

**59TH ANNUAL BEARCAMP POND ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
118 PARTRIDGE HILL ROAD, SANDWICH NH
AUGUST 6, 2016**

Members In Attendance: Bob Greene, Gail Colozzi, Linda & Lou DeMaio, April Greene-Colozzi, Paul Henle, Jim & Portia Henle, Fred & Joanne Phillips, Mary and Hayden Hillsgrove, Sage Sohler, Erik Lund, Sandra Lynch, Greg & Mary Boyd, Rick Henle, Michael Henle, Cynthia Comer, John and Erica Banderob, Jerry and Ettie Butters, Bill & Holly Burrows, Bob Bradfield, Bill & Christina Hoffman, Mildred Siegel, Andy Siegel, Toby Eaton & Kathryn Whelan

I. Call To Order: The 59th annual meeting of the Bearcamp Pond Association called to order AT 1:36 PM by President Bob Greene

II. Secretary's Report: A motion to approve the Minutes of the 2015 meeting of the BCPA was made by Sandy Lynch and seconded by Gail Colozzi. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report: Fred Phillips stated that he had only received last year's Treasurer's report the evening before and so presented a projected budget based on estimated current revenue and projected future expenses. The projected expenses for the upcoming year on this were \$1,100. 00.

This number was questioned by Bob Bradfield and a discussion followed regarding these expenses. Bob stated that membership to the NH Lakes Association was \$100.00 rather than \$200.00 and Gail Colozzi added that the cost of water testing is different from year to year depending on what tests are done and whether or not the state biologist is present. Fred will prepare an adjusted budget and send it out to the membership.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report by Gail Colozzi and seconded by Bob Bradfield. The motion was approved unanimously

IV. Water Quality Report: Members received a complete water quality report with the agenda. Gail Colozzi began her report with an appeal for assistance with the water testing which they have done for 15 years. She is hoping that someone will step forward to take on a part of the responsibilities. Anyone interested should contact Gail by phone or email.

In general , Bearcamp Pond remains a stable body of water with regard to the parameters that are tested each year but it is considered an impaired water body due to pH levels (acidity). pH continues to be categorized as bad, but this is the case for all NH lakes and ponds due to long term pollution effects which are very slowly improving. The dirt and gravel run off during storm events at the Middle Road Bridge, which is the pre-inlet, may be a cause of more than desirable phosphorus levels and pursuant to this the Town of Sandwich Selectman were contacted. The matter was referred to the Highway Dept at the Aug. 3, 2015 Selectman's Meeting .

Other testing done reflected levels of Chlorophyll A, Conductivity, Transparency of water clarity, Turbidity, and phosphorus. All findings were showed no problematic changes. ECOLI testing results were Very Good and not a problem. Copies of the complete report were made available at the Annual Meeting and can be accessed at the VLAP website: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/>

Gail Colozzi and Bob Greene attended the Northeast Regional EPA initiative for cyanobacteria monitoring on July 27, 2016 held at Lake Lovell, Wakefield, NH. A number of factors, including high levels of phosphorus lead to increased algae growth in water bodies and blue green algae (cyanobacteria) develops. Cyanobacteria may or may not contain toxins which have deleterious effects on wildlife, pets and humans. Bearcamp pond can participate in the cyanobacteria monitoring program which entails taking 3 water samples from the pond twice a month from June through September. Members can also learn how to use phone apps to report suspected algae blooms. Anyone interested in learning more about this subject or volunteering can contact Gail Colozzi at bearcamppondassociation@gmail.com.

A BCPA Spring Reminder Notice was sent out to the membership by email or mail, about preventing exotic aquatic species and loon protection. It is especially important that anyone bringing their own watercraft to the pond be aware of these guidelines.

As an aside, Gail mentioned that though we have often bemoaned the presence of beaver in the pond, recent research indicates that their presence in our pond are mostly beneficial, leading to increased fish as well as bio-diversity.

A motion to accept the water report was made by Mary Hillsgrove and seconded by Toby Eaton. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Loon Report: The loon nest was launched by the Colozzi Greenes and the Hillsgroves on April 17th. They were observed nesting on June 11th and Loon Sanctuary signs were put out on June 12th. The loons hatched on July 3 but only one chick survived .

Gail thanked Hayden and Mary Hillsgrove for their assistance and referenced Norm and Ginny Chatel, as well as, Fred and Joanne Phillips who did this task for 10 years. Gail has put together a journal of recorded observations by the Chatels (1984-1999), the Phillips (2000-2010) and Gail and Bob (2011-present), and photos taken by Gail of the loons and various wildlife around the pond over the years.

Christina Hoffman asked if we could acquire signage along the public beach access informing users regarding the loons and appropriate behavior surrounding their nesting site. Gail will ask the Loon Preservation Society for another sign. If they give us one town approval would be needed to post the sign at the Town Beach

A motion to accept the Loon Report was made by Jim Henle and seconded by Mary Hillsgrove. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Dam Report: The dam report was reported by Sandy Lynch in lieu of Chip and Susan Bryant Kimball. The dam is in good shape at present. The boards are put in on or around Memorial Day and removed in or around Columbus day each years as is recommended. A comment was made by Greg Boyd that raising and lowering water levels is important as excessively low levels affect wildlife on the pond such as loons and beavers.

VII. New Business: Bob Bradfield raised the issue of association dues, which were raised from \$15.00 per family to \$15.00 per person and also made a requirement for voting. Bob asked whether or not this was a legal requirement of the State of NH for incorporated non-profits. In the past, anyone attending the meeting could cast a vote regardless of whether he or she was a dues paying member. Bob Bradfield felt that the current requirement might prevent an interested party from becoming involved due to hardship. Bob Greene answered that it was not a legal requirement, but that without the White Sylvania donations in past years the BCPA would have run out of money five years ago. He pointed out that the Board looked into other NH pond and lake associations dues and voting policies to find many of them require annual dues per person 18 years or older in order to be a voting member, so the Board voted for this straightforward policy. Gail Colozzi commented that the association must be self-supporting for water testing, at the least. Bob Bradfield disagreed.

Linda DeMaio suggested that as this is our first year as a non-profit, perhaps we could leave it as is for now, and revisit this issue next year once we have a better understanding of our new non-profit status and how it may increase our revenues.

John Banderob suggested that we might subscribe to Google Docs as a means of sharing information regarding goings on in the BCPA. Items like information regarding renters" dos and don'ts, with regard to the loons, could be accessed by all from the BCPA gmail address. The possibility of a website was also brought up.

Bob Greene let the membership know that this year the BCPA Board has 7/9 possible members, so members should consider running for election next year.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda DeMaio,
Secretary, BCPA