



THOMAS POND IMPROVEMENT ASSOC. INC.

May 29, 1985

This newsletter is for the express purpose of conveying information to all residents on the periphery of, or with rights-of-way to, Thomas Pond in Casco and Raymond, Maine. There have been developments of late that will benefit all who reside in the area or who have seasonal property on the pond. The remainder of this letter will serve as an introduction to the Thomas Pond Improvement Association and as an explanation of events and meetings which culminated in its formation.

On July 29, 1984, at the request of a concerned resident, Thomas Pond Terrace (Road) Association called a special board meeting for the purpose of discussing the problem of unusually low water levels of the pond. It was then brought to the board's attention that the dam itself was in great disrepair. Out of concern for the need of repair, maintenance, and control of the dam, those present agreed on contacting the State (Mr. David Dominie) to determine what procedure to follow in order to correct the situation.

At the next meeting, August 12, 1984, these members learned of the State legislature's passing of the Maine Dam Inspection Act. The purpose of this Act is to provide for inspection of dams, for registration and ownership of same, and to set up procedures necessary for awarding ownership of the abandoned dams. Although it was later deemed unnecessary, they voted to circulate a petition, provided by the State, requesting that it establish water levels for Thomas Pond, through the Department of Environmental Protection.

Evidence of concern by local landowners became very obvious by their overwhelming response to the effort made by those few individuals during the following weeks. Impressed by this response, David Morton, Casco Town Manager and resident on the lake, contacted a biologist with the D.E.P. (Don Anderson) and arranged for an informative meeting, open to all interested persons, which was held on September 12, 1984, at the Hawthorne House on Raymond Cape Road. Notices were distributed, personally, in an attempt to reach as many residents as possible.

Over one hundred concerned persons were present for the short discourse and question and answer session with Mr. Anderson. As a representative of the State and the D.E.P., he made it very clear that the State would not accept control of the dam at any time; however, its purpose would be to declare such dams abandoned and to award ownership of them to qualified persons or groups, who would then assume responsibility for them and maintain them in accordance with environmental and residential interests. He strongly recommended if those present were interested in controlling the future water levels and environment of the pond, they should organize to form a lake association and petition the State for ownership of the dam. There would be time to organize, he said, as it may take a year or more for the State to establish ownership. Mr. and Mrs. Phil Berry were later elected to form a steering committee, the first step towards the lake association becoming a reality.

At a meeting on October 12, 1984, the steering committee selected persons from all sections of the pond, making up a nominating committee to draw up a slate of four officers and nine board members. At a meeting of this committee on October 19, 1984, the slate was completed and a date set for a public meeting to be held on November 30, 1984, again at the Hawthorne House. Notification was done both by handbills and via the mail.

In the meantime, a visual inspection of the dam was made by an engineer from Colwell Construction Company in order that the expense of the necessary repairs could be ascertained. This engineer also determined that deterioration would not reach a critical stage for a year or more. Results of this consultation were reported to the steering committee, relieving some concern about the condition of the dam.

At the public meeting November 30, 1984, it was voted unanimously to accept the slate of officers and board members as presented in ballot form. President, Cole Plummer presided over the remainder of the meeting, the first official one to be held. Other officers included Calvin Nutting - Vice President, Lucille Griffin - Secretary, and May Buck - Treasurer. The nine board members were each selected to represent the area of the lake in which they reside - there being nine natural divisions around the pond's periphery. They are as follows:

Selma Cohen	- Raymond Cape (outlet)
Barbara Morton	- Route #302
Beverly Hall	- Murch's Point
Fred Dingley	- Quaker Ridge
Robert Farthing	- Watkins Shores
Adelaid Koontz	- Thomas Pond Shores (ext.)
Frank Howell	- Thomas Pond Shores
Philip Berry	- Thomas Pond Terrace
Robert Porto	- Pulpit Rock

After a short discussion, it was concluded that, those previously volunteering to maintain the dam, should continue in like manner, as Clyde Murch had been doing in previous years. There was also consideration as to the immediate business needs of the newly formed association and a meeting of the board was set for December 5, 1984.

At the December 5, 1984, meeting, held at the Casco Town Office, the board members voted to name the association "Thomas Pond Improvement Association, Inc.". It was suggested that a local attorney, Martin Rogoff, be contacted in regard to incorporating as a non-profit organization. Several tasks were delegated to members relating to the acquisition of a post office box, a checking account, and a Federal I.D. number. Address lists were requested from all board members to be put on file for future mailings. President, Cole Plummer volunteered to draw up a set of By-laws to be considered at the next meeting on January 16, 1985.

On April 3, 1985, the By-laws, after having been revised to some degree and refined by the attorney, were finalized and passed by a quorum of the board of directors. The purpose of the lake association as set forth in these By-laws is twofold: the first is to maintain and preserve mutually agreeable water levels through the acquisition of the Thomas Pond Dam, and acting on the repair and maintenance of same; and second, to act appropriately as a non-profit corporation, dedicated to the protection of water quality and natural beauty of the lake.

A petition for ownership of the dam has been acquired from the State and with helpful, detailed suggestions from David Morton, was filed by President Cole Plummer, by mail, on April 30, 1985. Also, at this time, the corporation papers, having been properly endorsed, were mailed to the State of Maine, Department of Corporations. These procedures completed all that can be accomplished at the present time.

A great deal of work has been done during the past nine months and the goal is now within reach. Because of the initial efforts of a considerable number of area residents, it is almost a certainty that the association will be awarded ownership of the dam. Those who did not happen to be directly involved should be made aware of the various skills and talents of their neighbors called upon for this endeavor. Valuable time and energy was volunteered by the many. It should be noted, however, that full co-operation from all residents will be necessary - both financially and physically - in order to preserve the lake for enjoyment now and for the future.