

Clemons Pond Association Spring Meeting  
May 27, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by President Doug Bradley, at Margo and Steve Feeney's home. A moment of silence was called for Clemons Pond neighbors who are no longer with us, particularly Betty Zelman who passed away on 1/29/18, as well as for service men and women who gave their lives in service to the country and who are currently serving. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Harold Gilman.

New association member, Ann Frizzell, was introduced by Sandy Tate. All present introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report: Joanna Lerish read the minutes from the Fall 2017 meeting. Doug moved to accept the minutes as written. Walter seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Sandy Tate read the treasurer's report for Dave Limbert. The balance at the start of the fall meeting in 2017 was \$732.08. The balance as of the start of the spring 2018 meeting was \$987.08. Income was derived from dues and a donation made in Betty's memory. Expenses included fees for disposal of a floating dock at the transfer station, donation to hospice in memory of May Hazen, annual report to Maine Secretary of State, and dues for the Maine Lakes Society. A motion was made to accept the report as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Water Quality Report: Victor Lerish reported that the water monitoring season for 2017 held no surprises or revealed any alarming trends. Testing so far this spring shows good early season water clarity. Surface water temperature appears to be rising fairly quickly this spring. It was 68 degrees F on May 26 and 62.6 degrees F two weeks earlier. Phosphorus testing completed in August 2017 was stable compared to the previous year at 5 parts per billion. We continue to participate in a long term climate study with U of Maine Farmington. Report will be on the website.

Invasive Aquatic Plant Report: Pam Mullens reported for Pat Clifford. No invasive plants were spotted on the pond last season. Maine VLMP will hold an invasive plant workshop in York County in June and has asked pond associations for \$50 donations to support the workshop. Motion to fund the donation was deferred to Other Business.

Webmaster Report: Dave Howard reported that the general downward trend reversed from the period 9/3/17 through 5/26/18 with an 8% increase in site visits, 15% increase in the number of users, and a 21% increase in the number of page views compared to the same time period a year earlier. The top 5 pages visited, in descending order, were: Home, Neighbors, Pond Life, Gallery, and Pond Business. The top 5 states from which visits originated were: MA, ME, NH, NY, and VA.

Loon Report: Chris Shields reported that loon landing platform is in good shape but loaded with black flies. The loons seem to be scouting out a nesting site along the shore near Dave and

Rich's dock. Of concern: there has not been a successful land nest in some time due to predation and changing water levels.

#### Old Business:

- a. Doug reminded association member about dues. Sandy Tate will collect the dues for Dave.
- b. Lake Smart Program: Three additional properties met the Lake Smart qualifications: two properties owned by the Limberts as well as Dave and Rich's home. Contact Judy Bradley if you want your property to be evaluated. Victor reminded people that the primary purpose of the Lake Smart program is to prevent erosion and protect water quality and pond health. It is not a pass/fail situation. He feels that the majority of people on the pond would pass with little needed attention.
- c. Shore Land Zoning: Steve Sanborne has retired and the new code enforcement officer is Bruce Smith. Doug reported that Mr. Smith is enthusiastic about coming to the fall meeting to talk about the new regulations and be introduced to association members.
- d. Beaver Dam Update: Walter reported that two beavers were trapped by the trapper from the pond at no cost as he took the pelts. The dam has returned and discussion was held regarding past efforts to dismantle the dam as well as pros and cons of taking it down at this time (the effect upon water level, loon nesting, maintaining water temperature). The discussion was deferred to new business.
- e. Historical committee update: Sally Williams reported that the library will hold a plant sale on Memorial day at 10, close at 11 for the parade in Hiram Village, and reopen in the afternoon. The historical society meets the second Saturday of the month; the historical society museum is open to the public on the third Saturday of the month. Sally described some upcoming programs by the historical society.
- f. Fall Officer Elections: President Doug Bradley, Vice President Nancy Serrell, Treasurer Dave Limbert, Secretary Joanna Lerish.
- g. The committee to promote new membership did not meet over the winter but will meet over the summer. Pam developed a fact sheet to pass out to prospective new members about the association.
- h. The fall 2018 meeting will be at Doug and Judy Bradley's home.

#### New Business

- a. Doug recognized the enormous contributions made to the association and the pond by the Limberts over their many years at the pond. Doug also recognized Dave Howard and Rich Colicchio. for their incredible work on the website. All four people will be missed!
- b. Treasurer's vacancy: Harold nominated Sandy Tate to take over the treasurer's position from Dave Limbert. Sandy accepted the nomination and it was unanimously approved by membership. Doug will talk to Carol Hill about staying on as the backup.
- c. Donation in Betty Zelman's memory: Discussion was held regarding where to send a donation in her memory. Ideas included the Hiram Historical Society, the town library, a high school vocational or environmental program, the pond association, and restoring the old Clemons cemetery in the woods. Chris moved that everyone think about the best way to honor Victor and Betty and bring ideas to the fall meeting. Louise moved that people send Joanna their ideas for a memorial so that ideas are in one place, and Joanna will compile the list. Sandy seconded the motion. Discussion: Joanna will send out the ideas in a group email before the picnic, and again before the fall meeting. The motion passed. Victor volunteered to contact the high school.

- d. Website discussion: Dave Howard offered to continue as webmaster until a new person is found and up to speed. He hopes that will take place by the end of the year. A new issue: Adobe is discontinuing their current platform and the new person will have to set up a new platform. Dave had a couple of suggestions going forward. Volter offered to meet with Dave and Rich to discuss options and will bring ideas to the fall meeting.
- e. Annual Picnic: The picnic will be on July 21, 2018 at Judy and Doug Bradley's home. Sandy and Bill will set up, Pam and Pat will shop, Doug will help cook.
- f. Spring Meeting 2019 will be at Victor and Joanna Lerish's home.

#### Other Business

- a. Contributions to Maine VLMP: Jack Macomber made a motion to donate \$50 to Maine VLMP. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The amount of contribution will be revisited at a later time once we determine past contributions. Chris made a motion for a one-time donation of \$50 to go to the upcoming June VLMP workshop in Limerick. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Information will be sent via a group email to association members about the upcoming workshop.
- b. Louise noted differences between the current water level/fish population and the levels when she and Walter first bought their camp on the pond.
- c. Beaver dam removal: A discussion was held regarding past efforts to take down the dam in order to lower the water level. A discussion was held regarding the placement of the loon platform, keeping in mind the need for loons to have safe space and owners to have access to their waterfront. A group of people will meet Monday (May 28) at 9 a.m. at the dam to take it down.
- d. Radon testing: Dave and Rich wanted people to be aware that high levels of radon were discovered during their recent house inspection. Both the air and water levels were high.

Paul Sweeny made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanna Futransky Lerish  
Secretary