

HSPA 2024 Annual Meeting July 13, 2024

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 13, 2024 at the Denmark Town Office.

Attendance: 47 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, 38 Kingfisher Way, 978-857-6522

Guest Speaker – Mary Jewett, LEA Director of Education and Invasives Prevention

Mary, who has been with LEA for 14 years, provided an overview of invasive species (IS) in Maine and the importance of early detection. She pointed out that Mast Cove on Long Lake was well known to have IS by the local fishermen, but no one really spoke up to get any action taken for many years, leading to an expensive mitigation. included:

- At this time there are no known invasive species in Hancock or Sand Pond.
- The boat launch is being monitored, but the launch at the dam is not.
- Most IS grows near the shore
- Mary encourages photo submissions of questionable plants observed (download form on LEA website)
- Lake Stewards of Maine has an online training program (3 hours) to learn about the various invasive plants and how to patrol for them.

Lake Smart Program Larry Clark

- 12 properties have been evaluated with 7 receiving awards
- The goal of Lake Smart is to mitigate/minimize the effects of runoff
- Excess nutrients (phosphorus) entering the lake can create algae blooms
- Contact Roy Lambert 207-647-5352 or LEA 207-647-8580 for an inspection
- More volunteers would be helpful for the LS program

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting:

Joe Nagy

Joe requested a motion to accept the meeting minutes of the 2023 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 \$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 \$844.59 for 2023
- 117 members (52%) paid dues in 2023
- Maine Dept of Environmental Protection grant of \$2530 received for courtesy boat inspections
- As of 7/12/24 annual dues received from 40% 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 2023: despite the heavy rains, chlorophyll and phosphorus are stable; water clarity is steady in Hancock and slightly decreasing in Sand. Overall, the water analysis reflects good/stable trends for both ponds.

This past winter, monitoring revealed less ice and adequate oxygen levels. Any impacts from the early ice out has yet to be noticed on Hancock and Sand.

Ben recommended going to the LEA lake information page on the website for more information on the water quality.

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 reported there were 2 nests this year – 1 on Sand Pond and 1 on Hancock but both were destroyed by predators or rising water.
- The LEA Loon Project placed 4 loon rafts this year – 2 on Sand and 2 on Hancock, but so far no residents this year.
- Informal loon count on 7/9 – 5 on Hancock.
- Audubon Loon count will happen on 7/20/24
- Remember – educate lake users about lead free tackle.

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 - \$3000 for 2024 – up from \$2530 in 2023.
- Mike said the committee focus is education, courtesy boat inspections and lake owner participation.
- Dave Rogers attended the LEA Milfoil Summit in 2024.
- IS handouts have been created to help people recognize invasive plants and facilitate the IS fundraising process through an easy QR code on the handout.
- The 2024 goal for IS fundraising is \$4400 for 2024.

Dam Committee: Joe Nagy introduced the dam committee members – Larry Clark, Bob Remick and Peter Bragdon, and announced that after long service on the Dam Committee, Bill Van Voorhis has sold his property on Hancock Pond and will no longer serve on the committee. Peter provided a series of graphs of lake levels and gate opening limits as well as explanations.

Highlights of presentation:

- A graph of lake levels 1999 – 2015 and another graph of 2016 – 2023
- The lake level seasonal operation is 30 weeks – April 1st – Oct 30th
- The lake received over 40” of rain in 2023, and ice out was early on 3/12/24.
- The dam ran at full flow for 113 days in 2023
- The dam monitors continue to adhere to the 2015 agreement
- We are generally dealing with higher water levels due to precipitation volume.

Buoy Committee: Andrew McClean, the chair of the Buoy Committee, was not at the meeting. Joe reported that before retiring from the buoy operation Andrew will help with the transition by assisting the new person/team in the placement of the buoys next spring. Consequently, with Andrew’s retirement from the buoy operation we need volunteers to continue the task of installing/removing the buoys each year.

Larry Clark volunteered to allow storage of the buoys on his shore starting this fall.

Bass Tournament Liaison: Dave Rogers reported:

There has been only 1 bass tournament on Hancock Pond in 2024 on 6/30/24, and no others are scheduled. All boats were inspected at the launch and as they left the ramp. No plants were detected. All the bass were released after the weigh-in and appeared to be in good condition. Also, he clarified that Sand Pond is not allowed to host bass tournaments, so no tournament boats go into Sand Pond.

New Business:

Dues increase: Joe made a motion to (seconded by Barbara Devey) increase the dues by \$10 to \$60 annually. There was some discussion on the timing of the increase and possible efforts to increase payment participation. A vote followed and the motion passed.

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 a.m.
Submitted by Chris Perrin, secretary.