

SUMMER 2007 REPORT OF THE THREE MILE POND ASSOCIATION

The past year has again been very exciting in the life of the Pond Association. We have continued along all winter with the Board of Directors meeting on a monthly basis and continuing our discussions and research on ways to improve the water quality of the Pond. We are very fortunate to have several dedicated people who are willing to become involved.

In the coming year, we would like to get as much participation from Pond residents as we can – so if you can spare 1 hour (we keep it short) on a Sunday afternoon, once a month we would love your input.

The annual meeting last year was held on June 24th, 2006 at the Fox Glen Snowmobile Club. There were approximately 90 people in attendance (our best attended meeting in several years) President Seth Sweetser began the meeting by asking everyone to check and update their addresses on the list on the table. He welcomed everyone and thanked all the volunteers who were at the tables selling T-shirts and collecting dues and updating contact info.

Seth then had Past President, Dan Dubord, come forward and presented him with a plaque with a wood carving on it – done by Association member, George Gunning. Mr. Dubord had been the President of the Association for several years and remains affiliated as the clerk, and the Board of Directors agreed we should honor his past service.

Reb Manthey, Executive Director of China Region Lakes Alliance (CRLA) addressed the audience and gave an update of the happenings within CRLA. She stressed that the number one concern was to keep run-off out of the Pond. The CRLA is available to help with this by providing the Youth Conservation Corp to provide free labor to shorefront property owners. She also explained about the continuation of the 319 Grant that still has approx. \$40K available for matching grants. Another point of discussion was the problem of invasive plants and the Boat monitoring program at the boat launch is designed to help make boaters aware of the plants and also to do inspections of the incoming and outgoing boats on the weekends. There was discussion about several areas, which needed work and also the confusion in the 3 “Park Lane’s” on the Pond. Jon Van Bourg, President of CRLA spoke as well summarizing the role of CRLA and reiterating points made by Reb.

Election of Officers was then held – those nominated and elected were:

President – Seth Sweetser

Secretary – Londa Dennett

Treasurer – Kimberlee Sweetser

Clerk – Dan Dubord

The motion was made by Dan Dubord and seconded by Dave W. – Motion carried.

Research and Development Committee – Mike Warren, chairman of the committee summarized the research that has been done over the winter. There are 2 basic types of algae (2 species) and they feed on phosphorous. The approach is multi-pronged – erosion control, biomanipulation (ex – ridding the Pond of white perch) and natural products. Mike answered questions and we had discussion on whether or not the algae (bacterias) are dangerous to people. Mike explained that this was not usually the case but that some people are extremely sensitive and may be affected by the bacteria.

Mike noted that the DEP had recently put out a new advisory on how much fish a person should eat. This issue arose because of the conditions of the lakes etc. We also discussed that there had been a bloom during this past winter because there had not been enough snow cover on the ice.

There was discussion on the use of barley as a means of absorbing some of the phosphorus. DEP has looked at this method and feels that it fits in to the biological realm and it is monetarily feasible. The EPA also covers barley usage. There was further discussion and it was decided that the committee would further investigate barley usage.

At the present time, we are continuing with the lake-monitoring program of the visibility in the Pond. Tony Pileggi has been taking these readings for several years and requested volunteers to help with this.

Arthur Pilsbury questioned what DEP was doing to give us information about how to handle the situation. Discussion followed and there was further discussion about obtaining a waste discharge license. Roy Bouchard – from DEP – responded and explained that this would only take care of the current bloom with no long-term benefit and that it was basically a “cosmetic” fix. Mr. Bouchard has been very helpful as an information resource to the Board.

Jon Van Bourg – president of CRLA – responded to questions about the use of copper sulfate. In his experience, there has been some long-term effect on lowering the “rotting” load.

Discussion was held regarding lowering the water level at bloom time. It was noted that in order to have any significant affect, the water must be lowered 4 feet. It would be impossible to do that in our Pond and even lowering by 1-2 feet would maybe help in a marginal way – however it may negatively affect the thermal level of the Pond – creating more sediment for further problems.

There were some questions and discussion about the inflow from Mudd Pond and Three Cornered Pond and how that affects us – (TM9 inlet).

Next we had a discussion about Road captains and who they were on each road. Mike Warren suggested that each person try to get another person involved and bring them to a meeting.

Next discussion was about the bouys. Our permit requires that the bouys be placed and monitored every 3 weeks. Dan Dubord has been doing this in the past but cannot continue. We discussed the liability issue and that the Attorney General’s office has legislation pending about limiting the liability of lake associations and officers regarding incidents on the Pond. Dan Dubord mentioned that even though it is rare there are some lawyers out there who would pick up a case involving Associations. We further discussed that the bouys could be put in this year if we had some volunteers – Bill Carey and Bob Parquette agreed to do this and would get the coordinates from Dan. They will recruit 2 others to help.

Web Page – we discussed that the Web page and Web cam are being worked on and will be a great way to communicate information to the membership.

Three Mile Pond Picnic park – Discussion about the Town of Vassalboro taking over the Picnic park from the State and making a swimming area there. Jon Van Bourg explained that the Town

has voted and approved this acquisition. We need to call Town Hall and explain the impact on the Pond and how is the Town going to prohibit damage to the Pond.

Discussion also took place about contacting the selectmen from all 3 towns abutting the Pond and getting them involved and aware of the happenings with the Pond.

There were a few final questions and comments from the audience about neighbor issues – but Seth Sweetser directed them to contact their Town's code enforcement officer.

Meeting was adjourned.

The Board has set up an agenda for the upcoming annual meeting on June 30th as follows:

CRLA representatives, David Landry and Peter Wilkens will summarize what they are doing and what the Youth Conservation corps has been doing

Research and Development committee will give an update

Marketing committee to give an update

Election of Officers

Road captain discussion and solicit volunteers for roads not covered yet

Discuss dues, President's club participation (wooden Mallard this year) including additional donations

Inform people of the situation with the bouys – not put out – permit, liability etc

Liability insurance for the Association

Discuss availability of matching funds for projects on the Pond

Ask for volunteers for monitoring of invasive plants at the boat launch

Ask for volunteers for help ferry school kids

New Business and Questions

This year we will again meet at the Fox Glen Snowmobile Club and will start at 9:00 for coffee and goodies with the meeting to follow at 10 am. PLEASE tell everyone on your road about the meeting, signs will be posted at the end of each main camp road with meeting information. We would like to see as many people there as possible. Also, in compiling the mailing list we are trying to get everyone's email address and also the road that the camp is located. Please email this information to threemilepond@fairpoint.net even if you think we have it – this way we will be able to confirm or update your information.

I will no longer be able to serve as President so please come with some names of people who could serve in this capacity – I will still be involved and can help the incoming person – so hopefully someone will take up this position and move the Association forward!!!!

Thanking you advance for your interest and involvement in making our Pond great!!!!

See you at the meeting!!

Seth Sweetser
President