

HSPA 2023 Annual Meeting July 15, 2023

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 15, 2023 at the Denmark Town Office.

Attendance: 52 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
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 – Roy Lambert, LakeSmart Representative

Roy Lambert is the volunteer coordinator for the Lake Environmental Association's LakeSmart Program. Roy provided an overview of the LakeSmart program, the purpose of which is to educate people on protecting lakes from storm runoff and erosion, which contributes to higher phosphorous levels and algae growth. He explained that the program is free to participants, requires no adherence to recommendations/suggestions and is non-regulatory. The highlights of his presentation included:

- LakeSmart evaluators visit the property, walk it with the homeowner, and follow up with a written report documenting the findings.
- Generally suggestions to the homeowner entail alterations to land that will minimize runoff of material/debris into the lake.
- Maintaining stable shorelines protects the water quality of the lake.
- East Pond is an example of an unprotected lake that is now undergoing restoration treatment to remove an algae bloom at a cost of \$2 million.
- There are no LakeSmart evaluators on Hancock or Sand Pond.
- Roy is looking for volunteers to be trained to become evaluators for Hancock and Sand Pond. Call him at 647-5352.

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting:

Joe Nagy

Joe requested a motion to accept the meeting minutes of the 2022 annual meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and then approved by 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 \$18,492, up considerably from the balance at the end of 2022, however, it does not yet reflect the majority of annual expenses. Highlights of the report:

- Positive cash flow of \$322.50 for 2022
- 112 members (47%) paid dues in 2022
- Maine Dept of Environmental Protection grant of \$2200 received for courtesy boat inspections
- As of 7/14/23 annual dues received from 44% of properties
- Annual expenses include the boat inspections, support for LEA and advanced water quality monitoring, newsletter printing, our website hosting, and miscellaneous fees.

LEA Water Quality Report:

Ben Peierls

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

Ben reported long-term trends through 2022: chlorophyll and phosphorus are stable or decreasing; water clarity is increasing in Hancock and decreasing in Sand. Overall, the water analysis reflects good/stable trends for both ponds. Data for 2023 through early June shows higher-than-average phosphorus and lower-than-average water clarity readings, which could be caused by the heavy spring rains.

During the past winter, 2 visits were made to Hancock and Sand. Phosphorus and chlorophyll concentrations were similar or lower than long-term summer averages and Secchi depths more shallow (= less clear) than long-term summer average.

Committee Reports:

Loon Committee: Amy March provided an update:

- She thanked the many volunteers on the Loon Committee and encouraged others to join. Contact is amymarch852@gmail.com
- She reported that 2 nests on Sand Pond and 2 on Hancock were abandoned – possibly due to rising water and possibly predators.
- The LEA Loon Project placed loon rafts at the north end of Sand Pond and in Loon Cove on Hancock. Neither raft was occupied by loons.

- Maggie Welch, leader of the LEA Loon Project is considering other placements for the loon rafts next year in the hopes that they will be successful in helping loons resist rising water and predators.
- The loon count was 6 on Hancock and 4 on Sand.

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

- Mike reviewed last years results, the increased CBI inspection hours resulted in an increase of 197 boat inspections to a total of 486. The inspections found two plants on boats, neither were invasive.
- Mike completed the grant application in March, the State DEP awarded HSPA \$2530 which was an increase of \$330 over 2022.
- Mike indicated we will continue with the same schedule for 2023 with coverage Friday to Monday on all three holiday weekends and all day Saturday and Sunday on the weekends in between.
- Dave Rogers attended the LEA Milfoil Summit in April of 2023.
- Dave reviewed sign up sheets created for pond watching and expansion of boat inspections in September and October. Looking for volunteers who will be trained (8/5/23 - 10 am at boat launch) to complete boat inspections extending the number of weekends boats will be inspected. Should we have enough volunteers we will extend the dates from September 9/10 through October 7-8.
- Dave also reviewed the sign up sheet for pond watching. Mike and Dave are looking to more accurately track the number of people and hours spent by association members pond watching for invasive species. This data helps provide additional detail in support of our grant application and final reports to the Maine DEP.
- Mike had two final asks to association members. Additional donations are needed to the invasive species fund. The grant covers about 50% of the total cost and we would like the program to stand on its own without utilizing general funds from association dues to fund the paid boat inspection program. Additionally, Mike asked for volunteers and expressed appreciation for all of the support from the HSPA committee and pond association members.

Dam Committee: Joe Nagy introduced the dam committee members – Bill Van Voorhis, Larry Clark, Bob Remick and Peter Bragdon. Peter provided a series of graphs of lake levels and gate opening limits as well as explanations.

Highlights of presentation:

- A graph of 2022 lake levels
- A graph reflecting levels from 1999 through 2015

- A graph for 2015 – 2022 reflecting the levels post the 2015 HSPA Agreement to maintain the lake levels between 18” and 12” from April 1 until October 30 each year.
- Peter noted a minimum flow rate of 1.3 cubic feet / second is required by the State requiring a minimum dam opening of ¾”.
- The dam monitors continue to adhere to the 2015 agreement

Dana Deering voiced concern about the lake level being too high and causing erosion of the shoreline at his family’s property on Hancock Pond Rd.

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. Bill Van Voorhis said that once again Andrew could store the buoys on his property over the winter.

Bass Tournament Liaison: Dave Rogers reported:

There were 4 bass tournaments on Hancock Pond since our last annual meeting, on the following dates: October 2, 2022, November 6, 2022, April 29, 2023, and May 7, 2023. There are currently none scheduled for the balance of 2023. That can change so Dave will watch the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website regularly to see if any more get scheduled.

Dave attended the launch and weigh-in for each of the tournaments, and talked about safety, courtesy, powering on trailers and invasive plants. He also confirmed that the state told me that Sand Pond is off limits for tournaments because it is too small. Each tournament had their own boat inspectors and they did a thorough job.

There are a new set of proposed rules and regulations for bass tournaments, to become effective in 2024, that the state recently published for public review and comment. He plans to review them soon and will update everyone once the new regulations are ready for implementation.

New Business:

None

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.