

Bearcamp Pond Association  
62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting – August 3, 2019

Call to Order: 3:11

Attendees: Fred Phillips, Joanne Phillips, Gerry Butters, Sam Bensley, Linda DeMaio, Mary Hillsgrove, Hayden Hillsgrove, Meredith Heard Gisness, Bill Gisness, Andrea Everett Wilson, Martin Everett, Jackie Everett, Karen McCall, Susan Bryant Kimball, Sage Sohler, John Davidson, Rhonda Davidson, Jim Henle, Portia Henle, Rick Henley, Kristi Pete Gifford, Joseph Gifford, Jennifer Gifford, Christianne Humphrey, Jeanette Call, Bruce Harrington

I. Welcome and address by Fred Phillips, Treasurer

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new BCPA Board Members Sam Bensley, Andrea Everett Wilson, Gerry Butters, and Karen McCall.

He then summarized the activities of the association to forward its mission in the past year and commented the volunteers who have been involved in this work. These consist of water testing, the Outreach Program at the public beach, maintenance of, putting in, and removing the Loon Nest, website development, and checking on the dam. Thank you to all who participated in these efforts.

II. Approval of 2018 Minutes

Motion: Jin Henle

Second: John Davidson

Approved Unanimously

III. Election of Board Members

A. Candidates whose terms are expiring:

Fred Phillips,

Lou DeMaio,

Mary Hillsgrove

Motion : Sage Sohler

Second: Sam Bensley

Approved Unanimously

B. Election of New Board Members

Andrea Everett Wilson – Outreach Committee

Gerry Butters – Water Testing Committee

Meredith Heard Gisness – Web Development, Outreach Committee

Karen McCall – Outreach Committee

Sam Bensley – Loon Nest

Motion : Martin Everett  
Second: Mary Hillsgrove  
Approved Unanimously

#### IV. Committee Reports

##### A. Treasurer's Report - Fred Phillips

###### Income Statement – Fiscal 2019

###### Revenue

Dues:	660.00
Contributions:	2,246.15
Interest Income:	85.00
Total Revenue:	2,991.15

###### Expenses

Legal:	75.00
Water Testing:	440.00
Other:	251.70
Total Expenses:	766.70

<b>Net Income</b>	<b>2,224.45</b>
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###### Balance Sheet

###### Assets

Cash:	6,930.42
CD's:	9,151.55
Net Cash:	16,081.97

Remarks: Contributions went up this year since the Bearcamp Pond Association became a 501c3. We received a significant contribution from the Bearcamp Valley Garden Club when they disbanded and disbursed their remaining funds. We also received the first of what will be a yearly contribution from the NH Charitable Foundation which oversees the Arthur and Patricia Heard Fund.

#### Annual Audit

Lou DeMaio worked with Fred Phillips to complete the audit required by the state of NH.

### **Dues Increase**

Fred went over the dues increase voted in at the 2018 Annual Meeting. At that time the dues for fiscal year 2019 and going forward, were increased from \$15.00 to \$25.00 per member. In the interest of attracting younger members, it was decided that dues for any young adults of 22 years of age or younger would remain \$15.00.

### **B. Water Testing Committee – Gerry Butters**

The primary job of the Water Testing Committee is to conduct water sampling and testing in June, July and August of every summer as prescribed by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services in Concord. The state receives the samples taken, analyzes them and sends a detailed report. Samples are taken in four different spots; the Bearcamp Pond river above the dam, the inlet at the dam, the deep spot, and the outlet. The purpose of the testing is to determine: if there are invasive plant species present, if there is excessive algae growth, to assess the acidity of the water, and to determine clarity and density.

Results of 2018 testing were received from NHDES in the spring, and all indications were very good. The presence of algae is the lowest it has been since 2002, There was some improvement in both acidity and PH levels, and phosphorus levels were low. Transparency has also improved over the past years and saltiness remains at a very low level. The deepest part of the pond is between 30 and 35. ft.

### **C. Loon Committee – Mary Hillsgrove**

The loon raft was put in on May 19<sup>th</sup> this year. The loons did not take occupancy until June 7<sup>th</sup>. They took 2 days to rearrange the plant material which the committee so carefully placed on the nest. Two eggs were laid with an incubation period of 28 days. In mid July and later, the loons were still sitting on the nest but only one egg remained. It was determined by the Loon Preservation Committee biologist that it was not viable. The LPC visited the nest three times in an attempt to identify the loon pair by the tags on their legs. They were only able to identify one. They are uncertain as to the reason the eggs were not viable and do not have the funding necessary to carry out further testing. Although it was disappointing not to have chicks, BCPA was told that Bearcamp Pond is well above the NH average for fledged loons.

#### D. Dam Report – Mary Hillsgrove

As recommended by the state dam bureau, the boards were taken out on Columbus Day weekend, 2018, and replaced on Memorial Day weekend, 2019.

Last October, minor repairs were also done and spillway boards in the sluiceway were removed to mitigate ice scouring which sometimes occurs.

A discussion followed about the pond. The BCPA continues to monitor invasive species and water quality. The most significant contaminator is from boats launched on to the pond after being in other water bodies, which may be contaminated. BCPA Outreach Committee addresses this in their work at the public beach, and the BCPA website includes detailed information about pond etiquette with regard to boats, loons, excessive noise and water quality.

#### E. Website Maintenance – Meredith Heard Gisness

Meredith has been working to update the website which can be accessed at <[bearcamppondassociation.org](http://bearcamppondassociation.org)>.

The website reflects the beauty of the pond through photographs, and includes details about the BCPA mission and activities throughout the year. Please submit any photographs to [bearcamppondassociation@gmail.com](mailto:bearcamppondassociation@gmail.com).

PayPal has now been added to the website to make it easier to join the association, pay dues and donate.

#### F. New Business

A discussion followed about the presence of motorboats on the pond. The state restricts the speed of motorboats to 10mph but there is no restriction on motor size or type. The pond is used for recreational purposes as well as fishing. There are more bass in the pond, which attracts fishermen. It was noted that the bass feed on yellow perch, which are the favorite food of loons.

Adjournment: 4:02

Respectfully Submitted:  
Linda DeMaio, Secretary

