

Panther Pond Association Annual Meeting

August 12, 2023

Camp Timanous

Approximately 85 people attended

President Bob Harmon asked the PPA secretary if there was a quorum present. When informed that there was a quorum Bob called the Panther Pond Association Annual Meeting to order at 10 AM on August 12, 2023. The Association was welcomed to Camp Timanous by Board Member and former Director of Camp Timanous Dave Suitor. The present Camp Director, Garth Altenburg, also welcomed everyone to the camp. Garth shared that Camp Timanous had just finished an exceedingly successful season. This was the 106th season of camp. Garth shared that the nearly two centuries old historic structure we were meeting in would be undergoing a major renovation next year.

Bob Harmon asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting. The motion was moved, seconded and passed unanimously. Bob then shared the major focus of the PPA Officers work for the past year. The work included water quality monitoring, sampling and invasive plant searches, boat inspections to look for invasive plants, water level monitoring, sound financial management, communications to our membership (email, web-site, Facebook) and being visible. Lake monitoring continues into the 53rd year with 2 new volunteers certified. A rigorous phosphorus testing program has been started. There has been extensive engagement with the state on our dam restoration project. The goal of increasing the number of CBI hours at the Mill Street launch site is on track. The lake level coordination with the state fisheries remains on track.

Bob shared that the Mill Street Dam Restoration project is fully state funded at \$1.3 million. The project has been delayed until 2024 as engineering has consumed more time than expected. There have been regular, positive communication and meetings with the PPA liaisons and the State IF &W Chief engineer as well as with the contracted engineering firm and the Hatchery management. The project will go out to bid this fall. The tentative schedule calls for the lake level drawdown to start on June 3, 2024 for phase 1. The expected end of phase 1 ( actual dam work ) and the reduced level of the lake water should end around July 15, 2024. The expected end to phase 2 (downstream wall) will be around August 1, 2024. When the lake has been lowered, access to Crescent lake is unlikely as the reduced level will make travel through the culvert pipe under the route 85 bridge unlikely for motorized vessels. When the lake is lowered access to Panther Run could be difficult thus the Mill Street launch use could be limited as well.

Treasurer Linda Howard shared with those present the Treasurer's Report for YTD 07/23/23. The beginning cash balance was \$22,787. The ending cash balance was \$26,734. There are 54 paid members. Linda asked that people pay their dues for 2023 if they have not done so yet. Linda also reported on the Maine Audubon Loon Count. The count is always done on the 3rd

Saturday in July from 7:00 a.m.-7:30 a.m. For 2023 there were 10 adults and 0 chicks. In 2022 there were 7 adults and 1 chick.

Pete Leitner spoke briefly about the importance of having certified boat inspectors. He shared that the Raymond Waterways will be looking for a new coordinator next year. Pete shared with the group that he has been checking boats during the Bass Tournaments. Pete has taken that task on as a volunteer.

John Facella of the Raymond fire Department spoke to the group about Wildfire considerations for Raymond homeowners. He shared that wildfires could indeed be a problem in this area. Suggestions for dealing with the problem were to never burn brush w/o a permit, always be careful with cook and camp fires, be sure that the fire department can find you ( good road access, street signs and house numbers ), dial 911 for all emergencies (not the business number), have water available, create a 30 foot defensible space, and harden your home.

Pete Leitner paid tribute to Charlie Turner and spoke of Charlie's deep love for all Maine lakes especially 'his' Panther Pond. He shared that Charlie was the key driver in forming the RWPA. Charlie stepped into PP lake monitoring in 1976 and did it for 40 years until 2016 with his ever present partner in life Dottie. Pete also spoke briefly about the importance of volunteers and thanked Bunny Wescott (Ppipers), John Wolanski (Water quality monitoring and sampling), Tommy Dutton (Hazard Buoy tending), Bob Harmon (Lake level monitoring and Leadership team), and Molly Marr (CBI's). Pete mentioned that we are looking for someone to handle Facebook Page management and also someone to help with Member Database management.

John Wolanski welcomed new PPA members Steve and Patricia Rand. John then presented his Water Quality Monitoring and Environmental report.

John thanked our certified volunteer lake monitors Jean Miller, Joe Folker, Peter Leitner, Victor Otley, Wayne Powell and John Wolanski. John shared information on the three primary tests that are conducted on a bi-weekly basis throughout the season in the Panther deep hole (~70 feet). The conclusion of the testing having been done shows that Panther pond's water transparency or clarity is above average compared to other Maine lakes.

Testing has also shown that, like some other Maine lakes, Panther has low DO levels in the deeper "Hypolimnion" level during the summer months of July-September. The conclusion was that some DO loss is normal during stratification periods but increasing loss over time may indicate increasing oxygen consuming processes. There is therefore a need to check Phosphorous levels. Jean Miller and Wayne Powell are now state certified in Total Phosphorous (TP) testing. More TP testing will be done.

The presentation by our guest speaker Stephen Norton, Professor Emeritus School of Earth and Climate Sciences at the University of Maine was entitled "What can you expect and what can you proactively do for Panther Pond during climate change?" Professor Norton started by sharing with us Panther Pond's watershed and bedrock geology. He then moved to comparing

Maine's average annual air temperatures from 1895-2018. He showed data that concluded that there has been an increase of 3.2 degrees F. Professor Norton then described for us the Dimictic Lakes (heating/cooling/stratification) annual cycle. He shared that the warming trend in Maine has happened mostly in the winter. Fall "ice on" is 1-3 weeks later and spring "ice off" is 1-3 weeks earlier for many Maine lakes. These factors cause earlier and thus longer and stronger summer stratification. Maine's annual precipitation from 1895-2018 shows an increase of 5.8 inches. Given that our climate is getting wetter and warmer, Professor Norton gave our testing volunteers some very specific recommendations as to when to test and what types of testing we should be doing.

Bob Harmon thanked Professor Norton for coming to the meeting, sharing his extensive research and providing recommendations as to next steps.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25p.m.

Respectively submitted  
Pat Palmer  
Secretary