



***Saturday Pond Watershed Association***  
40 Ridgewood Terrace      Otisfield, Maine 04270

**SPWA Trustees Meeting Minutes – April 30, 2023**

Attendees: Ellen Attaliades, Jim Attaliades, Bill Bramswig, Amy Brown, Jerry Haber, Susan Haber, Sue LaFleur, Will Young, Julie Ywoskus

- Fall Planning Meeting Minutes - Julie: Minutes from the 10-22 meeting were reviewed and approved
  - Treasurer's Report – Amy:
    - Balance: \$1379.29
      - We have paid for Saturday Pond tote bags & donation to Lake Stewards of Maine
    - Members: 61 members. Member numbers are increasing
    - We discussed Pixie Williams' passing and time spent with her on the water
  - Watershed Update:
    - Wildlife: Recently we have observed bald eagles, 2 loons, a merganser duck, mallard ducks, hawks, & turkeys
      - Resource: The Merlin app from Cornell University helps to identify birds
    - Dam: John Ywoskus is the new Saturday Pond dam keeper.
    - Ice-Out: April 12, 2023
    - Thompson Lake Environment Association Survey: On May 19-20, TLEA volunteers will survey the 35 mile Thompson Lake Watershed to identify erosion and drainage issues. The SPWA survey was done with Department of Environmental Protection in 2009.
  - Watershed Association Plans for FY 2024 (7-1-23 – 6-30-24)
    - Trustees Slate for FY 2024: Proposed Trustees: Sue LaFleur, Julie Ywoskus, Open Position
      - Nominated: Susan, Julie, Lourdes Engel
      - Slate will be voted on at Annual Meeting in July
  - Invasive Plants Monitoring - Sue:
    - Surveyors: Sue, Amy, Ellen, Julie, Lourdes Engel
    - Certification: Certification video is not available on LSM website; Julie will contact to find out how to certify
    - Resources:
      - Book: Through the Looking Glass – University of Wisconsin. Recommended by Pixie. \$21 on Amazon
      - Picture This App: Can be helpful, but sometimes inaccurate
  - Loon Information - Julie:
    - Loon Raft Remaining Tasks:
      - Sign: Steve will build and anchor the loon nesting sign.
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- Camera: Dave LaFleur will install the game camera on shore.
      - Monitor: Julie and other members will monitor weekly and submit to Loon Restoration Team.
    - Loon Survey Guidelines and Schedule: Julie distributed hard copy of loon survey form and Audubon loon behavior sheet for members to use during loon surveys
    - Look Out for Loons Program: Educational loon program that is just being started. They may have a video that we can use during the annual meeting. Julie will check for availability.
    - NH Loon Preservation Society: Sue distributed loon brochures from the NH Loon Preservation Society
    - Annual Meeting Presentation: Julie will ask Maine Audubon if they can come to annual meeting to present about loons
  - Wake Boat Restrictions:
    - Wake Boat Restriction Legislation Update – LD 693: Audubon staff felt hearing went well for possible legislation; Amy did not feel that.
      - Status: Ellen will find out status of LD693. Then members will meet again to discuss next steps
    - Education Page: Susan will write an educational page covering wake boats, loons, and invasive plants. Amy will distribute it on docks with the July 4 parade announcement.
  - Education Welcome Packet for New Watershed Residents
    - Welcome packet will include:
      - Education Page (see above)
      - Invasive Plant Brochure: Amy will check with LSM for free resources
      - Loon Information: Amy will check with Maine Audubon for free resources
      - Local Walking Trails: Julie will check from brochure at Otisfield town office
      - Shoreline Zoning Ordinance: Julie will print out from Otisfield town website
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Year Free Membership to SPWA
      - Latest Newsletter
    - Identifying New Residents: We can identify new waterfront owners through Zillow, word of mouth, and SPWA watershed list (Eric Williams), and Tax Assessors office information online
    - Information Packet Distribution: We can give information to all new residents (whether they are an SPWA member or not). We will give new SPWA members a Saturday Pond tote bag
  - Watershed Association Newsletter:
    - Content will include:
      - Loon information: Amy will write about the loon nest. Julie will write about loon/people behavior around loons
      - Invasive Plants – Sue will write a shortened article about invasive plants
      - Wake Boat Restriction Legislation (LD693): May include an article on LD693 depending on its status and how we move forward
      - Loon Poster sales
      - Consider newsletter format (columns) when writing
      - Can link articles to website for more information via Qcode
      - Send Bill content (limit content)
    - Publication Deadlines:
      - Date for Article Submission: 6/16
      - Date to Mail: 6/26
  - Annual Meeting: Sunday, July 16 at 10am at Pond View Beach; Rain date – July 22
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Task Chart:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Person</u>
Find out LSM's current certification process for invasive plant patroller	Julie
Build and anchor loon nesting sign	Steve
Install game camera on shore to view loon's nest	Dave LaFleur
Monitor loons and loon raft weekly	Interested SPWA Trustees
Find out if Look Out for Loons video will be available for our annual meeting	Julie
Ask Maine Audubon if someone can present at our annual meeting	Julie
Find out the status of LD693 (Wake Boat Restriction Bill)	Ellen
Write educational page on wake boats, loons, and invasive plants for new resident packet – dock distribution page	Susan H.
Distribute educational packet to docks	Amy
Obtain free invasive plant educational resources from LSM (if available)	Amy
Obtain free loon educational resources from Maine Audubon (if available)	Amy
Obtain local walking trail brochure from Otisfield town office	Julie
Print out copies of the shoreline zoning ordinance from the Otisfield town website	Julie
Write newsletter article about the loon raft	Amy
Write newsletter article about loon behavior and people's behavior around loons	Julie
Write newsletter article about invasive plants	Sue L