

FLYING POND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 9, 2022

MINUTES

President Paul Crockett called the meeting to order at 2:12 pm. The meeting was held in the Mt. Vernon Community Center. About 25 people attended in person, and 1 or 2 attended online.

Moment of silence for members Barb Kennedy and Dr. Dan Onion, who passed away recently. The FPIA sends birthday greetings to Ginnie Post, who just turned 101.

President's Remarks: Paul mentioned increased membership and awareness; the usefulness of PayPal; appreciation for the newsletters (articles and news items are always welcome); and the value of 30 MRWA to FPIA (over \$14,000 for CBI, YCC, water quality monitoring and LakeSmart).

Guest speaker, Lidie Robins, Executive Director of 30 Mile River Watershed Association

Androscoggin Lake, the last lake in our watershed, was found to have invasive milfoil in 2021. Plants were being removed until algae bloom forced efforts to stop. Algae makes water dangerous for swimming, household use, pets and wildlife.

What's being done now:

- More frequent IPP; Identifying and marking plants
- Professional divers/ plant removal
- Trying to prevent boaters from entering infested zone
- DEP may use herbicide (very costly; North Pond's alum treatment cost \$1.5 million, and it will only last about 15 years)
- More frequent water quality testing
- Androscoggin Lake watershed survey conducted in late Spring 2022
- Difficult to pinpoint source and reason for algal bloom, and difficult to predict or prevent another. Problem may come from Dead River's waters entering the lake. Phosphorus is a big cause.
- Special fundraising campaign for Androscoggin Lake (seeking \$150,000)

Invasive Plant Patrol: Len Roe reported on behalf of Debbie Roe, who has coordinated the program for 6 years. Debbie would like to step down from that role but is willing to partner with someone this year. Fourteen people attended a training session recently. IPP will survey the entire lake again this summer.

Treasurer's Report: FPIA has nearly \$38,500 in two bank accounts. Expenses include insurance on dam, and Officers and Directors' insurance. Dues will stay at \$60 per year. Donations via PayPal or credit card are helpful. FPIA needs to be more direct in asking members to pay their dues, as only about 10% of membership is paid at present. Financial report is attached. ***MOTION MADE AND PASSED TO ACCEPT TREASURER'S REPORT AND TO CONTRIBUTE \$3,500 TO 30 MRWA.***

Communications/Membership: members really like the newsletters and other communications. We need help getting complete lists of lake residents, including Vienna addresses. We also need more a direct effort to get current members to pay dues, using both email and US mail.

Board membership: the terms of Paul Fontaine, Dean Sciaraffa; and Nancy Hemphill have expired. The Board recommends that Wendy Oakley replace Nancy to serve as FPIA Secretary. There were no other nominations. ***MOTION MADE AND PASSED TO ELECT Wendy Oakley for a three-year term and as Secretary; Paul Fontaine for a three-year term; and Dean Sciaraffa for a three-year term and as Vice President.***

Lake Use Brochure: A committee has created a brochure that includes lake speed limit areas, no wake zones, loon respect and other topics. We need help to distribute this at road association meetings, etc.

Dam report: Dean Sciaraffa says the dam (which is owned by FPIA) is in great shape; the 2015 repairs are holding well. Dean checks the dam 2 to 3 times per year. If and when problems develop, we'll deal with them with ingenuity and volunteers, since a new dam would cost over \$500,000. Extra contributions to the dam fund are appreciated.

Silt situation: Dean and John Linscott's efforts 20 years ago to obtain a permit to dredge the Vienna Mill Pond were rejected. As the mill stream fills in, it is depositing silt, enlarging the marsh, making the lake shallower, and allowing weeds to grow. Paul C. noted that Mt Vernon dredged a portion of a creek running into Minnehonk in 2021.

Fishing report: Gary Cortelyou said the fishing is good, particularly for brown trout.

Buoys/ boating: Chad Dwelley and Randy Oakley put in nine buoys, which is one fewer than we need. Although they have been stored in Randy's garage, the buoys are cracking because they need are freezing in winter. (Can anyone provide climate-controlled storage?) Chad purchased three new buoys from the State this Spring but would like to get more. One member thinks buoys pose a danger to navigation, and that IFW should be patrolling the lake for speed limit and other violations.

Loon count: Jon Olson said the Audubon Loon Count will be held Saturday, July 16. Currently, FP has seven adult loons, the most in decades. This spring, one chick hatched but it disappeared soon thereafter.

Island in trouble: State-owned "White Rock" or "Boy Scout" island and others are in bad shape, due to overuse, camping, and abuse. Campers have cut down trees, trodden undergrowth, built fires in different places, and left trash and even human waste behind. The soil is running off into the lake. 30 Mile will do an environmental assessment, possibly leading to a YCC / volunteer project next year. Board will meet later this Summer to move forward with this. Group also approved creating and posting signs saying "no camping" and other appropriate use.

Flying Pond Sign: Board will pursue efforts to reclaim the FPIA sign now at FP Variety, and to restore and reinstall it on the lake.

Dam Dock to Dock, Saturday, July 23: Paddling event to raise money for the dam fund, have fun, and build community. Register to paddle or sponsor a dock with refreshments or activities. Contact: diane@artillusstudio.com

Upcoming events:

- Vienna Fire Department's annual chicken BBQ: Sunday, July 31 from 11:30 to 1:30
- Paddle Trek: Saturday, July 30
- Minnehonk Loon Lap: Saturday, August 13

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

