

Invasive Species Committee Report for July 15, 2022 Annual Meeting

by Mike Gately and Dave Rogers

The increased courtesy boat inspection (CBI) hours last summer at the Wabunaki Road boat launch resulted in an increase of 197 boat inspections for a total of 486. The inspections found two plants on boats, neither were invasive.

Mike Gately completed our grant application in March. The State Department of Environmental Inspection awarded HSPA \$2,530, which was an increase of \$330 over 2022.

Mike indicated we will continue with the same CBI 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.

We are looking for volunteers to do courtesy boat inspections at the boat launch so that we can extend the boat inspections beyond the Labor Day, when the Lake Environmental Association ends inspections. If we have enough volunteers we will extend the dates from Sept. 9/10 through Oct. 7/8. We will train volunteers at the town boat launch on Wabunaki Road on August 5, 10 am at the boat launch.

We are also looking for volunteer pond watchers to sign up with Dave or Mike so that we can 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. Please email Mike (mgately84@gmail.com) to let him know if you wish to participate.

We have two final requests to association members. Additional donations are needed to the invasive species fund. The DEP grant covers about 50% of the total cost of boat inspections, 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.