

April, 23 2017

Greetings from Flying Pond.

As I write this brief note, the ice is finally receding but will not likely disappear until about May 1. We had a relatively deep frost and a lot of snow this past winter. Some of you may find your camp roads rather soft this spring and you may find that more patching is required this spring as compared to the last few years.

Last weekend the water was over-topping the dam from one side to the other. Today the water level is down to be about even with the wing walls. The repairs that we did over the past two summers seem to be holding up quite well. We finished the rip-rap work to satisfy the Maine DEP last fall. Thanks MUCH to Dean Sciaraffa for heading up the project and all the volunteers for pitching in.

As you may know the Bylaws of the FPIA have this stated purpose:

*Article III. Purposes: The purposes of the Association are, first, to oversee the needs of the Dam on Flying Pond and the Water-Rights, Access Points and the Dam Site on the outlet side of the Mill Pond in Mt. Vernon; secondly, to assume responsibility for the overall well-being of Flying Pond, with particular emphasis on its ecological health; and, finally, to encourage and support safe and lake-related activities that are beneficial not only to our members, but also to all residents of the Mt. Vernon/Vienna vicinity.*

We have been paying particular attention to the first purpose by working diligently to stabilize our humble outlet dam. We remain hopeful that the recent repairs will buy us 5 or 10 years, but I'd be remiss if I did not softly sound the drumbeat of forward looking goals and concerns for the dam. The recent repairs were to stabilize the wing wall on the right side as water had found its way underneath. The structure, built in 1954 did not go all the way down to bedrock. The board of directors will continue to strategize about the long range fundraising goals as we know that more costly repairs will be needed eventually.

With regard to purpose number 2; I think we have been really lucky to keep invasive milfoil OUT and keep the water quality good. I have been able to see up close and personal how these two items can become very serious issues. Since Shari (my better half) opened *Hello Good Pie Bakery* in Belgrade Lakes several years ago I have been in contact with many camp and homeowners on the Belgrade Lakes. She has been catering the BLA meetings so I have attended and listened in to the discussions about water quality and milfoil. I don't want to sound too alarmist, but this is a various serious issue over there!

So with that said, let me remind folks that there are opportunities to help by volunteering for courtesy boat inspections, etc. We will also keep focus on the annual lake survey for invasive species of plants.

We look forward to seeing you at our annual FPIA meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup> at the Mill Stream Grange at 7:00 PM. We did vote to increase dues to \$40 this year. Checks can be mailed to FPIA, PO Box 143, Mount Vernon, ME 04352.



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