

On July 8, 2023, President Fred Pierce opened the 54th PLPA Annual Meeting, held at the Slope 'n Shore's Annex.

The first order of business was a call for a moment of silence for the memory of recently departed PLPA members, Dick Clayton, Terry Dancy, Jim and Carol Messenger, Don Bent and Scott Reed.

Next, a motion for waiving the reading of last year's annual meeting minutes was proposed, seconded and passed.

Charlene and Doug Baxter outlined our Lake Host Program. The Program runs from Memorial Day until Labor Day, every day from 8 am to 6 pm. This year's lake hosts, Don, Lindsay, Jane, and Rachael introduced themselves, after which Charlene presented each a small gift of appreciation from the PLPA. One half of the funds to support the program is covered by the PLPA, and the balance is funded by a Town of New London grant and a small grant for the NH Lakes Association.

Treasurer, Peter Winship reported that this year's figures are very similar to last year's.

Peter added that while we have a healthy cash balance in the checking account, he has now deposited excess funds into short term CD's, at Fidelity. When asked how much cash might be required for an unforeseen event such as invasive weeds or animals, Peter mentioned a hundred thousand to which Craig Williamson responded, potentially a million

Will Kidder reported the July 4th events in his Activities report. This year's boat parade will go counter-clockwise, and the theme will be "Looney Tunes". Bruce and Marsha Johnson will be the Marshalls of the Parade which will start at 2 pm. The Fireworks activities will start with the lighting of the flares at 9 pm, followed by the show at 9:30 pm.

Jen Esten started her Wildlife Committee report with the announcement that she will be hosting "A Conversation with Carter Roberts", the current CEO of the World Wildlife Fund, at Colby Sawyer's Black Box Theatre at 4 pm on July 25.

Jen updated us on our loon family. This season our Loon pair had 2 eggs, but just one of the chicks survived, not an unusual situation in the loon world. He is thriving. Since the summer of 2007, our loon pair has had 29 eggs, of which 22 birds were fledged. Our female is now 22 years old, advanced but not considered old. A recent VT female died at age 31.

Jon Waage is concerned about the lake's our fish population, in particular Yellow Perch and fresh water muscles. These two species are very important to our water quality as they literally "filter" out the organic matter in our water and excrete the filtered water. He would like to hear reports from the members of sightings of either species.

For this year's Membership numbers, Jen Esten reports that we have 858 Newsletter subscribers from all over the world, many of which send the letter on to others. Our PLPA membership is presently 244.

Jen asks that any Lost and Found requests be emailed to plpa@plpa.net which will then be posted on Facebook, not sent to the newsletter.

Jamie Hess introduced himself as the new Boating Safety Committee Chair. He reiterated our boating rules of keeping motor boats 150' from the shoreline or from any stationary objects, such as docks and swim rafts, etc. He asks that anyone spotting violations please note the bow number and call the Marine Patrol. Contacting him is also an option: nordicskate@gmail.com or his cell: 802-291-3939.

Fred then introduced Jamie Mallinger who opened up a discussion on the etiquette of operating motorboats, with particular emphasis on keeping the waters in good shape for skiing and towing. He stressed the importance the communicating directly among ourselves rather than calling the Marine Patrol.

The boating discussion precipitated a larger discussion on the neighborliness of Pleasant Lake, including the following points:

Remember to watch for swimmers and the loon family

Suggestion to create a list of "best practices" to distribute to those either visiting existing residents or perhaps renting short or long term. The list might include boating rules, water quality tips, such as "no shampooing" in the lake, and the importance of neighborliness in our community.

Bill Hopwood commented that he has seen many paddleboards operating without the required PFD. He is offering identification stickers for any paddleboarder who would like one.

Sandy Stark commented that we owe John Wilson a special thanks for being such a wonderful Chief Loon Protector.

John Wilson reported on the Weed Watching Program. This year we have 21 weed watchers who each inspect their territories 3 times during the summer. To date we have found no invasive weeds.

John also reported that last winter the dam had mechanical difficulties which resulted in Bob Harrington of the Town of New London required to adjust the dam's water level mechanism manually. Our thanks to them for a great job.

Doug Bent described the Water Quality Committee's process of testing. They sample the lake's water at nine spots monthly. Two places, Chandler and Red Brook were a bit high for phosphorous, but Doug commented that all the rain tends to wash it out. There have been two brief cyanobacteria blooms recently. Doug also mentioned that he had recently found a water testing file he had submitted in 1978 after a dry winter, in which the phosphorous readings were much higher than those of today.

During the question and answer period on Water Quality, there was a discussion of septic systems. The Town of Sunapee now requires owners to check their septic systems every three years. Nick Baer, our Town Health officer, commented that the best policy for keeping up our septic systems is to have them pumped regularly. He also informed us of the availability of water sample testing at the State lab at Colby Sawyer and in Concord.

John Ryan, Fish Committee chair, is away, but Fred Pierce filled in with the report that 3000 Brook Trout had been released during the May/June period. There will not be a Fishing Derby now that the State has declared them illegal. We still encourage the fishing (and disposing) of the invasive Rock Bass.

John Wilson, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the slate of PLPA Board members whose terms are up. Proposed for another 2 years are: Storm Connors, Jamie Hess, Marilyn Kidder, Carter Roberts, Tom Stark and Oge Young. For a new addition to the Board, John is proposing Craig Williamson, a fresh water ecosystem expert and resident of Pleasant Lake. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the slate as presented.

The present officers: President Fred Pierce; Vice-President Doug Baxter; Treasurer Peter Winship; and Secretary Sue Andrews will be serving their second year of their two year terms.

Under New Business, the Bunker Road Group discussion was led by Ron Rakow, a resident of Bunker Road. The road in question is used heavily by all kinds of non-motorized traffic (bikes, walkers, runners, etc.) which are competing on the narrow road with motorized vehicles, some going well above the posted speed limit of 25 mph. Ron is asking the community to consider the Good Neighbor Policy by keeping to the speed limit and to call the New London police if speeds are exceeded.

There being no other business, a motion was made at 10:20 am for adjournment, seconded and passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Oates (Filling in for Sue Andrews)