

Buoy Committee Report

Twelve Buoys Repaired

Last spring Andrew McClean met with Timothy Thurston, a representative of the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, who explained that in the late '70s the HSPA signed up in a state program in which the state pays for mooring blocks, buoys, chains and shackles, as well as a GPS for locating the buoys. We are one of only two lakes that are part of this program. Other lakes must pay for everything. Thurston said that it would cost us \$2,000-\$4,000 to pay for our buoys and moorings.

In April 2021, Andrew repaired 12 buoys that needed new chains and blocks, which we paid for by the state. When removing the buoys in November, Andrew found that one buoy anchor would not come out. Thurston recommended just leaving it in place. He said either it would bother in the spring or the ice would have forced it loose.

Just before this coming Memorial Day weekend, Andrew will place 34 navigational buoys on Hancock Pond. The buoys must be in place by Memorial Day to qualify for the state assistance program.

Andrew bought a 13-ft inflatable boat and fixed it up for the job. It will hold 4-5 buoys and two people. He says that it's easier with two people and one more on shore to stack them in order.

He says, “The inflatable boat works ok, but the ideal boat would be a 17-ft Boston whaler or Carolina skiff or an open pontoon boat. Those boats could take a bunch of buoys out and would be more stable for doing the job in any weather.”

New Storage Site

For many years, Dick and Sheila Johnson have graciously agreed to allow us to store the Hancock Pond navigational buoys on their property. However, they have asked that for next winter we find an alternative location. Bill Van Voorhis quickly stepped up and offered a site on his beachfront near the dam. “I think it will work out well,” said Bill. “It’s central to the whole lake and a easy beach to get to.”