

**Parker Pond Association Annual Meeting
July 10, 2014 - 7pm Mt. Vernon Community Center**

Officers present: Karen Swan, Waine Whittier, Dan Onion, Steve Cowperthwaite, Marty Arnold, Deb Cayer, Maggie Chadwick, Susan Onion, Lidie Robbins, Gerry Tinguely, Libby Harville

Approximately 30 folks attending not including officers.

Meeting opened with a welcome from Karen.

Committee Chair Reports:

Treasurer – Waine Whittier: After a loss in 2012, PPA's finances improved significantly in 2013 with a net gain of \$4,368. Revenues were \$10,026 and expenses were \$5,658. The revenue figure could be misleading due to year-end dues and contributions totaling \$2,180 which might have been paid in 2014 had not a newsletter been sent late in the year. A detailed report can be sent if requested. To date, revenues are \$4,856 and expenses \$5,241.

Membership-Marty Arnold: As of today, membership is at 105, 1 more than last year at this time. Lakefront owners make up 45% +/-.

Communications-Susan Onion: Two newsletters have been mailed out this year. We are working from 2 different email lists that we are trying to update + consolidate into one. Please be sure to update email addresses with Marty. Parkerpond.org is the new website with lots of information. Facebook page was established Feb 2014 at Parker Pond Association; friend it + add photos.

Water Quality-Deb Cayer: Bob Weimont is the new Clarity "specialist". He measured 8.1 meters which is really good and better than any reading in 2013. Marty + Deb continue to measure dissolved oxygen and that reading is also better than in 2013. Gleotrichia, a bacterium, bloomed recently when the water temp reached 77 degrees but died back when the water cooled. Health issues depend on the concentration of the gleotrichia which is generally not a problem in Parker Pond. High concentrations may be toxic to the liver +/- or cause stomach problems but much is still not known. It is being studied by many. You have to ingest the bacteria to have any effect. The best way to stop the gleotrichia is stop runoff of silt into the water which carries phosphorous which supports the growth.

Dam + Loons-Steve Cowperthwaite: Margaret + Dave Barrows were thanked for their work in overseeing the dam. Bob Juris was thanked for mowing. Every 2 years an Emergency Action Plan needs to be developed which will happen this summer. The plan is due to the close proximity of the dam to Rt 41 + potential damage to nearby structures. The loons nested late this year. Two pair of loons each had 1 chick that seem to be doing fine.

Invasive Plants-Lidie Robbins: No invasive aquatic plants have been found to date. Lidie brought samples of native aquatic plants growing in the pond. She is looking for more folks to join the Invasive Plant Patrollers. Boat inspectors are covering as much time as possible. Due to an additional donation from PPA, Fridays are now being covered. Volunteer boat inspectors are needed for the 7-9am shift. You can sign up thru the 30 Mile River website.

Lake Usage-Dan Onion: The committee needs a new name if anyone has suggestions. The committee has 2 main projects: 1. Contracting with Parker Lake Shores for 6- ½ day boat launches/year at Quimby landing

for members 2. Island stewardship of PP islands. These islands belong to the state. Work to repair the south side sill of the camp on Loon Island will begin next week. Members are encouraged to stop by the islands when they are being used to say hello + talk about PPA. The state has looked at the rope swing + decided to do nothing about it this summer. They may take it down in the fall for safety reasons. Some work has been done on salmon habitat and smelt by Inland Fisheries + Wildlife. Their goal is to grow larger salmon by decreasing the number of them.

30 Mile River Watershed-Lidie Robbins: July 26 is the paddle trek from Mt Vernon to Wayne village. Info is on the website. The Parker Pond Watershed Protection Project provides grant funding to address erosion problems identified during the 2013 watershed survey. One of the biggest problems is at the Quimby boat landing which is going to be fixed July 19. YCC will help again this summer with homeowner erosion problems. Homeowners only need pay for materials. This could be the last year for this financial help. It takes 3 wks for permitting to be completed before work can begin, so it is important that project requests are submitted ASAP. The bridge in Chesterville on the Sandy River Rd at the PP outlet is in very bad shape. The bridge is not safe + needs rebuilding and there is serious erosion on all sides. Another problem area is drainage issues on the Bearnstow Rd. 30MRWA is helping property owners form a road association and is providing technical assistance for their road work

Stewardship-Maggie Chadwick: A 3 hour bird watch + listen was held at the headlands with Glen Hodgkins. It inspired an "Epiphany on Gratitude for Parker Pond" which Maggie wrote and read.

2013 Minutes: 2013 Annual Meeting minutes were included in 2 newsletters + sent electronically. It was voted and passed that they be accepted.

By-law Proposed Change: Karen read the proposed wording and why the change is being requested. Discussion followed. The motion was amended as follows with the amendment in bold.:

"There shall be an Annual Meeting of the members, held at a date, time and place to be determined by the President. The Annual meeting shall be held in one of the following four towns: Chesterville, Fayette, Mount Vernon or Vienna. **A 60 day written notice of the Annual Meeting and a 14 day notice of Special Meetings** shall be sent to the voting members at their last known address or email address prior to such meeting. Supplemental notice of such meetings may be given as the President or Secretary shall deem desirable."

The amendment, and then the motion were passed unanimously.

Election of Officers: The following Slate of Officers was voted in:

President - Karen Swan
V. President - Gerry Tinguely
Secretary – Libby Harville
Treasurer – Waine Whittier
Water Quality – Deborah Cayer
Membership – Marty Arnold
Dam – Margaret Barrows
Invasive Plants – Lidie Robbins
Communication – Susan Onion
Lake Usage + 30 Mile rep – Dan Onion
Stewardship – Maggie Chadwick
Past President – Bill Rogers

Message from the president: Karen thanked all the committee chairs + the Board members for all the hard work they do. She then reminded folks of the 200' from shore headway speed which means no wake. This protects the shoreline from erosion + is safer for kids swimming near the shore. Please be considerate of others.

Honorary Members: Four members were made honorary and each acknowledged for their contributions to Parker Pond. Sally Kelley, long time honorary member was also acknowledged.

Cindy Stancioff honored by Maggie Chadwick

Morgue Hennika honored by Waine Whittier

Steve Cowperthwaite honored by Karen Swan

Bill Durham honored by Marty Arnold

Books: 2 members have recently published books. Steve Cowperthwaite brought his book of poetry. He is selling it for \$12 + giving \$5/book sold at the meeting to PPA. Burt Anderson has donated 12 copies of his book, *"My Life On the Fly"*. The first 12 people to donate \$50 over their membership dues will receive a book.

Membership Discussion: There was much discussion on membership to PPA: existing categories, sponsorship, voting vs non-voting members, shore front owners vs non shore front owners, etc. Comments are attached. The consensus of the group was to not have future meetings nor discussions on this topic but for the Board to draft verbiage based on this discussion and send it out by email for feedback.

Steve Cowperthwaite read one of his poems.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Submitted by

Libby Harville

Membership Discussion Comments from the 2014 Annual Meeting

*Voting: issues regarding shore frontage and water should only be voted on by shore front owner as these decisions can have impact on property value.

*Who can be a voting member? 1. Pond property owner 2. Officer 3. Nominated by the Board of Directors 4. Owner sponsored member (friend of pond can't vote)

*was in favor of wide open membership. Now not in favor because several long term members were upset over the proposed changes + he is worried we will lose members over this.

*lots of issues have come up during this discussion. He is worried of open membership but would like more towns people involved.

*question on lake front owners vs owners with lake right of way. This effects many in Parker Lake Shores (PLS). Owners with deeds predating Sept 1, 2005 can vote. Deed caveats go with the property, not the owner. Many of the PLS folks are very interested in the lake and contribute money + time to fix the road. Do they want to be able to vote + if so, shouldn't they be able to? Embarrassing to some that they have no vote. Should there be another category of owner?

*Do members talk to their neighbors and ask if they have joined + why not?

*I didn't realize I could sponsor members.

*discussion revolves around 3 issues: 1. Membership as it exists now 2. Open membership 3. categories of people not now covered. 3 questions: 1. open up membership 2. Leave as it is now 3. Change membership

Comments submitted in writing:

Fi: "decisions made by this association can impact the property value of shorefront owner's property. Therefore voting rights should remain with the owners and officers. What is the rationale for proposing this? Do you need more members? Do you need more money? Pursue owners who aren't members.

Marty: "PPA was started by waterfront land owners and we have done an exemplary job looking after Parker Pond for over 60 yrs. Our dues and donations have provided the funds to deal with water quality and invasive plant threats, normally government functions. We have also taken on stewardship of the islands. These activities benefit both land owner and non land owner, fisherman and kayaker, swimmer and sailor, nature lover and sun bather. We welcome new members who are not land owners and we have two category in place to accommodate them: 1. Those who love the pond but do not want to get involved with voting issues, may contribute dues and become "Friends of the Pond". A non voting category. 2. We also have a sponsored membership category for those interested in a higher level of participation. In this case, a land owner member can sponsor two individuals for full voting membership.

Why change what is not broken? This proposed by-laws revision does not bode well with the concept of keeping Parker pond independent and free of outside interference.