

Berry, Dexter, Wilson Ponds Watershed Association
Minutes of Annual Meeting
July 29, 2017
9:00 AM

Thank you to everyone who paid their dues or contributed to the Lake Preservation Fund. There is still time to pay this year's dues. Just send check to the address below.

President Marcia Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and welcomed attendees. There were about 38 people in attendance.

Officers present were: Marcia Jackson, president, Donnie Isaacson, vice-president, Sarah Ladd, treasurer, and Doug Ludewig, secretary.

The minutes of the 2016 meeting and the 2016 treasurer's report were accepted.

There was a general discussion of things happening on the three lakes and the surrounding land.

Richard Baillargeon has volunteered to be the lake monitor using the secchi disc and equipment. He has not completed his training.

Susan Onion has organized the Invasive Plant Patrol and had training for those interested in monitoring the lakes for invasive species. The sectors for each volunteer have not yet been assigned. Monitors for Berry and Dexter Ponds are needed.

This year the buoys were placed with the help of the Ladd's.

There was a discussion of the removal of the boat ramp at Tempe Bridge. Someone was seen trying to put in a boat at the other side of the bridge (the beach side). Bob Sands said that he would see about having a sign placed there informing people of the boat launch at the south end of the lake.

A significant amount of the cotton candy type of algae (metaphyte) has been seen in the north end of the lake. A similar amount was seen last year. This type of algae is common in all lakes and is not an indicator of poor lake water quality.

There was a discussion of the islands on Wilson Pond. It was reported that Joe's Island is property of the Town of Winthrop, but they are reluctant to claim ownership. Bob Sands said he takes care of the island and picks up after users who haven't. He recommends a sign to inform users to keep it clean and to control usage. It was noted that there was a loon's nest with an egg on the island that apparently was not being cared for. It was also noted that there is a display and

information on Joe Dignard of Joe's Island in the Carriage House (the barn) of Monmouth Museum.

Concern about seaplanes practicing landings and take offs and the effect of the noise on loons was brought up. Bob Sands said that only 3 of each are legally permitted at one time. He said to let him know if more are occurring. The impact of boats creating large wakes on shoreland and loon nests was also mentioned.

Tamara Whitmore, Executor Director of the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed, spoke on developments in the watershed. She said Cobbossee Watershed covers 217 square miles and is contiguous with the 30 Mile River Watershed and the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. Impaired lakes in CWD are Wilson Pond, Cochnewagan Lake, Annabessacook Lake, and Pleasant Pond as well as Cobbossee Stream. There are some other lakes in CWD that are categorized as threatened.

11 invasive plants are on Maine's unwanted list. 5 of them are in Maine. Courtesy boat inspectors are considered the first line of defense, along with the education of boat operators to check their equipment for attached weeds when taking their boat out and putting it in a waterbody.

When searching for invasives remember that there are 3 types of water plants: emergent, floating leaf types, and submerged. Look at the leaf arrangement. Note that there are various types of milfoil and most are native. When you look for invasives first take safety precautions, consider the time of day and weather conditions, as well as the type of watercraft you are using. The best device to use to look for plants is a scope that can be either purchased or homemade. Carry a place marker so that if you remove a plant for further checking you can find the spot again. Put the specimen in a zip-lock bag and take it to the CWD office in Winthrop or the FOCW office and put it in the cooler meant for specimens. Focus on channels, areas near a boat launches and known fishing spots.

The idea is to have as many eyes as possible on the water and plant life in it. For much more information see their website at Friends of Cobbossee Watershed.

Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director of the Kennebec Land Trust, spoke on KLT's activities. She said that KLT has 86 properties with an area of 412,000 acres in 21 communities. The primary purpose of KLT is to conserve land permanently. They provide many programs and outdoor recreation opportunities. They promote sustainable forestry and farming. For much more information see their website at Kennebec Land Trust.

There was no current report from the Cobbossee Watershed District on water quality or lake levels. Last year was exceptionally dry with all lakes in CWD having excellent or very good water quality but low water levels. This year, as of August 8, 2017, the lake water level in all 3 ponds was one foot below full pond. The most recent water clarity report (July 11, 2017) showed Berry at 18 feet, and Dexter and Wilson at 16 feet. The only lake to change significantly from last year at that time, was Wilson, which was at 21 feet.

Marcia conducted a drawing for some prizes and with no further business to be conducted the meeting was adjourned at 11 am.

Current officers of the association will continue to serve for the next year.

Check out the website for the Berry, Dexter, Wilson Ponds Watershed Association at www.BDWPonds.com

Next year's meeting will be held on July 28, 2018 at 9 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Ludewig
Secretary

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