

Thomas Pond Improvement Association (TPIA) General Membership Meeting - 20 August 2022

The meeting was scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Prior to this time, discussion began on water level, flow of water over the dam, & registration of TPIA with the state (items which will be covered under New Business).

Attendees: Alan Aaskov, Christine Bradbury, Candace Carr, Bob Chapin, Sue Chapin, Diane Cormier, Dave Deluca, Jerry Eaton, Bob Farthing, Sheri Farthing, Noel Genova, Brenda Hall, Brooke Hidell, Frank Jaffe, Robert Moran, Robert Murch, Mary Osgood, Gil Richard, Mark Richard, Dana Watkins. In addition, Steven Hazen attended the meeting as Power of Attorney representative for two residents who were unable to attend: Lloyd Locklear (1583 Roosevelt Rd, Raymond) and Robert E. MacDonald (20 Valley Rd, Casco).

Meeting Minutes

Bob Chapin began the meeting asking for a **moment of silence** for **Lucille Griffin** who passed away within the past year. Lucille had been a board member and officer of TPIA since its inception in 1985 until 2019.

Secretary: Sue Chapin read the minutes from the 2021 General Membership Meeting. These minutes were voted upon and approved to accept by the majority.

Treasurer's Report: Christine Bradbury presented the finance report as of 19 August 2022:

Opening Balance: \$14,789.16

Deposits: **\$ 4,040.35** (2021/2022 Appeals, DO meter
Reimbursement)

Expenses: **\$ 2,598.71** (new Dissolved Oxygen meter,
Thank You Postcards & Postage for 2022 Appeal, Cultivator
for removing debris that accumulates at the dam, additional
Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) coverage, 2022 Appeal
Postcard & Mailing, Snacks during beaver dam removal work)

Closing Balance: \$16,230.80

Christine also presented a summary of recent Appeal results which are: 2020 - \$2590; 2021 - \$3418; 2022 - \$2335 (to date).

A question was asked about dam insurance. The answer is that TPIA does not currently have liability insurance on the dam due to the cost which is approximately \$7500/year, an amount deemed by the board to be unaffordable for the organization to maintain on an annual basis.

The Treasurer's report was voted upon and approved to accept by the majority.

Thank You: In the fall of 2021, a large number of beaver cuttings were noticed in the water at the boat launch near the Rte 302 bridge. These cuttings represented the early stages of a beaver lodge. Frank Jaffe and Bob began removing these cuttings at that time. Work continued this spring with the help of Gil and Mark Richard, Frank, Dave DeLuca, Brooke Hidell, and Bob, who thanked everyone for their time and effort.

New DO Meter: A new Dissolved Oxygen (DO) meter was purchased to replace the old one. Dick Horr, Thomas Pond Water Quality Monitor, stated at the spring Board meeting that the old meter was not functioning properly and replacement parts and servicing were no longer available. Cost of new meter: \$1524.70

Christine and Bob applied to Raymond Waterways Protective Association (RWPA) for a grant to subsidize the cost which resulted in RWPA paying 50% of the DO meter cost (\$762.35). Bob spoke to the Portland Water District (PWD) to see if they would pay for the remaining 50% of the cost of the meter but was eventually told that the meter did not qualify under PWD's grant program.

Water Quality: Most recently, Bob went with Dick to monitor the water quality. In Dick's absence, Bob reported that clarity, using the Secchi Disk, was 6.85 meters which is a good reading. DO and temperature readings were also good readings. Phosphorus testing has been done. Results are not yet available.

One individual mentioned that since 2007, Thomas Pond has been on a "watch" list. There was no answer as to what criteria are used to put a body of water in Maine on a "watch" list.

Candace Carr, who lives on Watkins Shores Rd, has noticed a

cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) in her area of Thomas Pond during the past three years. The algae appears in mid-November and lasts about ten days to two weeks. She has sent photos of the algae bloom to Lakes Environmental Association (now Lake Stewards of Maine) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). She has reports to share if anyone is interested in them. Christine briefly researched cyanobacteria while the meeting was in progress and found that the cause(s) can be related to water flow and/or water temperature.

Election of Board Members and Secretary & Treasurer: Christine Bradbury, Dave DeLuca, Sue Chapin, and Brooke Hidell were elected to serve another 3 year term on the board. Jerry Eaton was elected to replace Elizabeth Warren as board representative of the Thomas Pond Condominium Association. Christine and Sue were elected to continue to serve as Treasurer and Secretary respectively for 3 years.

A question arose as to board representation from the various sections of the pond as listed in the ByLaws. A board representative from each of these neighborhoods would be ideal. Currently, the board is represented by those volunteers who are willing to serve.

Dues will remain \$25. 350 postcards were sent out to residents in the Thomas Pond watershed area for this year's appeal. Bob thanked Frank for further purifying the address data base.

New Business:

Water Level & Flow of Water over the Dam: There was lengthy discussion and differing opinions on these two issues. Both are governed by the dam management plan, and opinions differed as to whether the dam management plan was being followed accurately. Opinions also differed as to whether the lake level was high or low. An attendee, who has been a lakefront resident for over 40 years, stated that high/low water has arisen as an issue at TPIA meetings several times before. Bob read from the plan which states that the water level of Thomas Pond should be maintained at 17-20" below the concrete top of the dam **and** water flow over the dam should be 2.4 cubic feet per second (cfs) which is approximately 3" of flow. As dam monitor, Bob felt that these two requirements are incompatible as relates to meeting them at the same time. Bob also

read from a 2002 letter from the DEP that allows an exception to the water flow requirement so that half the volume of water (1.2 cfs) flows over the dam during drought months, particularly the month of August. There were differing opinions as to whether this was a one time exception for the year 2002 or a general allowance for drought month(s) in 2002 and subsequent years.

Alan Aaskov, owner of Alyssa's Motel (on Thomas Pond) felt that the water level was too high. He also seemed to have a greater issue with the water level in the winter rather than summer levels. Bob generally begins removing dam boards for winter on Oct 15 of each year. A motion was made to authorize Bob to begin removing boards working down to the last board NLT October 15, to follow the management plan to the best of his ability, and to replace boards according to the plan beginning in the spring. Following discussion of the motion, it was amended to read that Bob will begin removing boards beginning NLT October 1. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved.

Return to Record Keeping: Bob kept logs on the water level for several years since he began monitoring the dam in 2012. He said that for the past couple years he did not record levels in a log even though he physically went to the dam on a regular basis to check the water level and flow. Dana Watkins volunteered to visit the dam twice each week to record water level. A motion was made to accept Dana's offer to do this and that he and Bob will each keep a log on water level and dam board insert and removal. This motion was seconded, voted on, and approved.

Registration of TPIA: TPIA has not been consistently registered annually as an organization with the state. A motion was made to authorize the board to hire a law firm/attorney to act as a registered agent for TPIA to annually file the required documents to ensure compliance. This attorney/law firm would also be asked to review and interpret the dam management plan. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved.

Insurance: It was suggested that the board purchase Directors and Officers (D&O) Liability Insurance which is a common practice of nonprofit organizations. The board will address this issue as well as reopen a discussion on liability insurance for the dam.

Website Development and Photographs: Frank asked if anyone has older photographs of Thomas Pond. One such photograph from 1920's was given to him at the meeting. Frank also asked if anyone is interested in developing a website for TPIA. Dave DeLuca said he would check on this with someone he knows.

General Information

Christine has some information on the **7 measurements of lake health** published by Lake Stewards of Maine. She will bring it to the next board meeting.

The Thomas Pond House has been retrofitted for rental. The cost is \$1250/night, accommodates up to 30 people, and has waterfront and a boat ramp. It is owned by the Campbells who are most interested in renting off-season as a corporate retreat.

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Chapin
Secretary