

Milfoil Prevention Program

In 2016, a record number (530) of boats were checked for invasive aquatic plants by courtesy boat inspectors (CBIs) at the Torsey Pond launch. No invasives, coming in or going out, were found. Our program, now entering its tenth year, relies on resources from the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed and a great group of members from the TPA who volunteer two hours of their time on weekends to protect Torsey. More volunteers are needed, so please consider helping out.

Maine has more than 5,000 lakes and ponds in roughly 35,000 square miles of territory. The Maine DEP has identified 24 water “systems” containing invasive aquatic species. Water systems usually have a main water body and can have several individual sites. Of the 24 water systems, four systems and ten sites are located in close proximity to Torsey.

This cluster of sites, in a relatively small area, makes the threat very real. Invasives are primarily spread from one body of water to another by hitchhiking on boats. Courtesy boat inspectors are on guard every weekend from Memorial Day to Labor Day to prevent these hitchhikers from invading Torsey.

Everyone can help protect Torsey from invasive plants. Before you launch your boat, please inspect the hull, trailer, prop, fishing tackle, live wells, anchors, water skis, tubes, etc., and remove any plant fragments. If you would like to volunteer for our CBI program or would like more information about our milfoil prevention program, please send an email to azuorski@septemberpartners.com.

Thank you for your support and have a great summer!

— *Andy Zuorski*

LakeSmart Adds Properties

Five additional properties on the lake were evaluated for LakeSmart last summer. Three of those also qualified for the LoonSmart award, which requires a higher standard for shoreline buffer. And the one property owner who didn't qualify at the time of the survey was taking steps to meet the standard, as was the one who missed qualifying for the LoonSmart award.

The qualifiers were Frank Rowsome, David and Harold Roberts, Bea Coryell and John Kingsley.

The LakeSmart program advises owners of waterfront properties how they can minimize runoff into the lake and protect the water quality. We recommend all waterfront properties participate in this program. Contact David Roberts, davidxcskier@gmail.com, to schedule a survey.

— *Dave Roberts*

Minutes from 2016 Meeting

The TPA 29th annual meeting was on July 9, 2016, at the Readfield Town Office.

Keith Coulling established a quorum, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and introduced Bill Monagle of the Cobbossee Watershed District.

Watershed Survey: Bill described the procedure and the results of the Watershed Survey. A steering committee was formed and met three times for the purpose of developing a strategy. Issues included how to conduct the survey, how many sectors would the lake be divided into (6), how to inform the public and establish a training schedule. Two separate mailings to 250 residents around the lake informed them that a survey was going to take place in the spring of 2016. The volunteers (10-12) had their final training in May, and that is when the survey began officially. It was completed in mid-June and found 23 sources of pollution, mostly road-related. Of the total sites 7 were of high priority, 12 were of medium priority and 4 were of low priority. Of the high priority sites 3 were in Sector 3 (Desert Pond Road is critical), 1 was in Sector 4 and 3 were in Sector 5.

Bill will submit his final report to the Board in August, and at that time TPA will be invoiced for its share of the survey (\$3,600).

Clerk's Minutes: It was motioned that the Clerk's Minutes from the 2015 TPA annual meeting be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: As a result of a generous \$5,000 promised donation from Rick and Lisa Hayden, TPA filed with the IRS and was accepted as a 501(c)(3) organization enabling donors to deduct TPA contributions on their income taxes. The donation was split with \$2,500 earmarked for the Stanis Coryell Scholarship Fund and \$2,500 for the General Fund. This year's scholarship was awarded to Molly James, who will be attending Husson College in the fall.

Mike Pastore mentioned that the directors had earmarked \$2,500 this year as a contribution to the newly formed Capital Fund for the purpose of funding future dam repairs, and annual contributions to the fund will be made in the future, the amount to be determined by the Board of Directors

It was motioned that the Treasurer's Report be published in the newsletter and on the TPA website. The motion was seconded and passed.

Nominations: Mike announced that Cynthia Kuhns and Paul Dube are resigning from the Board, and the Nominating Committee proposed the following slate of directors: David Gross, Dave Roberts, Barry Kutz, Andrea Falaguerra and Judy Beck. A motion to accept the slate was seconded and passed.

Mike presented the slate of officers to serve for one term: Darcy Whittemore, president, Andy Zuorski, vice president, Keith Coulling, treasurer, and Sandra Gorry, clerk. A motion to accept the slate was seconded and passed.

Discussion: Mark Dershwitz pointed out that currently there are two TPA websites, TorseyPondAssociation.com and TorseyPondAssociation.org. Since the association is now a nonprofit organization, the dot-com website must be removed, lest its existence raise concerns at the IRS. A motion to remove the dot-com website was seconded and passed.

LakeSmart: Dave Roberts reminded people to consider signing up for the Lake Smart program and provided literature about the program to anyone who is interested.

Milfoil Program: Andy Zuorski remarked that the Friends of Cobbossee was having difficulty hiring seasonal boat inspectors due to the tight labor market, and therefore more responsibility would fall to the volunteers this year. He encouraged people to sign up as volunteers, be trained and help staff the boat launch. He also provided copies of the 2015 Invasive Plant Report prepared by the Friends of Cobbossee. They spent 40 hours surveying the lake and found four species of milfoil, all of which are native. There is no invasive milfoil in Torsey Pond.

Discussion: It was proposed that TPA consider building a loon platform; however, Keith pointed out that it was quite a project. It would have to be built, removed in the fall, reinstalled as soon as ice-out, and there is no guarantee that the loons would use it.

Motion to adjourn : At 11 a.m. it was moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed.

— Sandra Gorry

Directors meetings for 2017

- June 10, 2017, 10 a.m., Whittemore's camp, 355 Chase Road, Mount Vernon
- July 8, 2017, following the annual meeting at the Readfield Town Office
- August 19, 2017, 10 a.m., Whittemore's camp, 355 Chase Road, Mount Vernon