

Bearcamp Pond Association Annual Meeting
August 13, 2022

Call To Order: 4:07 pm

Board Members: Lou DeMaio, Chair
Steward Haviland, Treasurer
Sam Bensley,
Gerry Butters,
Meredith Heard Gisness
Mary Hillsgrove
Linda DeMaio
Marin Emery – Secretary (not in attendance)
Andrea Everett Wilson (not in attendance)

Attendees : Lianne Bensley, Ettie Butters, Nancy Haviland, Christopher Hill, Hayden Hillsgrove, Holly Burrows, Susan Bryant Kimball, Tom Casale, Stephanie Casale, Cynthia Comer, Michael Henle, Peter Gifford, Christi Humphrey, Jim Humphrey, Karen McCall, Fred Phillips, Nancy Walser

I. Call To Order – 4:07 pm – Lou DeMaio, Chair BCPA

Lou welcomed attendees to the 65th Annual Meeting of the Bearcamp Pond Association. The association is a 501(c)(3) with a primary goal of preserving the natural beauty of the pond. He introduced board members and announced that Marin Emery has joined the board as Secretary, Marin and her husband Dwight have recently moved to Partridge Hill Rd. and are eager to become participatory members of BCPA. Marin has accounting and management experience and has had a career in the non-profit sector. We are very pleased to welcome her to the board as secretary.

Lou thanked Linda DeMaio for her 11 years of service and fine work as recording secretary of the BCPA.

II. Committee Reports

A. Treasurers Report - Stewart Haviland
Fiscal Year August 2021 – July 2022

PROFIT AND LOSS

Ordinary Income/Expense Income

Bank Interest	.94
CD Interest	71.87
Dues	2,296.60
Total Income	2,369.41

Expenses

Office Expenses	
Office Supplies	144.00
Postage	114.50

Total Office Expenses	258.50
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Professional Expenses	
Charitable	200.00
License and Application Fees	375.00

Total Professional Expenses	575.00
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Total Expenses	833.50
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Net Ordinary Income	1,535.91
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Net Income	1,535.91
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BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets	10,738.17
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 Checking and
 Savings

Cash	10,738.17
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CD's	9,496.08
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Total Assets	20,234.25
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Assets	2,420.72
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Retained Earnings	17,289.46
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Net Income	524.07
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Total Equity	20,234.25
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	20,234.25
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B. Dam Report – Mary Hillsgrove

Mary reported that the boards at the dam were removed on Columbus Day weekend of 2021 and reinstalled on May 26th, 2022, two days prior to Memorial Day.

C. Loon Report – Mary Hillsgrove, Sam Bensley

Mary reported that the loons arrived on April 11th, six days after ice out. Sam Bensley put the loon raft out on May 15th. Although a pair of loons (male and female) were on the pond, the nest was not utilized. It was later learned that the male took a new mate on Chocorua lake. This is our 5th year without a nesting pair. Mary met with Emma Purington, an intern biologist from the loon center and paddled around the pond with her. They examined the old raft and looked for a new site. Their findings will be reported to John Cooley at the Loon Center who will decide if a new raft and or a new site are warranted next year.

D. Water Quality Report – Gerry Butters

The main job of the Water Quality Committee is to participate in the NH Department of Environmental Services volunteer Lake Assessment program by collecting samples of lake water 3 times a year from the pond and the Bearcamp River upstream and downstream of the lake, and deliver them to DES for testing.

The accumulation of nutrients in the pond over decades gradually increases the growth of algae and plants making the pond less clear and less desirable for swimming and recreation. Year to year there is little difference, but compared to decades ago, for example, the town beach area is a bit more constricted in terms of swimming area clear from underwater plants.

Phosphorus levels in the pond are most important in determining algae growth. Although the levels tend to fluctuate from year to year, they have been quite stable over the last couple of decades. Record rainfall in late July and August of 2021 flushed more nutrients from surrounding land areas into the pond creating

higher phosphorus levels. This will likely continue to average out over the years. The water committee also looks out for algae blooms, especially for cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae. These can be toxic and make it dangerous to swim in the water. This year a small cyanobacteria bloom was detected by Gail Colozzi. She took samples to DES for testing and they confirmed the presence of cyanobacteria, but luckily it was below the level considered dangerous for human health. A few days later when we did our testing, with the assistance of a state biologist, we checked the affected area and found no sign of cyanobacteria.

I consulted with Sara Steiner regarding this issue and she thinks that the most likely cause was a large amount of pine pollen entering the ponds this spring causing a transitory spike in nutrients at that time of year. We will continue to monitor each year.

The amount of dissolved oxygen in the pond is another variable which we test. In our August testing of 2021, we found middle and lower levels the pond to be depleted of oxygen. Again, we consulted with Sara Steiner who stated that we should keep an eye on it but that the pond goes through a cycle each year. In spring, water is re-oxygenated by spring run-off, then in summer it re-stratifies with the top becoming warm and the bottom colder. The full report can be found on our website:

Bearcamppondassociation.org

As a result of Gerry's report, a general discussion followed regarding the increase of plant life in the pond along with a suggestion to review the historical data concerning the warming of the pond water.

Meredith and Karen reviewed their community efforts at the town beach to educate users of the pond regarding the association and its mission.

E. Web Site Report – Meredith Heard Gisness

Meredith reported that we had 1395 page views on our website this year and 586 visitors. She asked that anyone who notices broken links on the site report it to her.

F. Community Outreach Committee – Meredith Heard Gisness,
Karen McCall

Meredith and Karen reviewed their community outreach efforts at the town beach. They feel that it is a very worthwhile endeavor to introduce the beach population to the BCPA and its mission.

G. Election of board members - Lou DeMaio, Mary Hillsgrove
Both Lou and Mary were elected to serve another 3-year term on the board.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:05 pm
Respectfully Submitted: Linda DeMaio