a problem. Decreasing water quality, increasing wake activity from more (pontoon!) boats going faster in the early summer, climate change, change in fish population (Bass dietary preferences leaving less nutrition for loons?), the fact there are three pairs trying to nest in the space that formerly supported two, plus unknown causes could be contributing. I don’t think the eagle and osprey cause the problem, at least not on their own. The southwest pair did try to nest but as far as I know no chick resulted. I didn’t find a chick during my July 16th loon count.The “loon island” in the north arm of the lake also lost its small tree nesting birds. No idea why or if this is at all related.”

**Water Quality Report: Martha Winston and James Taffel**

1. Lay Monitor Program

Janice Guilmette and Pat Wiedel - 2nd year for this team and 21st year we have been sampling the water. Each year the water samples become part of our Lake Scorecard. The scorecard tracks levels of phosphorus, chlorophyll and water clarity. You can view our Scorecard on the DEC website. All Vermont lakes are seeing rising levels of phosphorus - possibly from warmer water temperatures. Higher phosphorus encourages more algae and plant growth.

1. Greeter Program

This is our fifth summer. Priscilla McCormick-Sampson is still with us. She is working four hours on Fridays and eight hours Saturday, Sunday and holidays. We are fortunate to have Priscilla - she is well trained, personable and very reliable. We have raised her compensation to $15/hour this year and will be paying her for mileage as a bonus.

Our DEC Greeter grant was reduced again - it has fallen about $500 each year. This year we received $2,771. We utilized this funding for Priscilla’s wages. She will be paid $5330 this year. We need to cover the remaining $2,559 plus about $560 for mileage. Allen Freund and Martha will meet with the Peacham Select Board to request funding. They have supported us in the past. Members were asked to consider making a contribution to the Greeter Fund to help cover our wonderful greeter and to support the health of the lake.

Priscilla greeted 274 boats by the end of July, 2022. About 2/3 of them were non-motorized and about 1/3 were outboards. She’s had a rising problem with disrespectful visitors. These visitors are not respecting the state rules for use of the boat access. If you have a minute over a weekend, please stop by and show Priscilla some support!

1. VIP Program -

Jim Taffel shared his experience with the VIP program. 2021 was our first summer to have VIPs on the pond. Five people were trained and four got a chance to paddle and report the aquatic plants they encountered. Noticing any unusual looking aquatic plants is the VIPs job, especially anything that might be an invasive species. Basically, you take a photo of any new plants you don’t recognized and forward these to the state. They’ll identify these and get back to us if there’s a concern. No invasives have been seen so far! We are all hopeful that changing the lake level does not impact invasive species’ growth. The plants provide oxygen for photosynthesis, and the loons and fish love the pond weed. Some of the plants filter the water and help keep it clean. The bryozoan is a unique plant that resembles contorted cotton-candy and is actually very helpful in filtering the water.

Repairing and updating septic systems, refraining from fertilizing, and keeping rooted plants along the shoreline are all opportunities to support our water quality.

Training is available every summer - we welcome new volunteers or call and come out for a paddle with one of us. Current VIPs are Nancy Dickson, Jim Taffel, Patti Taffel, Mark Milazzo and Martha Winston.

**New Business**

*FOVLAP* (Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds) is looking for interested people to join their board. They have a new, vigorous president and are newly dedicated to outreach and education for everyone who enjoys and uses the water. Their

annual meeting coming up on September 8th. Visit their website to learn more.

Kevin Hudson expressed an interest in becoming involved with FOVLAP.

PPA voted to support *Wake Boat Petition* that was submitted to the State of Vermont DEC. Martha heard form over 20 camp owners in support of the petition. There was one dissent and two individuals opposed to regulations in general. If the state regulation passes, boats with *filled* ballast-tanks would be banned from Peacham Pond due to the size of our lake and the environmental repercussions they can cause.

Several participants shared their thoughts on the wake-boat regulations, with several expressing concerns regarding government regulations. Martha shared the wake-boat regulation legislation was brought to the state via a concerned-citizens committee. Martha will continue to update pond-owners as information becomes available.

Tim shared his thoughts on *taxes and property appraisals*. (He purchased John Cookson’s camp.) His camp is assessed at twice its previous value. In reviewing appraisals, he sees inconsistencies in what the Listers have done after visiting properties. Tim shared several inconsistencies with the Town Clerk and feels other lake-owners should become involved. Tim is involved in working with others on this issue, some of whom who used an attorney to present their case.

Special volunteers were recognized for their work to support the PPA: Jaime Guilmette, Katherine Nelson and Jane Robinson

A single raffle ticket was pulled…the winner received a new PPA t-shirt and hat!

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes respectfully submitted by *Patricia Wiedel, Secretary*