

Minutes: Clemons Pond Fall Meeting  
9/4/16

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 by President Doug Bradley, at Sandy and Bill Tate's home. A moment of silence was called for our Clemons Pond neighbors who are no longer with us and for all service men and women who gave their lives in service to the country and who are currently serving. Our thoughts are with Jackie Meggison who lost her husband Dale this past year. Tony Materna led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report: Joanna Lerish read the minutes from the May 2016 pond association meeting. Chris Shields made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Carol Hill and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Carol Hill read the report for Dave Limbert. We have an ending balance of \$710.14. For comparison, the ending balance in September 2014 was \$849.10 and in September 2015 was \$610.10. Dave was concerned a year ago that we may have a continuing deficit problem, but the deficit did not happen this year. Some savings have been realized by changing web service providers and by not having to do repairs or buy supplies for water testing. Tony made a motion to accept the report as read. The motion was seconded by Ava Saurman and passed unanimously.

Water Quality Report: Victor Lerish reported that we have had an average water quality testing season on the pond this year. Water clarity so far this summer has averaged 5.35 meters, not far from our historical season averages. This will probably improve with the addition of data points through early October when the water clarity typically increases. Peak surface water temperature in the pond was 78.8 degrees reached on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Current surface water temperature is 76 degrees. Oxygen levels in the water column have been typical with the expected late summer decline in oxygen levels below a depth of 5-7 meters. Our single surface phosphorus test done in August was 7 parts per billion (slightly higher than in the past four years but a level we have seen before). The vast majority of Maine lakes have phosphorus levels comparable to ours. Our oxygen probe is functioning well. Thanks as always to Nancy Serrell for her continued and much appreciated help in conducting water quality testing.

Invasive Aquatic Plant Report: Pat Clifford reported that a pond survey was completed on 9/3/16 by Victor and Joanna Lerish, Pam Mullins, and herself. While a lot of metaphyton was observed, overall there was less vegetation than seen in previous years. No invasive plants were seen. Pat took samples of small bits of vegetation floating around the end of the cove to make sure they were not invasives. Pat passed around a map of Maine showing what lakes have been contaminated by invasive plants. The map is on the VLMP website. There are links on our website to the VLMP website.

Webmaster's Report: Dave Howard reported that rather than detail statistics in his report, he has them to share if someone is interested. In general, website usage is down approximately 21 %, identifying a general trend of less web usage. The new web service provider has saved

the pond association \$118.91. (The expenses for the previous provider per year were \$159.95 for web hosting and \$14.95 for domain renewal. The expenses for the new provider are \$54.00 for web hosting and \$1.99 for the domain.)

Loon Report: Chris Shields reported that this summer's chick is growing and still being fed by parents. The chick seems to have a whiter chest area than the previous chicks. The loon platform will need some minor repairs. The loon count in July revealed 3 loons. Carol Hill reported that four loons were seen on the pond right after ice out in April. Five loons were seen in the cove this morning. Related to the discussion of wildlife on the pond, Carol reported that the purpose of the manikin on her deck is to keep the eagle away from their new puppy, a suggestion provided by the Audubon Society.

#### Old Business:

1. The 2016 annual dues are due; Carol Hill has Pond Association Membership cards.
2. Doug and Judy were unable to get involved with the LakeSmart Program this past summer but plan to contact the program soon with the hope that something can happen this fall. Addressing the run-off from their roof is one important question. Victor asked Doug if he thought the representative from LakeSmart would be willing to visit other properties on the pond when coming to the Bradley's house. Doug will investigate and let Dave Howard know the date so that the date can be posted on the website.
3. No report from the historical committee.
4. The annual picnic was a success. The camp hat was turned over to Dave Howard. Many thanks to Ava and Charlie for hosting, to Pat and Pam for shopping and cooking, to Dave and Normie for grill tables, to Sandy and Bill for set up, and to everyone for helping with clean-up.
5. The abandoned docks are still floating at the end of the pond. Doug reported that he contacted the town and was told that the town was not interesting in helping transport the docks away. Money was appropriated by the pond association in the spring to aide in the docks' removal. The discussion as to what to do with the docks was tabled until the spring meeting.
6. The spring 2017 meeting will be at Dave and Normie Limbert's home.
7. Victor reported that there is no need for additional phosphorus testing. It will be more important to educate people regarding shore line zoning regulations to protect the health of the pond.

#### New Business:

1. Doug spoke with Steve Sanborne, the town Code Enforcement Officer, regarding Shore Land Zoning. Steve would like to meet with us but said that the code is changing and that he would like to wait until the changes have been finalized. Some codes are relaxing while others are becoming stricter. Doug also contacted Mike Morse from the Maine DEP who was unable to come on Labor Day. Once the new codes are determined by the town, Dave will try to put a link to the codes on the website. Victor asked Doug if it would be possible to call a special pond association meeting with Steve Sanborne to learning about the new codes and to clarify the relationship between state restrictions and town restrictions.

2. Mosquitoes were not too bad this summer. Chris Shields made a motion that we not plant dragonflies in the spring of 2017 and see what happens. The motion was seconded by Carol Hill and passed unanimously. There was discussion regarding local sources of dragonflies and concern that invasive plants could be brought into the pond by the dragonfly water.
3. Carol Hill, reporting for Dave Limbert, said that Dave felt that income and expenses have stayed fairly stable and that there was not a need to raise dues at this time.
4. Carol Hill volunteered to replace Harold Gillman as the Alternate Signature for Bangor Savings Bank, for the pond association. Doug made a motion that Carol be the Alternate Signature. The motion was seconded by Tony and passed unanimously. Dave Limbert will give Carol the form that needs to be signed.
5. The fall 2017 meeting will be held at Victor and Joanna's house.

Other Business:

1. Sally Williams announced that the Hiram Historical Society received two grants: A Gibson grant that will be used to build a concrete pad and move a vintage road grader to the grounds of the Hiram Historical Society; and a Maine Humanities Council grant to refurbish the interior of the building. The Town of Hiram purchased the road grader in 1931, made by Caterpillar Tractor Co.

A motion was made by Jeanne Smith to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Jo Smith. The meeting adjourned at 11: 14.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanna Lerish, secretary