

HSPA 2025 Annual Meeting July 12, 2025

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 12, 2025 at the Denmark Town Office.

Attendance: 53 participants

Introduction: President Joe Nagy welcomed the attendees, thanked them for their dues 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

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, 38 Kingfisher Way, 978-857-6522

Joe spoke briefly about the membership campaign pursued over the past year through postcard distribution to nonmembers and asked attendees for assistance by also distributing postcards.

Guest Speaker – Micah Miller, Biodiversity Research Institute - Director of the Arctic Program, Loon Program

Micah provided an overview of some of the research at BRI, and focused on the research in Maine.

- They study toxicology to evaluate impacts and threats to humans and wildlife.
- PFAS studies/testing has been a big focus for the past decade as it was found in Maine first.
 - Comes from industrial waste and has shown up on farms and in streams.
 - The highest concentration has been found in birds around water – loons and eagles.
 - 1000 samples will have been collected by the end of 2025
 - The State has issued some advisories about consuming deer harvested in certain areas of Maine with higher concentrations of PFAS.
- Lead is another major factor impacting loons and eagles in Maine - coming from fishing gear and lead bullets.

- BRI's loon research program has been banding loons for several years – has banded 6000 loons.
- Only 20% of loon chicks survive to adulthood.
- He encouraged people interested in their research to visit the BRI website
- He also provided his email address: micah.miller@briwildlife.org

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting: Joe Nagy

Joe requested a motion to accept the meeting minutes of the 2024 annual meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and then approved by the unanimous vote of the members.

Treasurer's Report:

Ben Peierls

Ben Peierls presented an up-to-date copy of the Treasurer's Report. The HSPA current bank balance is \$17,623, a good position, however, it does not yet reflect the majority of annual expenses for boat inspections and LEA testing. Highlights of the report:

- Positive cash flow of \$4215.98 for 2024
- 95 members have paid the 2025 dues so far + more today
- The postcard campaign has generated 17 new/lapsed members
- Annual expenses include the courtesy boat inspections, support for LEA and advanced water quality monitoring, newsletter printing, our website hosting, and miscellaneous fees.
- We've also included the cost of a lake plant survey in 2025
- Ben noted that donations to the Invasive Species fund only goes for CBI costs.

LEA Water Quality Report:

Ben Peierls

Ben reported on the Lakes Environmental Association annual Water Quality Report for Hancock and Sand Ponds

- Water quality overall (clarity, phosphorus and chlorophyll) is good in both ponds.
- The overall trends are stable.
- Chlorophyll in Hancock is decreasing over time.
- There has been no PFAS testing on the ponds yet but expect in the future.
- More information is available on our website.

Committee Reports:

Loon Committee: Amy March provided an update:

- She thanked the many volunteers on the Loon Committee and encouraged others to join if interested
- She showed a picture of 2 new chicks on the parent's back, but reported they have since gone missing.
- It appears there is currently a nesting loon at Loon Cove and encouraged people to stay away from there until mid - August.
- The loon population in Maine is doing ok, and she reminded people that loons typically live at the ocean for 7 years before coming to a lake to nest.
- The Audubon loon count is next Saturday, 7/19/25

Invasive Species Committee: Michael Gately and Dave Rogers provided an update:

- The grant application to the State DEP was successful in getting an increase for boat inspections awarded HSPA - \$3500 for 2025 – a \$500 increase.
- 378 boat inspections in 2024, and 3 harmless plant fragments found.
- Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI) are performed through mid-October, but filling shifts after Labor Day has become a challenge, so volunteer inspectors are needed – training is provided.
- Dave researched 6 lake associations in the region for best practices.
 - Maintain a robust CBI program
 - Encourage volunteer CBIs
 - Encourage pond watchers
 - Have a professional plant survey performed
 - Establish a mitigation contingency reserve

Special Mitigation Contingency Fund

Joe Nagy followed up with a motion to establish an Invasive Species Mitigation Contingency Fund with a \$3000 initial deposit (from the current HSPA checking account) into a separate interest-bearing account. The motion was approved by the members

Dam Committee: members – Larry Clark, Bob Remick and Peter Bragdon - presenter Peter provided a series of graphs of lake levels and gate opening limits as well as explanations.

- A graph comparison of lake levels 2024 - 2025
- The dam was open an inch for most of 2024
- The latter part of the summer and early fall of 2024 were rather dry and in early May of this year we had over 6 inches of rain.
- The dam monitors continue to adhere to the 2015 agreement – 12-18 inches.

LakeSmart Program – Larry Clark

- The goal of LakeSmart is to keep our pond waters from becoming opaque, green or slimy
- Keeping as much phosphorous from entering the lake is the key to preventing algae blooms.
- Merri Ehrhard has joined Larry as a LakeSmart evaluator
- Contact Larry, Merri or LEA if you would like to have your property evaluated
- Since we started the program 2 years ago, 23 properties have been reviewed and 14 qualified the first time.

Buoy Committee: Jeff Hall

- Jeff has taken over from Andrew McClean who did it for 5 years.
- Jeff is assisted by Steve Odden.
- There are 34 navigational buoys on Hancock supplied by the State under a program in which we have participated for 50 years.
- The State provides the buoys, chains, mooring blocks and GPS coordinates free of charge as long as we abide by the program
- Jeff successfully renewed us in the program through 2029.
- Thanks to Larry and Ann Clark for allowing storage of the buoys on their beach.

Bass Tournament Liaison: Dave Rogers

- There was 1 bass tournament on Hancock Pond scheduled for April but it was rained out.
- The State allows a max of 15 boats in a tournament on Hancock, and none are allowed on Sand.
- 2 more tournaments are scheduled for 2025 – 8/10 and 9/6
- No lead fishing equipment is allowed.

New Business:

Nothing discussed

Election of Officers:

Motion: The following slate of officers of the HSPA Board of Directors is nominated for service through the 2023-2024 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 11:15 a.m.
Submitted by Chris Perrin, secretary.