

Pleasant Lake Protective Association
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
July 2, 2022, 9 AM
Slope 'n Shore Annex, in person

Steve Allenby welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Lake Host Program:

Doug Baxter introduced the 4 Lake Hosts for this summer season. They will be working from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 8 – 6. In 2020 the Lake Hosts did 3653 inspections, in 2021 they did 2169. To date they have done 628.

The cost of the lake host program is \$22,000. The PLPA receives a \$2,300 grant from the NH Lakes Association, \$7,000 from the Town of New London and the PLPA covers the remainder. Doug presented Rachel, Lindsay, Jane and Don with gifts from the organization.

Boating Safety:

Doug reminded everyone that this is a small lake and a neighborly community. Jamie Mallinger spoke to the audience as a wake surfer who in the past had not understood the effects of his wake boat on the lake, but with some intervention and direct interaction with Board members, he became aware of the negative effects of the wake on the lake and learned what the best practices are. Wake surfers don't need a smooth surface, so going up and down the middle of the lake works for them and is the least detrimental to the shoreline and the water quality. It stirs up the least sediment and allows the wave action to disperse the most. With direct, friendly interaction with people who are not using best practices, a lot can be accomplished. Tubers should also stay to the middle of the lake.

Jen Esten asked if many wake boats come in at the boat ramp. The answer is not many, but the message about best practices, including being careful of the ballast water, will be passed on to those who do.

Minutes:

It was moved (Storm Connors) and seconded (Fred Pierce) to waive the reading of the minutes. The motion passed.

It was moved (Storm Connors) and seconded (Will Kidder) to approve the minutes of the July 2021 Annual Meeting. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Peter Winship reported that things are consistent from year to year. The PLPA is in good shape and has a nice war chest in place if we need to deal with invasive species.

There was a question about the fireworks. The fireworks cost \$6,000 and we normally take in \$2,000 - \$3,000 in donation specifically toward them..

Nominating Committee:

John Wilson nominated the following:

President – Fred Pierce

Vice-President – Doug Baxter

Treasurer – Peter Winship

Secretary – Sue Andrews

And for a two year term on the Board:

Judy Oates, Will Kidder, Jen Esten, Scott Reed, John Ryan, John Wilson, Doug Bent, and Ex Officio: Steve Allenby

The motion passed unanimously.

Activities:

Will Kidder reported that the fireworks had happened, the Boat Parade is this afternoon and the theme is Native Species.

Wildlife Conservation:

Jen Esten is pleased that the baby loon, Prosper is doing well. The other chick was lost and we don't know why. It is common to not have 2 chicks survive. Our lake is one of the best in the state for producing chicks consistently. This female and male have been together since 2006 or 2007. In 2010 they were banded. One of their children is on Grafton Pond and another is known to be in MA.

The female got rebanded this summer.

Rocky's Ace Hardware is still doing the lead buy back initiative. Loons are a threatened species. There have been 6 lead related loon deaths in the state this year. There is a 3rd loon on the lake this year.

We have a lot of other ducks species on the lake. Jen warned that it is inappropriate to try to befriend wildlife.

Jon Waage reported that he has been watching Turtle Cove ever since the big draw down a few years ago to fix the dam. It is coming back slowly. There is a big beaver dam in there, which is a good thing. It helps to hold back things flowing into the lake. There is also an active otter in the cove. Vegetation on the edge of the shore is vital food for wildlife. When the lake level dropped so low, a lot of vegetation died and that added a lot of nutrients to the water.

Membership:

Membership stays very much the same year to year. There are about 240 paid members. The email newsletter goes out to 829 people. If you have something lost or found, you can email and have it put on Facebook.

Weed Watchers Report:

There are about 22 people who do weed watching 3 times a summer.

Water Quality Report:

Oge Young reported that the committee samples about once a month. They sample the middle, the outlet and inlets. The samples are taken to the lab at CSC. Our pH hovers at just about normal: 7. This has improved over time since the regulation of air pollution from the mid-west. The phosphorus levels are very low, 5-7, where the average in NH is 12-16. It is important to keep phosphorus down by using less fertilizers, keeping your septic system healthy and avoid the erosion of the shoreline. Stirred up sediment is a big cause of increased phosphorus and keeping wake boats in the middle will help not stir up the sediment. The fact that the lake is deep helps.

The clarity was down a bit in June because of the heavy pollen.

There was some discussion about the level of the lake and the pros and cons of it going up and down. When it goes down too fast it affects the mussels.

Watershed Report:

We have a very special gem of a lake. The dam is working well. There was some silt coming into the lake from new construction but it was remedied quite well once it was pointed out.

There was a Cyanobacteria sighting this summer. It was very localized and dispersed quickly. If you see a blue-green scum, report it quickly. It can be a shiny film and make the water a cloudy bluish. It feeds off nutrient input.

Nick Baers, the New London Health Officer spoke about it. He said that cyanobacteria responds to phosphorus not nitrogen. It could have been an isolated event. We have a very low phosphorus levels, so it shouldn't have happened. They also found high E. coli in one of the tributaries. They are going to do more research and try to find the source of it up the tributaries. Meanwhile, make sure your septic system is pumped out regularly, clear you leach field so it isn't clogged with roots and keep grease out of your septic system.

Carter Roberts asked how we could reach homeowners before bad stuff happens. The PLPA needs to communicate with people. Perhaps we could work with realtors to educate new homeowners. There is an influx of people who don't understand about septic systems. Be careful what you put in your system, no need to put special stuff into your system to keep it "clean". Bleach kills bacteria which you need in your system. Vinegar is a better cleaner, it is not as caustic.

Phosphorous binds to sediment which increases the phosphorus load.

Fishing Report:

The fishing derby is off for this year.

New Business:

Steve Allenby awarded the Kittie Wilson Good Neighbor Award, PLPA's highest honor, to John Wilson for all he has done for the lake for many decades. John received a standing ovation.

It was moved, (Storm Connors) and seconded (Sandy Hoke) to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Andrews, Secretary