

Berry, Dexter, Wilson Ponds Watershed Association
Minutes of Annual Meeting
July 28, 2018
9:00 AM

President Marcia Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and welcomed attendees. There were 32 people in attendance.

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

The minutes of the 2017 meeting and the 2017 treasurer's report were accepted as presented.

Marcia reported that there were 44 dues paying members and she explained how the donations that BDW makes were determined.

Susan Onion reported on the Invasive Plant Patrol which will look for invasive plants on our lakes. FOCW will provide training for those participating. This year it will be held on August 1 at the North Monmouth Beach from 5 to 7:30 pm.

Marcia noted that a guard rail had been installed at Tempe Bridge to prevent use of the dangerous illegal boat launch being used there. An opening was left in the guard rails for canoes and kayaks to be carried in. There were questions about boats that are being moored in Wilson Pond near Tempe Bridge. State law allows boats to be moored in state waterbodies.

There was a question about the use of the beach area next to Tempe Bridge being used as a boat launch site. A meeting attendee stated that the beach area there is partially owned by the town and partially by a private land owner and apparently can be used to launch boats.

Carl Albrecht reported on the buoys. He said that he has been putting them in the lake for 6 years. This year he called the Bureau of Parks and Lands and Inland Navigation and told them that the old "No Wake" buoys had become unusable. They said they would provide new buoys. It was explained to him that buoys were not needed in the areas where they were being placed. State law requires that boats traveling within 200 feet of shore can only legally travel at wake speed and these areas where the buoys were being placed were within 200 feet of shore. He said that next year he will not be putting the buoys in the lake, but they will be kept on his shore if someone wants to install them.

Many of the lakes in Maine have hardened shorelines because of continual wave action so they are used to receiving wave action from the wakes of boats. It was stated that a boat slowing down in these areas within 200 feet of shore and thus creating a large wake does more damage to shorelines than continuing through them at cruising speed. There are areas in the north end of Wilson Pond where this applies.

Carl also said that there is a liability involved in marking hazards such as "Big Rock" near Joe's Island. If a boater is injured because of the hazard marker, the person responsible for the marker can be held liable. Nevertheless, he said, some kind person has marked the "Big Rock" hazard with a milk jug for boaters' safety.

There was a question about the use of rip-rap on shore lands. It stated that it is useful if it is properly placed and can save shorelines from erosion where it is occurring. The Friends of Cobbossee Watershed has a Lake Smart Program in which lakeshore owners can receive financial and labor help with stabilizing their shoreland.

Jan Kolenda reported on this year's loon count that was conducted on July 14 from 7 am to 7:30 am. Nine adults and 2 chicks were counted during the time allotted. There were 11 adults seen last year. She mentioned a program she had heard about in which if there were two chicks together, one could be removed to be sent to Massachusetts to help with that state's loss of loons.

It was noted that the American Boat and Yacht Council has pledged to modify standards for boat construction to build boats and motors that will be more resistant to catching plants to make it harder for invasive plants to attach to boats and motors.

A report from Wendy Dennis of the Cobbossee Watershed District was read. She reported that the BDW Ponds are a few inches below full pond. Rainfall has been lower than normal. The dam operated by Tex Tech is operating normally. The company works hard at keeping water levels at a safe and reasonable level. CWD has been keeping records of water clarity for 40 years. So far this year water clarity on Wilson Pond has ranged from 4.3 meters to 6.89 meters. Berry and Dexter Ponds' water clarity has been good although clarity on these ponds is not checked weekly as it is on Wilson. An analysis of zooplankton has shown that the lakes have a balanced fishery. If you have concerns, please contact Wendy Dennis at CWD.

Gloria Ladd reported that a visitor to their camps on Wilson caught 40 northern pike while staying there and removed them from the lake. Another lake resident reported that he had caught a black crappie which is not a native fish in Maine.

Lloyd Ireland reported on the Wayne Town Forest. He said the town would like to make this public land and put recreational trails through it and keep the land from being developed in the future. There will be a public hearing in Wayne and a vote on what to do with the land on the November ballot. He said that there is 1,000 feet of undeveloped shorefront on Wilson Pond. It has an unusual geology and many old growth trees on it. It's a place where many animals move from high ground to get water. The goal will be to promote recreational use. He said there are a group of people who feel that the way the town received the land because of the owner's non-payment of taxes over a period of many years was unfair.

Tony Pied of the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed reported on invasive plants. She said that FOCW began in 2001 and now has 3 full-time employees. They provide education in schools, a Tadpole Patrol for kids, the Youth Conservation Corps to provide help on waterfront projects on a landowner's property, and a milfoil program that involves boat inspections, plant patrol teams, and milfoil removal. She displayed a chart showing the vulnerability of lakes in the area. There are 90 risk factors charted and Cobbossee Lake is an 89, Berry Pond is scored 53, Dexter Pond is 50, and Wilson Pond is 76. There really is no "safe" lake and all lakes are at risk.

The purpose of the milfoil program is to get invasive plants as early as possible. This year the program is spending 6 weeks on Annabessacook Lake with a diver and suction apparatus to remove the milfoil

there. FOCW's goal is to raise \$250,000 over a 3-year period to fight the infestation which will likely take longer than that. Currently a team of interns is surveying Cobbossee Lake. (As of August, Milfoil has been found in Cobbossee Lake.)

This year New England Milfoil is using the diver and suction harvester at \$6,000 a week for 6 weeks. She explained that there is an area on a plant called the node where new plants can develop and grow roots. There are 6 native milfoils that must be sorted out from the invasive type and the only sure way is to do this is DNA testing.

Boat launch inspections are conducted on weekends and holidays from about 7 am to 5 pm. It was stated that during bass tournaments some groups do a good job of plant removal from their boats and motors and some don't do very well.

There was a lengthy discussion about the use of Joe's Island. This year there was a time when campers stayed for a week or more creating a situation where other people who wanted to use the island could not. It was reported that the island is owned by the State of Maine and governed by state rules. Many opinions were expressed about how the island has traditionally been use and how it should be used.

Joe's Island does have a fragile ecosystem. It was suggested that a sign be put up stating something like "Please limit your stay, carry in – carry out, please take care of all waste". A team is working on the wording and creating the sign. It was reported that the island has been cleaned up and made more suitable for people to use.

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. www.BDWPonds.com

Next year's meeting will be held on July 27, 2019 at 9 am at the Ladd Center in Wayne.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Ludewig
Secretary

Your dues and contributions to the Land Preservation Fund can be made by check to: BDW Watershed Assn. PO Box 234, Winthrop, Me 04364

THANK YOU to all of you who are supporting this Association.

Marcia Jackson
704-366-5929 cell