

# Peacham Pond Assoc. Newsletter

OCTOBER 2021

Hello to all Peacham Pond Families and Friends,

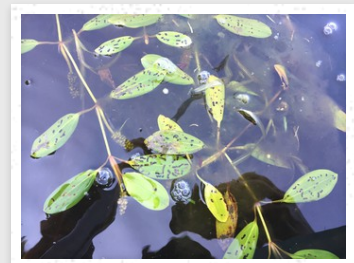
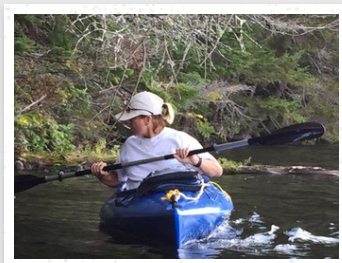
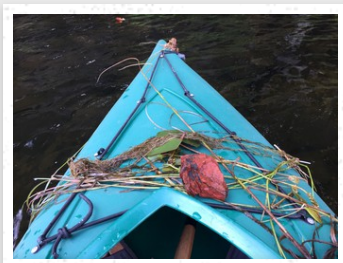
The summer of 2021 helped us return to some kind of "normal". There were family gatherings, 4th of July fireworks, lots of skiing, kayaking and fishing activity and even a wedding on the pond. We hope you had some special times this summer.

Thank you to those who came to the PPA annual meeting. Having a chance to meet with our neighbors was good for everyone!

Please continue reading our newsletter for more information about:

- the new VIP program
- water drawdown for this winter
- news and numbers from the Greeter Program
- PPA Survey
- plans for PPA merchandise
- cleanup and hiking on the Land Trust trail
- minutes from 2021 annual meeting

Thank you for all your support and have a wonderful fall and holiday season,  
The PPA board



## NEW VIP PROGRAM

During the summer five people trained as VIP (Vermont Invasive Patrol) volunteers. Thank you to Nancy Dickson, Mark Milazzo, Jim Taffel, Patti Taffel and Martha Winston. This group will

monitor the shoreline of our pond several times each summer to identify native aquatic plants and watch for the possible presence of invasive species. The volunteers were trained online and on the pond. They collect, identify and monitor the aquatic plants around Peacham Pond. If you see someone paddling close to your dock and peering into the water, it is probably one of the new VIP volunteers.

It has been a fun learning experience. We welcome anyone who would like to help. There are training sessions every summer. Please let Martha Winston ([mwinston54@yahoo.com](mailto:mwinston54@yahoo.com)) know if you are interested.

## WATER DRAWDOWN FOR 2021

This winter, we should expect Green Mountain Power to follow the guidelines of the Peacham Pond Plan they shared with us in January. In that plan, the water in the pond will be drawn down 6.5 feet, or less, below normal operating level during the month of December. The full plan is attached below.

If you have questions, our contact person at GMP is Kristin Kelly:

([kristin.kelly@greenmountainpower.com](mailto:kristin.kelly@greenmountainpower.com))

This plan will impact most homeowners. We may have ice closer to our docks, boat lifts and other structures along the shoreline. This is supposed to be positive for the environment of the pond, but it will bring some major changes for docks and other structures.



New Peacham Pond Requirements[1].docx

 [Download](#)

14.3 KB

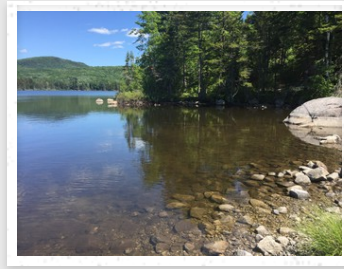
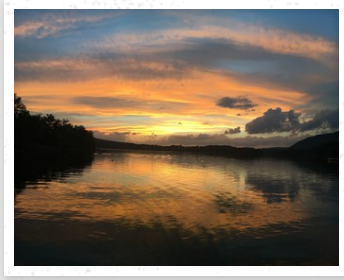


## PEACHAM POND GREETER PROGRAM

We have completed our 4th summer for the Greeter Program! Priscilla McCormick-Sampson, our greeter, has been with us all four years. If you have had the chance to meet Priscilla, you will understand how lucky we are to have such a dedicated person working for the protection of our pond. Priscilla collects data on all watercraft entering Peacham Pond. This year she logged 392 watercraft. She inspects the boat and trailers and makes certain all water is drained from wells, ballast tanks and motors. She also records what waterbody the boat has traveled from. All this data is shared with the state of Vermont and helps track and monitor the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.

This summer our Greeter worked for 3 days each week. Usually Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 7am-3pm. We were able to increase Priscilla's hours this year due to a combination of funding sources. \$3,134 came from state grant money, \$1,300 came from the PPA Greeter Fund and \$1,100 came from the Town of Peacham. We are grateful to the Town for their support and to our members who donated to the Greeter Fund last summer.

The Greeter Program, in combination with our new VIP Program gives us two ways to protect the pond when we have visiting watercraft. If you have a private boat ramp and have visitors or renters who launch boats, please watch the video on our website to learn to inspect those boats before they enter the pond. ONE piece of Eurasian watermilfoil or several tiny zebra mussel seeds (or any other of the many AIS) is all it would take to have our pond invaded. THANK YOU for helping!



## DUES AND DONATIONS

**THANK YOU** to those who have paid their 2021 association dues. We have received payments from 43 pondowners. In addition we have received \$719 to date to support the Greeter Program for next summer. **MANY THANKS!!**

Dues, of \$30 per camp and donations can be paid online on our website:

<http://peachampondassociation.org>

or by mailing a check to our new treasurer:

Greg Crossan

2 Fox Run Lane

North Reading, MA 01864

## PPA SURVEY – PLEASE RESPOND!

Many times during the year, the board members wish we could know what other pond owners, families and friends are thinking about. What are your concerns about the pond? or your hopes for the future? Hence, this short survey. If you are receiving this email, we value your feedback and hope you will respond.

PPA Survey  
Please Choose one: All questions are optional. ...

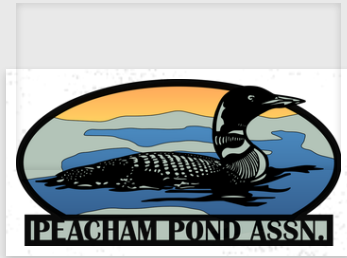
Name  
Your answer

Email  
Your answer

Please Choose one  
 Jump to end

PPA Survey forms.gle





## NEW LOGO

Thanks to a friend of the pond, Michael DePinto, we have a beautiful Peacham Pond Association logo. Several people have volunteered to help plan and order merchandise using this logo to be for sale next summer. Want to help decide what is created? Go to our survey and complete the idea checklist.



## PPA ANNUAL MEETING

We enjoyed a cool afternoon get together at the VanSchagen camp on July 31st. Thank you to Pinky and her family for hosting us. Appetizers were provided and a good crowd gathered to visit and then listen to our 2021 annual meeting. Some missed the big pot luck, but we were glad to see so many wonderful friends and neighbors. Thanks for coming! The minutes from the meeting are at the end of the newsletter.



## LAND TRUST TRAIL

On the west side of the pond, just off of Onion Point Road, there is a lovely walking trail. It loops through the woods on land owned by the Peacham Pond Land Trust. Ryan Chapell, Michelle Risley and a group of volunteers have worked to improve this trail and keep it free of fallen trees and overgrown plants. It is beautiful in all seasons and just waiting for you to enjoy it!

## PPA BOARD

President - Martha Winston - [mwinston54@yahoo.com](mailto:mwinston54@yahoo.com)

Vice-President - John Weaver - [johnweaver@weaverprinting.com](mailto:johnweaver@weaverprinting.com)

Treasurer - Greg Crossan - [gscshop@gmail.com](mailto:gscshop@gmail.com)

Secretary - Pat Wiedel - [pkwiedel@gmail.com](mailto:pkwiedel@gmail.com)

Road Committee - Ryan Chapell - [rtchapell81@gmail.com](mailto:rtchapell81@gmail.com)

Road Committee - John Guilmette - [johnr.guilmette@gmail.com](mailto:johnr.guilmette@gmail.com)

Town Liaison - Allen Freund - [allenfreund123@gmail.com](mailto:allenfreund123@gmail.com)

## MINUTES FROM ANNUAL MEETING (2021)

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 Liasion - 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 Liaison - 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 in their names to organizations suggested by each family.

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 greeter 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



