

Minutes: Clemons Pond Association Fall Meeting
September 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m. by President Doug Bradley, at Victor and Joanna Lerish's home. A moment of silence was called for Clemons Pond neighbors who are no longer with us, particularly May Hazen who passed away in August of this year, as well as for service men and women who gave their lives in service to the country and who are currently serving. Walter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

No new members of the association were in attendance.

Secretary's Report: Joanna Lerish read the minutes from the May 28, 2017 association meeting. Chris Shields moved to accept the minutes as written, and the motion was seconded by Betty Zelman. The minutes were accepted unanimously as written.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Limbert presented the treasurer's report. The balance at the start of the last Spring meeting was \$665.14. There was income of \$365 from dues, and total expenses of \$298.06. The current ending balance as of the fall meeting is \$732.08. Celia Hunt moved to accept the treasurer's report as written. It was seconded by Normie Limbert. The report was accepted unanimously as written.

Water Quality Report: Victor Lerish reported that the data collected has not varied dramatically from previous summers. Average water clarity for the year to date was 5.16 meters which for the second year in a row has trended in a negative way from our historic average. It has been improving over the last few measurements so the final average may improve with additional data points. Late summer temperature and oxygen levels profiles revealed colder water and better oxygen levels than several recent summers. Phosphorus testing was completed in late August and we are awaiting those results.

Invasive Aquatic Plant Report: Pat Clifford reported that the pond survey for this summer is almost complete and no invasive plants have been seen. She reported that milfoil has been spotted in Long Lake in Bridgton. A question was raised as to the plants covering portions of Little Clemons Pond. Pat felt that the plants are native and not problematic.

Webmaster's Report: Dave Howard reported a downward trend in usage by approximately 15 %. Maine, New Hampshire, and Mass. are the top three states from which web usage originated. Additional discussion regarding the website was deferred to new business.

Loon Report: Chris Shields reported that a single egg hatched on the nest this summer, but did not survive. She has observed as many as 7 loons rafting on the pond.

Old Business:

- a. Doug reminded association members about dues..
- b. Lake Smart Program: Doug and Judy Bradley and Victor Lerish attended a full day training offered by the Lake Smart Program. A few weeks later, Maggie Shannon met with them on the

pond and evaluated four properties to provide hands-on training. They are now certified Lake Smart evaluators. Judy will be our Lake Smart Coordinator. Please contact Judy to arrange an evaluation if interested. Doug emphasized that the main purpose of the Lake Smart program is to help property owners minimize a negative impact on the pond by implementing best management practices, particularly as they relates to erosion and water run-off. Thus far, Pat Clifford and Pam Mullens, and the Smiths, Bradleys, and Lerishes have received the Lake Smart award. Additional properties have been evaluated.

c. Shore land Zoning: Doug reported that he contacted the town code enforcement officer, Steve Sanborne. Mr. Sanborne said that people from Brownfield and Hiram were meeting to review the state regulations with Maine DEP, and that we should contact him again in the spring. He did not want to comment on the question regarding whether the more strict regulations would apply. Doug reported that a copy of the new regulations is on the state website but is difficult to follow.

d. Beaver dam: A group took down two beaver dams in the spring. Even though the beavers have rebuilt, the water level appears to be down. There was discussion regarding management of the beaver activity.

e. Abandoned docks: Many thanks to Dave and Normie who took responsibility for removing the abandoned docks as well as various pieces of wood. The amount of debris removed filled two pick-up trucks. In the past, \$40 had been allocated to cover the costs but the actual cost was \$50. Chris moved that the allocation be changed to \$50 in order to reimburse Dave and Normie the cost for removing the debris. Walter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

f. Annual picnic: Doug thanked the Limberts for hosting the picnic, Pat and Pam for doing the shopping, and everyone for set up/clean up.

g. Spring meeting: Spring meeting will be held at Margo and Steve Feeney's house

New Business:

a. Doug reported that Joanna sent a card to the Hazen family, care of Bob Hazen, expressing condolences from the pond association. Many positive memories about May were shared. Normie moved that we donate \$50 to hospice in May's name. The motion was seconded by Louise and passed unanimously.

b. Election of Officers: Doug, Joanna, and Dave Limbert agreed to stay on in their current positions. Nancy Serrell volunteered to fill the vice president position. Betty moved that the slate of officers be accepted as presented. Louise approved the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. Website discussion: Discussion was held regarding the purpose of the website. Dave Howard (the webmaster) thought that the website should be an easy to use website that provides information to Clemons Pond members and neighbors. It is not a business or public website. There was consensus that the website is extremely helpful as is and serves its purpose very well. No concerns were expressed about the drop in usage; there was no support for a Facebook page. A motion was made that Dave Howard's mission for the website meets the needs of the association. The motion was seconded by Mike Smith and passed unanimously.

Richard Hunt expressed concern about a drop in participation in the association. Louise noted that there is a general trend for people not to join associations. There was discussion about how to best engage new people on the pond. There was also a discussion regarding the use of postcards vs. emails to notify people about the spring and fall meetings.

- d. Mosquitos/Dragonfly Larva Planting: Concerns were expressed about bringing contaminated water into the pond if dragonfly larva are planted. Chris moved that we do not purchase dragonflies for this coming season. Louise seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- e. Beaver Management: The discussion continued regarding the on-going management of the beavers. Celia made a motion that we have trappers move the beavers. The motion was revised, and a motion was made to engage someone to trap the beavers for the pelts. The motion was seconded by Betty and passed unanimously. Walt and Dave Limbert will follow through by contacting the trappers. Sally Williams expressed concern about the wetlands on her property, and was assured that the wetlands would be protected. The question about trapping will be revisited in the spring if the trappers charge. Pat moved that we allocate \$100 to pay trappers if necessary to cover costs. The motion was seconded by Walter and passed unanimously.
- f. Sally reported that the Hiram Historical Society has two new programs for the fall. The museum is open and improved through grants. The library is having its bulb sale and is taking orders through September 21. The historical society would welcome photographs for their archives. She said that Hiram has seen an increase in crime-much of it drug related.
- g. The Fall 2018 meeting will be at Judy and Doug Bradley's home.

Other Business

- a. Please provide Joanna with updated email addresses. Joanna will coordinate with Dave Howard regarding new emails. Doug made a motion that notices about the spring/fall meetings will continue by email and that those who want postcards will let Joanna know. Betty seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- b. Doug raised the issue of promoting new membership in the association. Sandy reminded people that she sent out letters and did not get any responses. Walt suggested that we invite new neighbors to come with us to the meetings, establishing interpersonal contact. Sally asked about a website notice; Rich Hunt asked about a subcommittee of greeters. Doug will convene the board informally to talk about strategies. Pam suggested putting together a fact sheet that listed all the things that the association does, drawing a link between the association activities and pond health. Chris, Pat, Victor, Dave Howard, and Dave Limbert offered to participate in a committee to talk strategies.

Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Louise seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanna Futransky Lerish