

Bearcamp Pond Association
64th Annual Meeting, August 8, 2021

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by BCPA Board Chair at 3:13 pm

Attendees: Meredith Gisness, Gerry Butters, Ettie Butters, Stewart Haviland, Nancy Haviland, Sam Bensley, Lianne Bensley, Mary Hillsgrove, Hayden Hillsgrove, Lou DeMaio, Linda DeMaio, Jon Greenawalt, Cynthia Greenawalt, Joanne Phillips, Jim Henley, Portia Henle, Michael Henle, Cynthia Comer, Nancy Walser, Roger Walser, Ardyce Walser, Erica Banderob, John Banderob, Joanne Krol, John Krol, John Cooley

II. Approval of Minutes : 62nd Annual Meeting Minutes - August 3, 2019
BCPA Board Meeting Minutes - October 28, 2020

Lou explained the reasons for approving two sets of minutes. Due to Covid, no Annual Meeting was convened in 2020. In lieu of this and to ensure that the year's committee reports would be in the record, the board met in October and Committee reports were entered.

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes of 8/3/19 -
Motion - Jon Greenawalt
Second - Mary Hillsgrove
Minutes approved unanimously

Approval of BCPA Board Minutes of 10/3/2020
Motion - Mary Hillsgrove
Second - Sam Bensley
Minutes approved unanimously

III. Treasurer's Report - Stewart Haviland

IV. Dam Report - Mary Hillsgrove

Mary reported that the boards at the dam were removed Columbus Day 2020. This year, due to drought conditions, some boards were put in 9 days before Memorial day and the remainder before Memorial Day weekend. The dam is owned by Susan Bryant Kimball and Chip Kimball and they have maintained it for many years. The BCPA is very appreciative of their efforts and Linda will send them a note of thanks.

V. Loon Report - Mary Hillsgrove

This year the loons arrived one day after ice out, April 9, 2020. The ducks (wood ducks and mallards) and Canada geese arrived then as well. On May 1st, the loon raft was put in and mating behavior was noted but they did not take occupancy. The nest was removed on August 8th.

VI. Water Report - Gerry Butters

Gerry first explained that the water testing that we conduct 3 times every summer is not about safety or human health issues. The NH State Water Dept. handles testing for any bacteria that would be hazardous to humans. To date the pond water has gotten a clean bill of health.

The BCPA tests for other aspects of water quality such as phosphorus levels, algae growth, acidity, and clarity. Increase in phosphorus levels could indicate a leaky septic system or fertilizer runoff. Gerry shared an overview of the LakeSmart Program offered to lakeshore property owners who may have questions about correct property management. A full water quality report can be found on the BCCP website <bearcamppond.org>.

Gerry thanked Gail Colozzi Greene and Bob Greene for their tireless work over the years to set up a protocol for testing in June, July and August of each year as well as doing the testing for over a decade and training new volunteers. Gerry also thanked Mary Hillsgrove for her assistance and the use of her boat, and Lou and Linda Demaio for assisting with the testing.

Gerry asked for volunteers to assist with the third testing for this summer scheduled for August 25th. Jon Greenawalt offered his assistance.

VII. Website/Membership - Meredith Heard Gisness

Meredith invited the membership to visit the BCPA website at <www.bearcamppond.org> to view Annual Meeting Minutes, Water Committee Reports, as well as a link to the LakeSmart Program. Also on the website are many beautiful photos of the pond and its environs. Meredith encouraged all to share their photos and stories about the pond.

This year, the BCPA submitted an article about the pond to the Sandwich Historical Society Excursion booklet. Meredith and Linda collaborated on this effort. It will appear in the 2021 booklet

VIII. Beach Outreach - Sam Bensley

This committee is tasked with disseminating information at the public beach on the pond, regarding proper behavior around loons, boat regulations and general guidelines for pond usage that will help to maintain the pond as it is. Due to Covid, no outreach activities were scheduled for 2020 and 2021. Volunteers are needed for next year.

- IX. Election of 3 board members for 3 year terms:
Andrea Everett Wilson
Linda DeMaio
Karen McCall

Results: Votes were tabulated and all three Board Members were reelected.

- X. Lou informed the membership that Linda DeMaio will be resigning as recording secretary after serving in that capacity for the past 11 years. Linda spoke briefly about her tenure and looks forward to assisting someone new in this position.

XI. Presentation by John Cooley from the Loon Preservation Society

John began by commending the Bearcamp Pond Association for its work with regard to maintaining the pond and its environs. He encouraged membership in this organization.

The Loon Preservation Society began educating the public about loons in the mid 1970's. At that time loons were in danger of disappearing from NH waterbodies largely due to lead sinkers. Ingestion of one lead tackle can kill a loon within two weeks. Since then, due to efforts by the LPS and grassroots organizations like the BCPA, loons have made a significant recovery. Currently there is a state statute in NH requiring non-lead tackle.

Last year 321 pairs of loons were recorded in the state compared to 71 pairs in the 70's. The LPS monitors loon behavior on 350 lakes around the the state. Loons are banded and can be identified from year to year. Bearcamp Pond is considered a core habitat, having hatched 30 loon chicks in the last 45 years. It has been disappointing that the past five years have not yielded chicks but the loons are here and the nest has been revitalized. The presence of eagles on the pond could be affecting loon nesting.

After Joanne Phillips shared an observation about seeing the same pair of loons year after year, John stated that loons live 10, 20, even 30 years and have been known to be monogamous for ten years or more. If one mate dies for natural or unnatural causes, the remaining loon will generally find another mate.

Our thanks to John Cooley for his informative and interesting presentation.

Motion to Adjourn: Jon Greenawalt

Second: Stewart Haviland

Adjournment: 4:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda DeMaio, Secretary