

27th Annual Meeting of the Lees Pond Association

July 14, 2018

Thank you to all the Ponders who attended: Bev and Jim Nelson, Reta and Bill Keylor, Bev and Bruce Steadman, Ed and Jane Harrington, Keith and Karin Nelson, Chris Gallagher and Michael Sullivan, Candace Cox, Peter Lemmond, Paula Young, Suzanne Wiedenheft, Tina Wright. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM by President Bev Nelson.

Bev introduced Amanda McQuaid, NHDES Beach Coordinator who spoke to us about Cyanobacteria Monitoring Efforts. Beach closings plus all kinds of other information can be found at www.des.nh.gov.

Cyanobacteria occur naturally in water bodies throughout the world. Blooms can appear as dispersed cells floating in the water or can form a blue-green scum or bloom that covers the surface. Currently, it is difficult to determine if a bloom is toxic. <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/toxicology-cyanobacteria> Researchers are working to develop methods to confirm biologic evidence of exposure to cyanotoxins among humans and animals and are conducting some *in vitro* work to further characterize potential health effects using the population-based epidemiology approach and existing health databases.

Lee's Pond experienced a bloom in 2017. There are many types of cyanobacteria. Our bloom was mostly *Anabaena* spp. For now, it is recommended keeping dogs and children from drinking pond water and alerting NHDES of sited blooms. Possible increase of cyanobacteria blooms is due to excess nutrients especially phosphorus and nitrogen entering the water from runoff.

The Lees Pond Association promotes watershed management practices through education of property owners on the pond. There should be a natural buffer along the shore to filter runoff. Trees should not be clear cut near the pond. No fertilizer should be used within 25 ft. of the shoreline. Septic systems should be checked every two years. Please pick up after your pets. In general, follow the law outlined in the Shoreland Protection Act. It is also possible that the hot weather last summer plus the lack of wind and the low water level of the pond contributed to the blooms. Sincere thanks to Amanda who gave up her Saturday morning to talk to us. Also, thanks to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Sciences. They have given us invaluable help for over 20 years!

The minutes from the June 26th, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

Karin Nelson gave the following Treasurer's Report: total income from dues was \$2,900. Expenses were \$300 for dues and subscriptions, and \$400 for water testing for a total of \$700. \$2,200 is gain over last year. Balance is \$9679.00.

Karin also gave us a Milfoil Progress Report. We are making progress! The whole Southern and Eastern shores of the pond are much improved. 3566 gallons of milfoil were pulled in 2017 mostly at the North ends of the pond. The DASH boat will be back in August to continue pulling. A motion was passed unanimously to investigate a new herbicide called ProcellaCOR to use at the North end of the pond. EPA says it is practically “non-toxic to animals and humans” and yet effective in killing milfoil. It is hard for the divers to see milfoil among all the lily pads. We need to update our 5-year plan for combating milfoil this fall.

Our President Bev Nelson has been hard at work in the past year. She and Karin monitored Lee’s Pond and Garland Pond. Garland Pond expenses were paid by the Nature Conservancy. A viewscope was purchased to better measure water clarity. A microscope is on loan from DES to identify cyanobacteria. The pond water is tested once a month during the summer. 2017 Report was emailed to members prior to meeting. She attended the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program in Concord in the spring with Paula and Suzanne. Bev also presented a water quality report from NHDES.

https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/annual_reports/2017/documents/lees-moultonboro.pdf

There was a slight increase in nutrient levels. This may be due to storm water runoff. Milfoil is being managed as stated above. Chloride levels are slightly higher. We need to reduce salt on driveways and roads. It is extremely important to stabilize the pond’s shorelines with bushes and trees at the water’s edge to decrease phosphorus and other nutrients entering the pond that feed cyanobacteria.

After discussion, a motion was unanimously passed that the water level in the pond is too low. It was suggested we ask Jim Hoberg and Fred Cox to build up the rocks at the outlet. Also, the beavers have been very busy at the North end building up their dams which impedes the flow of water into the pond and may increase nitrogen levels. Candace Cox and Karin Nelson will talk to Jim Hoberg’ who manages the dam and water levels.

Motions made and unanimously passed:

- \$52 to Bev Nelson for viewscope
- \$300 donation to New Hampshire Lakes Association
- \$100 dues for next year

A motion was made and passed to explore raking vs dredging of the pond. Tina Wright will do some research.

Election of Officers:

President: Bev Nelson (her last term)

Vice-President: Peter Lemmond

Secretary: Rheta Keylor

Treasurer: Bev Steadman

Steering Committee: Bev Nelson, Peter Lemmond, Rheta

Keylor, Bev Steadman, Suzanne Wiedenheft, Bill

Keylor, Jane Harrington, Karin Nelson, Bob Clark, and Vince Buoniello

Many thanks to Peter Lemmond, Rheta Keylor, and Bev Steadman who volunteered to fill the vacant offices. Thank you to retiring officers. Your volunteer time is much appreciated.

Moultonborough Falls Conservation Area

Buying the 37 acres of land at the North end of the pond and along the Red Hill River was an idea that had early support of the Lees Pond Association. Thanks to the work of Marie Samaha and the Moultonborough Conservation Commission, and the fund-raising expertise of Ed Harrington and Greg Samaha, this huge conservation victory, not only for our pond, but for the Town of Moultonborough and the entire Lakes Region is now a reality. Protecting this vital link of the Red Hill River from Garland Pond to Lees Pond to Lake Winnepesaukee means that we are extending the preservation that already exists in the Red Hill River Watershed. Water quality will be preserved by keeping this wilderness area undeveloped, allowing the marshland to continue to filter out pollutants. The natural wildlife corridor, now left undisturbed, will continue to allow the free movement of moose, bear, deer, foxes, and birds into the greater lakes region. Residents of our Town and visitors to the area will benefit from the recreational opportunities of planned trails and kiosks explaining the early history of Moultonborough Falls. Thank you to all who contributed time, money, and expertise.

The Lees Pond Association will meet again July 13, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned by President Bev Nelson.

Please pay your 2018 dues with this coupon-\$100

Make your check payable to the Lees Pond Association

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Mail to Lees Pond Association, c/o Bev Steadman, Treasurer, 67 Moose Walk, Moultonborough, NH 03254