

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
PEQUAWKET LAKE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
JUNE 30, 2012
8:30 – 10:30
LIMINGTON MUNICIPAL COMPLEX**

General:

All Officers and Board Members were in attendance except Nancy Pollard (Board Member)—Richard Pollard, President; Tom Gruber, Vice-President; Pete Lockwood, Treasurer; Margery Gruber, Bill Moore, Gary Fullerton, and Mary Davichick. The President announced that the new Secretary, Deb Swett, had resigned due to work commitments. Margery Gruber volunteered to take the minutes of the meeting.

Call to Order:

President, Dick Pollard, called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes from the 2011 Annual Meeting were paraphrased by Tom Gruber with the consent of the General Membership. A motion was made to accept the minutes. It was seconded and approved. (enclosure 1).

Treasurer's Report:

Pete Lockwood gave the report (enclosure 2). For the reporting period 1 June 2011 – 31 May 2012, Total Income was \$8499.80. Total Expense was \$5659.42. Checkbook balance as of 31 May 2012...\$4016.61. Money Market Balance as of 31 May 2012 \$10,333.92. Membership for 2011 was 94 members ... 67% Lake Participation. A motion was made to accept the minutes. It was seconded and approved.

Introduction New Camp Owners:

Kathleen Robbins	10 Powwow Dr	Gorham, ME
Dana & Natalie Swanstrom	233 Pequawket Lake Rd	Swampscott, MA
Francis & Patricia Conway	239 Pequawket Lake Rd	Danvers, MA
Karen & Jay Johnson	9 & 11 Abenaki Lane	Brewster, NY

Not present:

Sheryl Mayuski	24 Brave Ln
Keith West & Philip Vita	15 Brave Ln
William Riley & Doreen Gallagher	6 Pansy Ln
Nicholas & Kate Foss	16 Brave Ln

Water Quality Report:

George Bouchard presented a lease square analysis from the data he has been keeping since 1979 – 2011 on the transparency of the lake. George reported that the lake is behaving well – not markedly improving or degrading. Carden Welsh noted he is seeing more algae on the lake around the dam for example. George said he takes his measurements dead center in the lake and he did not have an answer. George was asked how the water quality compares with other lakes in the south and central part of the State. George said “Good.. very good.” George was thanked by Dick Pollard for all his work over the years.

COLA Report:

Bill Moore reported that 7 members of PLPA attended the annual Congress of Lake Associations on 23 June at Colby College. COLA is the umbrella organizations for all the lake associations in the state. Their main purpose is to lobby for lake interests in Augusta on our behalf. Bill reported the theme of this year's meeting was “The Real Value of Our Lakes”. Lakes are a \$3.5 billion dollar engine to the State's economy. Lakes impact tax revenue, drinking water, and jobs. Bill attended afternoon sessions on Google Earth and a session on Habitats Around the Lake (the watershed). The Maine Audubon Society is a good resource.

MOY-MO-DA-YO (MMDY) Rec Committee Report:

Howard Allen, Chair of the MMDY Recreation Committee, Limington couldn't attend, so Dick Pollard gave an update. The Town approved \$7000 to have an engineering study done of the boat launch (plus the MMDY Rec has \$4000 in reserves). If the 319 Grant is approved, there may be a possibility of some financial assistance to offset this expense to tax payers. Last year's hosts could not return this year due to illness (may return next year). This year's hosts are Allison and Steven Shuman from Porter. They were the back-up hosts last year. Boats need to stay away from the Swim Area. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped get the Town Beach Area up for the season in May for Pepsi Clean-up Day. There were 7 volunteers from PLPA. There is an avid swimmer wearing a red life jacket who swims back and forth from the Town Beach to the old Boy's camp and back... be on the lookout!

Grant 319 Update:

Joe Anderson from the York County Water and Soil Conservation District (YCWSCD) gave an update. Now that the survey work is done and the application complete, a request for \$57,000 is being submitted for grant approval. This would cover issues such as culvert repair on Whaleback Rd and Pequawket Lake Rd, the Town Landing boat launch, and \$500 grants for 20 camp residences identified during the survey that have erosion issues. We should know by the end of the summer, how much funding is approved. Funding would be disbursed in 2013 and can be spent over the next two years. Addressing phosphorous from entering the lake is the most important thing we can do to prevent algae from growing in the lake. Joe said that the county singled out PLPA for the "Watershed Steward" annual award for its willingness to be stalwart partner in the grant process. Joe also talked about the importance of maintaining septic systems and introduced the idea of "Septic Socials" which are educational sessions on the importance of a healthy septic system.

Firewise

Kent Nelson from the Maine Forest Service addressed "*Wildfire Risk Assessment*". There is a moderate level of risk on the lake. Kent said the buzzword is "*Defensible Space*". This refers to the 30 feet around the perimeter of your camp. Most fires in Maine are surface fires. This does not exempt you from cutting trees down in the shoreland zone, but you can cut the lower branches of the soft trees. Check with your town code enforcement officer before cutting trees. You should not rake in the shoreland zone because of disturbing the erosion barrier.

Kent also addressed the *Chipper Program*. On 6 July, the chipper will be coming around the lake to chip branches that you have stacked up on the side of the road provided that you have filled out the form that he has provided. It will be loud, but it will be convenient. Your alternative is to take it to the Town brush station or to get a permit to burn it. A question was asked how to get rid of pine needles. Ken suggested spreading them out back farther on your property where practicable. Ken also reported that after the brush chipping is complete, he'll be recommending that PLPA be recognized as a member of "Firewise Community, USA"

Fireworks... There is a new law in the State of Maine that makes the buying of fireworks easier. Each town can come up with its own restrictions of use. Limington did not take any action, but does have a noise ordinance in effect. As with any law, enforcement may be the issue. *Note: You can go to the Maine.gov website and search for Fireworks for more info.*

Update on Book "From Horn Pond to Pequawket Lake"

Margie Gruber introduced the members of the Book Committee and thanked the Board and spouses for their support. The cookbook that started out in the summer of 2009 finally ended up a history book with complimenting recipes. Margie thanked all the people who had "preordered" for their patience during the Christmas holidays. This is the only book in the State that is written about a lake and its camp history. The first order is almost gone (300 books). Another 100 books were ordered. After this order, a waiting list will be established; once there are 40-50 books on the list another order can be submitted (must reorder by lots of 100). Don't be disappointed get your copies now for gift giving, etc.

There will be a reception on Sunday , August 12th to honor the book at the Limington Town Hall. From 1:30-2:30 there will be a book reception by invitation only for book contributors. From 3-5pm there will be a Book Signing open to all (meet the contributors and authors). Following that Max Brandt will lead a caravan to MMDY for a presentation on MMDY – Past to Present.

Books can be purchased at the reception on August 12th and at the Limington Town Hall during their normal business hours.

Septic Pumping

Tom Gruber reported that as well as the environment importance of maintaining a good septic system, there is also an economic incentive. Many old camps have old steel tanks and questionable systems; they do not meet today's standards. They may present a problem when you least want it and if you go to sell or refinance your property. Systems put in before 1974 are most problematic. Tom introduced Jay Johnson (9 & 11 Abenaki Lane) who recently had two new systems put in. He summed it up, "Old steel tanks are time bombs". Tom also introduced Gary Fullerton, a member of PLPA, who in his professional life surveys and designs residential and business septic systems. If you don't need Gary to certify anything in writing, he will be happy to give free advice. Jay Johnson, used Mark Welch, who owns the Birch's on the Lake to do his work. Like last year, Tom said a sign-up sheet was going around to see who wanted work done this year; a discount will be offered.

Melinda Ann - Educational Boat Tours of the Lake

Through COLA the Melinda Ann has been scheduled for 14 July (Saturday rain or shine). You must sign-up and pay in advance. The cost is \$10 per person over 10 years. Children under 10 are free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The boat will leave the Town Landing Boat Launch at 10 am and 1 pm. Please arrive ½ hour before. There is free admission to the MMDY area. Just tell the Beach Host why you are there. This has already been arranged with Howard Allen.

Through the lead of trained environmental educators, you have the opportunity to find out how water testing works and to see firsthand how what we do on the land affects the quality of the water

Suggested Guidelines for Lake Users

Bill Moore presented a list of Guidelines (enclosure 3) for the General Membership to review and comment. This was a compilation from various sources. If the rules/regulations are in print, Deputy Thistlewood, the Game Warden, Sheriff etc, can enforce them. A motion was made to endorse this "First Draft" with the door open to revise/review or add more suggestions at next year's meeting. The motion was accepted and approved. No

PLPA Website

The website is moving to another host provider. It is under construction now. It's new name will be www.theplpa.org (vs com). You will be notified once it is up. Once it is up, Mike Ricci (the current webmaster) will be building a link from the .com to the .org account that will work for one year. Using the web site and email alerts are our fastest (and cheapest) way to communicate. Realizing not everyone is (or wants to be) an internet participant, we will still be mailing out the annual newsletter in tandem. Dana Swanstrom (223 Pequawket Ln) volunteered to take on the duties of Web Administrator.

Nominations for New Officers/Board Members.

The Nominating Committee recommended Tom Gruber as President and Bill Moore as Vice-President. These Board Members were nominated: Vince Kane, Jay Johnson, Mark Eastman, and John Pappanikou. Nominations were also taken from the floor..... Carden Welsh and Francis Conway volunteered for the Board and Dave Goodwin volunteered to take on the Secretarial responsibilities. All were unanimously voted in by the General Membership.

Recognition of Volunteers

The Book Committee Charlotte Burgess, Max Brandt, Margery Gruber, and Sally Moore were recognized for their efforts in writing and publishing the book "From Horn Pond to Pequawket Lake". Their spouses were also recognized for their support during the book production.

Goals for 2012/2013

Tom Gruber presented goals he recommended for PLPA to pursue:

1. Implement Grant 319 recommendations

2. Become a Firewise Community
3. Promote educational opportunities for all camp owners and PLPA members
4. Continue septic cleanings and replacements
5. Continue to improve communications via website and other social media
6. Develop PLPA organizational structure to increase membership involvement and provide additional value for membership (ie sector representation).
7. Become a 501 c (3) or appropriate designation (for grant purposes)
8. Other suggestions:
 - *Bulky waste pick-up
 - *Power line clearings
 - *Children's fishing tournament
 - *Membership to MMDY
 - *Fireworks Ban

Other New Business:

* Is the *dam wide enough* to empty the lake out fast enough? Discussion about the vegetation build-up around the dam. Recommendation: Have an Engineer review the dam structure and water flow.

*Problem with Runners/Joggers/Walkers being confronted with *dogs not on a leash*. There is a leash law in town. Call Deputy Thistlewood (207-324-1111) for enforcement.

**New Baby Loon on the Lake*. Thanks to Steve Foster for providing extra TLC.

President Recognition

Tom Gruber recognized Dick Pollard's leadership over the last 3 years as PLPA President. Under Dick's capable leadership the By-Laws were revised, a Web site established, a logo was designed, mugs and maps were produced for resale, the Enewlsetter and Ealerts were produced , and an accurate and complete data base was established. Dick also gave 100% support to the History Book, Grant 319 and the Fire Wise program.

Tom also recognized Jack Douglas and Nancy Pollard for their service to PLPA.

Meeting was Adjourned at 1040am

NOTE: There were 56 attendees signed-in at the meeting, but a head-count from the back of the room tallied 70 members.