

General Membership Meeting - 21 August 2021

In Attendance: Christine Bradbury, Beth Warren, Dave Dyer, Jackie Dougherty, Frank Jaffe, Steve Marchant, Dick Horr Dave Deluca, Sue Chapin

Steve Marchant called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and welcomed those present.

Acknowledgment: Steve thanked Frank Jaffe and his son, Sam, for the work they did consolidating the mailing lists for the annual appeal. Making one list and removing duplicates was a tremendous improvement.

Because there was no annual meeting in 2020 (due to COVID), there were no secretary's minutes or treasurer's report to be read and and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Includes the period from July 1 2020 - Aug 21, 2021:

Opening Balance: \$11,051.15

Deposits: **4,700.00** (2020 annual appeal - \$2590)
(2021 annual appeal - \$2110 to date)

Expenses: **374.70** (2020 annual appeal - printing/mailing)
500.00 (RWPA for additional CBI coverage)
452.29 (2021 annual appeal - printing/mailing)

Closing Balance: \$14,424.16

To date, \$2475 has been received for the 2021 annual appeal (some funds are pending deposit). It was voted on and approve to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

Christine mentioned that she sends out Thank You postcards to members who have paid dues. She had been using a copier and paper cutter at Staples which easily handles card stock. However Staples removed both the copier and paper cutter. It was suggested that we consider having the postcards printed and create an extra set of labels for future mailings.

Water Quality: Dick monitors lake quality through the Lake Stewards of Maine. He measures oxygen levels and water quality 2x/month May through August and measures the phosphorus level 1x/year. He measures oxygen levels and temperature down to 17 meters in the deepest part of the lake (which is about 60 ft) using a Dissolved Oxygen (DO) meter. Water clarity is measured using a secchi disk. Each year the state calibrates the DO meter and returns it to Dick in the Apr/May timeframe. This year the meter was not returned until late June. The lake has been tested 2x in July and once (so far) in August. Clarity (down to 6 meters) and dissolved oxygen readings have shown to be good and have been consistent with prior years' readings. Lake temperature in the August reading was warmer than July, which makes sense since Aug was warmer than July! The current DO meter is old and the manufacturer no longer supports the machine for service and replacement parts. At the June TPIA Board meeting, it was voted to purchase a new meter which will be ordered and will cost approximately \$1500. It was asked, once the new meter is received, if a comparison reading can redone with the old and new meters. Dick said this is doable.

In relation to water quality, Sue mentioned that Bob & Steve monitor and adjust the water level at the dam according to the State of Maine dam management plan for Thomas Pond.

CBI Coverage: As mentioned in the Treasurer's report, \$500 was spent in 2020 for additional CBI coverage. Basic hours include Sat & Sun mornings from 9 a.m. - noon and are funded through Raymond Waterways Protective Association (RWPA). Increased hours in 2020 included Friday evenings and Sat & Sun, generally 7 a.m. - noon. At the Board meeting, it was voted to continue to approve up to \$500 for additional hours pending discussing this with RWPA. Bob spoke with Peggy Jensen, RWPA President, who could not commit to additional coverage this year due to staffing shortages.

Dues: It was voted and approved to keep dues at \$25.

Election: Bob Chapin, Steve Marchant, Frank Jaffe, and Ted Oliva were reelected to their current positions as President, Vice President and Board members (Pulpit Rock Rd and At large) respectively. Bob emailed and will again contact Chris Greenlaw, Lucille Griffin, Skip Grovo, and Brooke Hidell to see if they are interested in continuing to serve on the board.

New Business: Sue made available a handout on **Gloeotrichia**, which has been present in the lake this past month. *Gloeotrichia* is common in lakes in Maine as early as May and can be present throughout the summer.

It was asked if Thomas Pond or other lakes are tested for other algae or **e-coli**. Thomas Pond is not tested for these algae/bacteria, and it is not known if other lakes are routinely tested for the same. Another question was asked about **phosphorus** in a lake. Dick stated that there are natural sources and fertilizers are also a source of lake phosphorus. Fortunately for as long as Dick has been measuring water quality, Thomas Pond phosphorus readings have always been low.

A question was asked about an email Bob received that expressed concern about **short term rentals** (either directly rented by the landlord or through a third party vendor (such as AirBnB or VRBO) on Thomas Pond and the effect these rentals have on water quality and overall quality of life for year-round Thomas Pond residents. There is no provision in the TPIA By-laws which would allow the association to regulate short term rentals. In the reply to the email inquiry, Bob suggested that the individual talk to the landlord/home owner directly to resolve any issue of concern. Relatedly, during an Aug 10 meeting of the Raymond Select Board, the issue of short term rentals in Raymond was discussed. The general consensus was that the Select Board does not get involved in regulating/permitting short term rentals and suggested that those, who have an issue, contact the landlord/homeowner directly to resolve the issue.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Chapin

Thomas Pond Improvement Association
August 21, 2021

Financial Summary from July 1, 2020 – August 21, 2021

Opening Balance **\$11051.15**

Deposits	2020 Appeal	2590.00
	2021 Appeal to Date	2110.00
	2021 Checks in Hand	365.00

Total Deposits **\$16116.15**

Expenses

• 8/7/20 Time4Printing	324.85
• 9/12/20 Postcards and postage	42.85
• 10/24/20 Raymond Waterways	500.00
• 11/5/20 Postage for additional postcards	7.00
• 7/9/21 Time4Printing	343.58
• 8/8/21 Time4Printing	108.71

Total Expenses **\$1326.99**

Balance to Date **\$14789.16*** 14,424.16

*Includes checks in hand of \$365.00 not yet deposited.

(365 not
inc. as
not yet
deposited)

2475 so far on 2021 appeal

Estimating the Abundance of *Gloeotrichia echinulata* in Maine Lakes (May, 2012)

Scott Williams, Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program; Linda Bacon, Roy Bouchard, Maine DEP; Holly Ewing, Bates College; in collaboration with the current Maine/New Hampshire *Gloeotrichia* research team: Kathy Cottingham, Kathleen Weathers, Laurie Griesinger, Elizabeth Traver, Midge Eliassen

Gloeotrichia echinulata is a planktonic (floating in the water) blue-green alga or cyanobacteria. While "Gloeo" (often pronounced Gleeo) is known to have existed historically in many lakes throughout the state, it has typically occurred in late summer at relatively low densities and most lake users have been unaware of its presence. In recent years, however, Gloeo has become measurably more abundant in some Maine lakes causing interest in this alga to grow.

Gloeo has reached nuisance bloom levels in a few New England lakes during the past decade resulting in ongoing research to learn more about 1) why this may be happening, 2) which lakes may be more vulnerable to this phenomenon, and 3) what options exist for managing/controlling Gloeo blooms. Volunteer lake monitors can play an important role in the process of gathering information about Gloeo by making and recording a simple observation when taking a Secchi disk reading. The following material provides guidelines for accurately identifying *Gloeotrichia echinulata* and estimating its abundance.

Identification of *Gloeotrichia echinulata*:

Size: Gloeo cells form colonies that are visible without magnification. The colonies measure about 1-2 millimeters in diameter – about the size of the head of a small metal common pin.

Color: Gloeo colonies vary from light to bright green, but may also appear as "off-white". Gloeo colonies have been described by some as looking like tapioca.

Shape & Texture: Upon close inspection, Gloeo colonies are distinctly spherical (round). Gloeo colonies look "fuzzy", both to the naked eye and under low level magnification. Gloeo is never stringy, but it can be sticky.

Timing: Gloeo blooms occur most typically between June and August, and late summer is more common than early in the season. However, blooms have been documented as early as May and later in the fall.

Look-alikes: Gloeo looks a lot like *Conochilus* (a colonial zooplankton) early on. If someone scoops up a sample into a cup, *Conochilus* will be more golden-brown, rather than green. *Conochilus* also spins in the water. If some are caught in a white cup, a careful observer will be able to see them spin around. Gloeo doesn't do that!

Position in the Water: Gloeo abundance in the open lake is often, but not always, in the top few meters. This varies from one lake to the next, but also depends on time of day and other factors.

Identification Aid: A small 10x-20x lens (available through the VLMP) is a great addition to any citizen scientist's toolbox and will help with questionable Gloeo identifications. Be sure to do the inspection in a drop of water, otherwise all you will see is an indistinct glob. *Anabaena*, another colonial cyanobacterium, can look like a ball, but on closer inspection it looks like a plate of spaghetti, not like a ball with hairs sticking out.

If you are confident that you have Gloeo in the lake, proceed to the next steps in documenting your observation. If you are uncertain, please seek assistance before recording information on your field form.

