

**Peacham Pond Association
Annual Meeting
August 1, 2020
(Held on Zoom due to Covid 19)
9:30 -10:30 a.m.**

Call to Order

Martha Winston, President, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Welcome

Martha welcomed the 16 camps (some with multiple participants) that signed into the Zoom online meeting. She reviewed the tools participants would use on this call (mute unless speaking; open and use chat box for comments and questions; vote using the toolbar for yes/no).

Recognize Board Members past year - 2019

Martha thanked members of the board by name for their help this past year.

Members included:

President - Martha Winston,
Vice-President - John Weaver,
Secretary/Treasurer - Barb Spaulding
Road Committee - Ryan Chapell, John Guilmette and Dave Noda
Social Media - Patricia Wiedel
Lay Monitor - Judy Oro

Goodbyes and gratitude were expressed to Dave Noda, who is moving off the Pond, and to Judy Oro, who is stepping down as a lay monitor.
Martha introduced the Slate of Officers for 2020 -21.

President - Martha Winston
Vice-President - John Weaver
Treasurer - Barb Spaulding
Secretary - Patricia Wiedel
Road Committee - Ryan Chapell
Road Committee - John
Guilmette
Environmental Programs - *new member Allen
Freund and New member - Greg Crossan*
Social Media Consultant - *Michelle Risley*

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the slate of officers for 2020-21. Members voted and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (attached)

Barb Spaulding reviewed the attached Treasurer's Report. Last year, food supplies and Portalet rental caused us not to break even on the Annual in-person picnic. A total of \$350 has been sent in thus far in contributions to the Greeter Program. Dues (\$30 annually per camp) are slowly trickling in as a result of the July newsletter. No memorial checks were written this year.

Barb has been working to maintain an accurate email database. She requests members list their current email address on their dues payment check to help with this. Dues may be mailed to Barb at:

PO Box 49 Marshfield, VT 05658 OR deposited in the manilla envelope hanging outside the Winston's front door at 1468 Peacham Pond Rd. (until mid-September)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting. The motion passed.

Loon Watchers and Loon Count

Martha shared that Eric Hanson, from the Vermont Center for Ecostudies would like more loon watchers so all coves are monitored. As a result, three camps are now reporting their sightings to Eric; Rick and Annette watch the north cove, Jim and Patty Taffel watch the west cove, and Jan Trapanier watches the SW cove.

No loon chicks were reported this year. Martha read aloud a report from Patti to the group.

There are many great nesting sites, but no nesting activity.

Rich Scholes had Eric Hansen out to the pond this summer. A report from this meeting will possibly be included in the fall newsletter.

Lay Monitor Program -

Martha thanked Judy and Ray Oro for serving as lay monitors during the summer of 2019. She shared that lay monitors are trained by the state to oversee the water quality, and as a result of Covid, no interns were hired to interface with lay monitors for the 2020 summer.

Overall, this year's clarity has been excellent due to a dry spring. As the water warms, we can expect more chlorophyll, which may begin to cloud the lake.

Janice Guilmette and Pat Wiedel will be trained by the state to serve as new lay monitors for the summer of 2021.

Road Committee Update - Ryan Chapell

Ryan shared that he and Dave Noda met with the Peacham Road Commissioner, Jeremy Withers in mid-December. They discussed best ways of communicating with one another, and agreed phone calls and texts between the Peacham Pond Road Committee and the Road Commissioner is best.

Jeremy shared that one of his top goals was to continue replacing culverts to add to the five that were replaced last year. Unfortunately, this year's budget does not support this work, nor does it support the increased mowing to keep roads accessible. Culverts already in place will continue to be maintained.

Jeremy expressed frustration that not all Peacham Pond residents understand the importance of mowing in order to keep roads accessible for first responders, propane vehicles, and other critical services. Jeremy remains committed and responsive to the work of the road committee, and further education is needed to ensure all residents understand his efforts.

Jeremy shared the current budget supports two road gradings per year. The next one will be done prior to the winter season. Later this fall, Green Mountain Power will be out to cut down trees deemed problematic. These are identified with orange tape. Cutting roadside trees helps prevent loss of power, which is especially critical for those wintering at the pond.

Public Access Greeter Program Update - Martha Winston

Martha gave an overview of the Public Access Greeter Program, and the need for continued focus to ensure the health of the lake. The program was initiated three years ago when Martha wrote and was awarded a VT grant for the program. As a result, Priscilla McCormick Sampson was trained as a "greeter" to inspect boats, log boat activity and train visitors at the public boat launch. Each summer, approximately 250 boats have been logged representing 4-5 states and over 50 water bodies. Invasive species that boats are inspected for include Milfoil, Hydrilla and zebra mussels. Priscilla is at the boat landing from 7:00 a.m - 3:00 pm on weekends from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

As a result of Covid, Priscilla is no longer permitted to hand out leaflets, a loss for our education component.

The purpose of the grant is to provide seed money to help lake associations begin programs. As more lakes participate in the grant process over time, monies for existing greeter programs shrink, and grantees are encouraged to build their own capacity to sustain and expand their programs. Currently, our Greeter Program needs a budget of approximately \$4000 to run in its current form.

Following Martha's remarks regarding the Greeter Program, a healthy Q& A ensued.

Q: Can in-kind contributions supplement the grant?

A: The grant requires in-kind contributions. Martha's time in writing the grant and supporting Priscilla's work are written in for this component.

Q: Can we supplement Priscilla's hours through volunteers?

A: Yes, as long as volunteers attend the annual spring training. This year, the training, included Covid info as well as information pertaining to creating and sustaining a robust Greeter Program.

Q: How do we donate to the Greeter Program?

A: Send a check to the PPA Treasurer, Barb Spaulding, and specify funds be dedicated to this program.

Q: Outside of the Greeter Program, what else do we need to emphasize to keep our lake free from invasive aquatic species?

A: Education is key!! Be able to identify...and help your neighbors identify...milfoil, hydrilla, and zebra mussels. Help neighbors with private boat ramps be vigilant about who is using their ramp. Have all visitors clean and wipe down vessels prior to launching. Be especially careful about water that can enter and stay in kayaks from other ponds. Same with jet skis...water can get in the housing from other lakes and needs to be dried or flushed out before entering the pond. Overall, kayaks and canoes are less likely to carry milfoil than trailers. Every part of a trailer needs to be cleaned and wiped down. Currently, over 100 lakes in Vermont have milfoil. Milfoil is very difficult and expensive to eradicate. Prevention is key!!

Q: How does ice-fishing affect the pond?

A: Good question! We need to research this. Fishermen tend to be some of the most educated and careful when it comes to preserving the environment. We do know that bait should not be shared across bodies of water. Let's continue to research.

Other comments: If anyone is concerned about plant growth, put the plant in a plastic bag and go to a board member so we can follow up to have the plant tested. We need all eyes on the water. There is some research indicating our lake's success with invasive species may partially be attributed to the fact that Green Mountain Power lets water out in the winter, which kills plants closer to the edge of the pond.

Goals for the Year

The board will meet in the fall to identify goals for the year. Draft ideas include migrating to another web platform to increase the ability to reach more people and include more lake information in a user-friendly format. In addition, we may want to design a long-term plan for supporting and expanding the Greeter Program to continue our focus on prevention.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Wiedel