

## **HSPA 2022 Annual Meeting July 2, 2022**

The Annual Meeting of the membership of the Hancock and Sand Ponds Association was convened by President Joe Nagy at 9:00 a.m. on July 2, 2022 at the Denmark Town Office.

Attendance: 49 participants

**Introduction:** President Joe Nagy welcomed the attendees and introduced the HSPA officers:

President: Joe Nagy, Hancock Pond, 1 5 Loon Lane, 203-260-2944

Vice President: Sue Neily, Hancock Pond, 20 Dugway Drive, 207-650-4557

Acting Secretary: Chris Perrin, Hancock Pond, 232 Wabunaki Rd., 207-219-0786

Treasurer: Ben Peierls, Sand Pond, 225 Sand Pond Way, 252-269-3505

Webmistress: Rebecca Gould, Hancock Pond

### **Guest Speaker – Maggie Welch, Staff Researcher and Loon Project Coordinator, Lakes Environmental Assn.**

Maggie provided an interactive presentation/discussion on loons in Maine lakes. The highlights of his presentation included:

- A 2003 oil spill in Buzzards Bay led to funding for loon research.
- LEA is conducting a five-year study to determine whether loon rafts increase loon productivity
- Partnering with Maine Dept of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) and Penobscot Nation, as well as, statewide endeavor with lake associations
- Can take up to 5 years for a loon to use an artificial nest
- In 2022 a new raft was added at the south end of Sand Pond and removed from Hancock, but a natural nest appeared in Loon Cove on Hancock
- Hancock is large enough to support 7 nesting pairs, and Sand Pond, 2 pairs.
- Obstacles to successful loon propagation:
  - People and dogs getting too close to nests
  - Big boat waves washing eggs from nests
  - Fireworks
- What can Association members do to help the loons:
  - Give them space – use binoculars
  - Call Maggie if/when you find a loon in distress (injured/trapped in fish line)
  - Volunteer to observe loons and report to Loon Committee

**Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting:**

Joe Nagy

Joe Nagy refrained from reading the 2021 minutes, reminding everyone they have been provided to all members earlier. He then requested a motion to accept the minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and then approved by unanimous vote of the members.

**Denmark Broadband:** James Ritter reported on the Denmark broadband committee. Its goal is to make broadband accessible and affordable to all town residents.

Ritter asked people to take the speed test and handed out a URL to everyone for connection to the test. He said it is important to always put in your address when you do the speed test, and for best results, do the test 3-4 times a week. The committee is working on a 2-4 month project to develop good speed data. Denmark has joined 6 other towns to form the Eastern Slopes Regional Broadband (ESRB). For more information go to [info@esrbroadband.org](mailto:info@esrbroadband.org).

**New HSPA Website:**

Rebecca Gould

Rebecca demonstrated (with a projector) an overview of the new website she developed for our association, pointing out the structure of the site and how to navigate it to find various topics. She spent some time fielding various questions and navigating around the website to demonstrate its benefits to the members.

A concern was raised by a member about whether the HSPA's financial information should be publicly available on our site. He suggested that we consider making that information available only to HSPA members. A motion was made and seconded to have Rebecca look into the possibility of having a password-protected area on the website.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Ben Peierls

Ben Peierls presented an up-to-date copy of the Treasurer's Report. The HSPA current bank balance is \$14,866, up slightly from the amount at the 2021 annual meeting.

Total income YTD for 2021 was \$9825, and for 2022 to date \$6350. Ben reported that 37% of lake residents paid dues for the year so far in 2022 (compared with 49% for 2021 full year). In addition to dues, there were additional individual donations (general and milfoil): \$1875 in 2021 and \$800 so far in 2022. Also, we have received \$1100 from Maine DEP into the Milfoil Inspection Fund in 2022.

Total expenses for 2021 were \$6,636, with the largest component being \$4160 for Courtesy Boat Inspections at the boat ramp. Expenses in 2022 to date are \$4125, but that does not yet include CBI costs for 2022 which will likely exceed \$4200.

There was some discussion on how to increase the percentage of members paying the annual dues of \$50. While no answer to this perennial issue was revealed, there is optimism that the new website will help.

**LEA Water Quality Report:** Ben Peierls

Ben reported on the Lakes Environmental Association annual Water Quality Report for Hancock and Sand Ponds using the overhead projector to provide visual information on the ponds.

Ben reported that the basic pattern for both lakes in 2021 was low to moderate values for phosphorus, water clarity (Secchi depth), and chlorophyll (algal biomass) with no significant trends over time. Overall, the water analysis reflects good/stable trends for both ponds.

A question on how to address observed shorefront property violations arose, and it is recommended to contact the town code enforcement officer.

**Committee Reports:**

**Loon Committee:** Since Maggie Welch had given us a loon presentation, Amy March provided only some brief comments:

- She solicited volunteers for the observation project
- She reported that our loon rafts have been tried, but so far unsuccessful.
- Additional information on loons is readily available on the Audubon website.
- If you want to join the Loon Committee email list contact Amy at [amymarch@mac.com](mailto:amymarch@mac.com)

**Invasive Species Program:** Michael Gately was not there to provide a report. Joe reminded members that LEA has training for courtesy boat inspectors (CBI), and that we have CBIs at the boat launch on Wabunaki Road on Saturdays and Sundays from Memorial Day until Labor Day. We have expanded our coverage on holiday weekends to four days, Friday through Monday, and we have increased the hours each day from 8 to 10 hours, 7am to 5pm.

Ben added that it is not just milfoil that is a concern, as other invasive species have been discovered in Maine and other New England lakes. He added that if anyone does any volunteer inspecting/observing for invasive plants in the lake (from kayak, canoe, snorkeling), to get in touch with Mike Gately ([mgately84@gmail.com](mailto:mgately84@gmail.com)) as he collects that data for the grant application to Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for milfoil inspections funding efforts.

**Dam Committee:** Bill Van Voorhis introduced the other committee members – Peter Bragdon, Larry Clark and Bob Remick. He showed a graph of the water level and gate opening limits for 2021 (Excel program developed by Peter Bragdon), as well as, a water level comparison chart for the years 2015 – 2021. He said the gate has been opened to the 1” level for the past month. He reminded everyone that in 2015, the

association voted to maintain a 12-18" spillway level goal, so that is what the dam monitors are adhering to.

Joe reminded the group that the State inspected the dam 2 years ago.

**Buoy Committee:** Andrew McClean, the chair the Buoy Committee, was not at the meeting. Joe reported that Andrew placed all of the buoys this spring and will remove them in the fall as normal.

**Bass Tournament Liaison:** Dave Rogers reported there are 2 tournaments on Hancock in 2022 – one was held in May, and the other will take place on November 6<sup>th</sup> (Pine Tree Bass Club).

He speaks to each tournament director prior to the events and has found all of them are very concerned with invasive plants, so practice sound boat inspection practices. He also added that the State requires 2 members at every tournament to inspect the catch and release procedures.

Dave followed up on a concern that during bass tournaments some participants were catching fish on Sand Pond and afterwards releasing them in Hancock Pond:

"I called Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for their input. What I learned is pretty cut and dried, and good news. Sand Pond is too small for bass tournament fishing. All permits for bass tournaments on Hancock Pond are restricted to Hancock Pond only. Tournament fisherman are not allowed to catch bass on Sand Pond during a Hancock Pond tournament. I will remind bass tournament organizers of the state's ruling on this during future tournaments."

#### **New Business:**

Jim Rubin inquired about runoff issues related to new driveway paving. Joe said he will inquire with DEP on this matter and report back in the newsletter.

#### **Election of Officers:**

**Motion: The following slate of officers of the HSPA Board of Directors is nominated for service through the 2022-2023 operating year.**

**President: Joe Nagy, returning. Yes, unanimous**

**Vice President: Sue Neily returning. Yes, unanimous**

**Treasurer: Ben Peierls returning. Yes, unanimous**

**Secretary: Chris Perrin returning. Yes, unanimous.**

The meeting closed at 11 a.m.  
Submitted by Chris Perrin, acting secretary.