

HSPA 2021 Annual Meeting July 17, 2021

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 17, 2021 at the Denmark Municipal Building.

Attendance: 54 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

Guest Speaker – Colin Holme, Executive Director, Lakes Environmental Assn.

Colin, who has been with LEA for 22 years, provided an overview of LEA's mission, functions and funding. The highlights of his presentation included:

- LEA is everything and anything about lakes.
- Milfoil – they do prevention, inspection, training and mitigation – currently working to mitigate milfoil in the Northwest River cove on Sebago Lake.
- LEA is fully membership funded with 1300 total current members. HSPA is a member, and also 15% of Hancock Pond and 22% of Sand Pond lakeshore owners are individual members.
- Also noted:
 - Canada Geese love lawns
 - Maine currently contains 4 invasive species (including milfoil)
 - Boating has increased in past year, and boats are bigger - deeper props
 - Fireworks are not good for lakes – contain heavy metals

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting:

Joe Nagy

Joe Nagy briefly highlighted some points and topics of the 2020 annual meeting, and then requested a motion to accept the minutes. 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 \$14,617.

Total income for 2020 was \$9,075, and for 2021 to date \$7,625. Ben reported that 42% of lake residents paid dues for the year so far. In addition to dues, there were significant individual donations: \$1,385 in 2020 and \$360 so far in 2021. Also, we have received \$1,115 into the Milfoil Inspection Fund in 2021.

Total expenses for 2020 were \$7,945, with the largest component being \$4,463 for Courtesy Boat Inspections at the boat ramp. Expenses in 2021 to date are \$2,461, but total annual expenses for the year are expected to be \$7,924, consistent with the prior year.

Net cash flow for the current year is expected to be \$702.

LEA Water Quality Report: Ben Peierls

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

Ben reported that the basic pattern for both lakes in 2020 was low to moderate values for phosphorus, water clarity, and chlorophyll (algal biomass) with no significant trend over time however, chlorophyll decreasing slightly and clarity increasing in Hancock. Average phosphorus and chlorophyll levels were lower than the long-term average on both ponds, while water clarity was slightly less than normal on Sand Pond.

Ben noted that winter testing is observing a trend reduced ice cover. This could have long term impacts for water quality, but more testing and observations will be needed to arrive at conclusions.

Committee Reports:

Loon Committee: Amy March reported that the loons are doing fine on Hancock and Sand Ponds. Amy said that one new chick every 2-3 years is enough to maintain the numbers on the lakes. In 2021 there were two eggs on Hancock Pond with one chick still alive, and on Sand Pond, there was a nest with one egg, but it was abandoned. She said there is a log of loon activity on the lakes going back to the 1980's.

The loon raft on Hancock Pond has been in place for over five years, but never used by any nesting loons. It recently provided a resting place for two painted turtles.

Amy reminded people:

- Encourage people to stay at least 50 feet away from loons.
- High speed boats should stay clear of any loons.
- No lead fishing tackle.

The Loon Committee will continue to put up warning signs at Loon Cove and on Sand Pond islands to discourage people and dogs near loon nests.

Milfoil Program: Michael Gately reported that he completed a grant application to Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for milfoil inspections. The DEP awarded HSPA \$2,000 for boat inspections in 2021.

Mike reported LEA is having a challenge hiring boat inspectors in 2021, and encouraged getting the word out to high school and college kids looking for summer work to apply with LEA in Bridgton. He also said that LEA provides training for anyone interested in volunteering as a boat inspector.

Mike encouraged people to observe the pond, looking for possible invasive plants when out in the kayaks or other boats, and to email him with any observations and also the time you spend observing as this helps in the grant request process.

The Milfoil Account established at the 2020 meeting to help build up more funds for boat inspections, has been successful with \$1,200 in the account currently.

Dam Committee: Bill Van Voorhis reported that water level at the dam is being measured every other day now. He reminded everyone that in 2015,

the association voted to maintain a 12-18 inch spillway level goal, so that is what the dam monitors are adhering to. He reported that the water level was very low in March due to minimal spring runoff, and the gateway was completely closed on account of that. The State of Maine is in drought, so they have had concerns of maintaining adequate lake levels.

As of July 1, 2021, the lake was back to 16.5 inches and the gate is open 1 inch to try and maintain an adequate level.

Buoy Committee: Andrew McClean who volunteered to chair the Buoy Committee in 2020, was not able to attend the meeting, so Joe Nagy provided his report.

With the assistance of James Ritter and Michael Cardy, 34 navigational buoys were placed on Hancock Pond in May 2020 and they were removed on 10/11/20. McClean thanked Dick Johnson for allowing us to store the buoys on his property over the winter.

Andrew met with a representative of the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, who explained that in the late 1970s the HSPA signed up in a state program in which the state pays for materials and buoys. We are one of two lakes that are part of this program. Other lakes must pay for everything. Andrew said that it would cost us \$2,000-\$4,000 to pay for our buoys and moorings.

Joe explained that Andrew's boat is not ideal for placing and pulling buoys. A 17-foot whaler or older pontoon boat would work much better, and a volunteered boat would be welcome. Anyone interested in providing a boat for this should contact Andrew.

Also, Bob Remick advised that some people are tying their boats up to buoys which is a very bad idea as the buoys can be moved from their intended location.

Bass Tournament Liaison: Dave Rogers reported he is now a full-time resident on Hancock Pond which will allow him to be more involved in working with the bass tournaments.

He said there is generally heightened interest in water quality from the fishermen, and there is no pushback on boat inspections. The State requires boat inspections at all tournaments. Tournaments were scheduled for 5/31, 6/19 and 7/18/21 on Hancock Pond.

Also noted by Dave:

- They expect 10-11 boats for a tournament (15 max)
- Three items are emphasized to fishermen – milfoil, powering on and general courtesy
- They like to fish for bass near docks
- The no-wake rule is within 200 feet of shore

New Business: James Ritter reported on the Denmark broadband committee. Its goal is to expand broadband ability across the entire town. Parts of the ponds are served well. However, there are parts of both ponds with poor connectivity.

Ritter asked people to take the speed test and handed out a URL to everyone for connection to the test. He said the website collects data to determine speeds. The committee is working to figure out what we have, what is needed and what can be done to get to that goal.

The committee was pleased with the 300 responses last year to the survey request. They meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month. \$7,000 has been granted by the Town of Denmark for the broadband improvement program.

Other Business: Bill Neily spoke about the issue his family has experienced for years - people trespassing on their property at the dugway. He reminded the group that their property goes to the dugway, it is private property, and they would appreciate people respecting such.

Election of Officers:

Motion: The following slate of officers of the HSPA Board of Directors is nominated for service through the 2020-2021 operating year.

President: Joe Nagy, returning. Yes, unanimous

Vice President: Sue Neily returning. Yes, unanimous

Treasurer: Ben Peierls returning. Yes, unanimous

Secretary: Chris Perrin. Yes, unanimous.

The meeting closed at 11:30 a.m.
Submitted by Chris Perrin, secretary.