

TORSEY POND ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2022

1. President Darcy Whittemore called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. She introduced herself as President and asked the other officers present to introduce themselves: Vice President Andrea Falaguerra, Treasurer Keith Coulling, and Clerk Mark Dershwitz. The other directors present in the audience also introduced themselves. Darcy thanked Holly Rahmlow who creates and mails our newsletters.
2. Darcy introduced Tony Pied from the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed. A summary of her remarks is appended.
3. Darcy called on Clerk Mark Dershwitz for approval of the minutes from last year's annual meeting. Mark stated that the minutes were included in the annual newsletter, are on the website, and additional hard copies are available here. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Henry Whittemore made a motion to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Joe Field, and approved without opposition.
4. Keith Coulling presented the damkeeper's report. He said that the dam functions well. Water levels are currently at their target value. The biggest problem with the dam is that when the water level gets low, the beavers bring junk to block the spillway. A member asked what the target water level is, and Keith replied that it is 262.85 feet above seal level that is the height of the old dam.
5. Andy Zuorski discussed courtesy boat inspections (CBI's). He showed a map depicting 31 infestations in Maine. Ten of these infestations are within 10 miles of Torsey Pond. He asked for additional people to volunteer to perform courtesy boat inspections, and said that it was easy to sign up to do so on the association's website. All new inspectors will be trained. Please consider donating to support the cost of the paid inspectors. The cost of prevention is much, much less than the cost of managing an infestation. The Seven Lakes Alliance has spent \$1.4 million on the infestation in Great Pond. We just went through a large fundraising campaign for our dam. Can you imagine raising that amount of money, or more, every year to manage an infestation? Vice President Andrea Falaguerra pointed out that many people think that our Courtesy Boat Inspections are paid for by the state. In fact, most of the funding comes from the Torsey Pond Association.
6. Keith Coulling spoke about the loon platforms. Last year, Tracy Hart from Maine Audubon talked to us about loons. Recently Maine Audubon received funding for loon nesting sites from a settlement arising from an oil spill in Massachusetts. They supplied us with the materials to build two floating loon nests, one placed at the north end of the lake, and one placed at the west side of the widest part of the lake. This year, the loons ignored our platforms and made their nests elsewhere but Maine Audubon encouraged us to keep placing the nests each year. There are four members who monitor the loon nests: Keith Coulling, Stephanie Donaldson, Marti Wagner, and Darcy Whittemore. There are three known nests this year. The south nest had two eggs washed away by a recent storm. The middle nest had the initial eggs laid destroyed by a predator. Two more eggs were laid and two chicks hatched last week. The north nest had two eggs abandoned by the parents. We have some laminated cards that describe the appearance of loons when they are happy and when they feel threatened or stressed.
7. Keith also discussed the water quality initiative. The team consisted of TPA members Keith Coulling, Mark Dershwitz, Carolyn Gorry, Darcy Whittemore, and Bill Monagle of the Cobbossee Watershed District. In 2016, we performed a watershed survey and identified 59 non-point source pollution sites. In 2020, the Cobbossee Watershed District created a protection plan. We submitted a grant application in May, 2022 for \$80,391 in federal matching funds that will allow us to help property owners (who will contribute \$53,741) repair erosion issues. We should hear in August if the grant is funded, however it is good news that apparently the total requested funds from all of the applications is less

than the amount available. The primary project we plan to address is located in the northwest corner of the large bay. There is a stream that is eroding the hillside and carrying much sediment into the lake. That portion of the project is expected to cost about \$40,000 and the property owner has agreed to cover the needed 40% in matching funds. The TPA plans to contribute a few thousand dollars in engineering costs. Of the 59 identified sites, he considers about six of them major. The worst one, on Desert Pond Road, has actually been repaired by the Town of Mount Vernon. The lower part of Five Seasons Road near the stream has a lot of road gravel washing into the stream. We estimate it will cost about \$20,000 to install water turnouts and apply more gravel to crown the road. If you have a site you'd like to repair with financial assistance from this grant, please get in touch with us. Lastly, he thanked Andrea Falaguerra and her son, Roc, for assuming the job of measuring our water clarity using a Secchi disk.

8. Darcy discussed the proposed construction of the Fairwinds Family Camp on the 65 acres formerly of the Five Seasons Campground. The new owner spoke with Darcy and Keith in March to describe his plans for the land. He plans to build 20 cabins initially, and up to 40 in total, each housing 4-6 people. He envisions families staying for a week, Sunday - Saturday. Staff will be housed in the existing inn. The owner has experience running a camp in New Hampshire. He said that waterfront activities would include canoes and kayaks, but no motorized boats. He plans to build a house for his family on the property. He also plans to rent out the property for weddings in September and October.

We were pleased that he reached out to us. He submitted his application to the Planning Board on June 14. Keith attended the first Planning Board meeting discussing the proposal on June 21. The TPA Board has met several times to discuss what role the TPA should have. We decided that the TPA should try to ensure that this project has no adverse effects on the lake's water quality. On June 25, Darcy and Keith spoke with attorney Mary Denison who suggested that we hire an expert in water quality to advise us. A contact at the Department of Environmental Protection recommended Jennifer Jesperson of Ecological Instincts. She met with Darcy and Keith on June 28, and then accompanied Keith on the planned site walk of the Four Seasons site. She spotted areas of concern and proposed prevention and mitigation strategies. As a result of our interactions with the owner, he has decreased the total number of cabins to 32. In addition, the beach area will be included in the site plan; the initial version did not depict the beach. The engineer employed by the owner asked the TPA to make suggestions to protect the water quality. Our plan is to work with the Town, the property owner, and his engineer, to act as a watchdog over this project to make sure that best practices are being followed. Jen has proposed to devote 19 hours to assisting us at a cost of \$1,500. There are Planning Board meetings scheduled on July 19 and August 16, and a future public hearing remains unscheduled. We hope that Jen will help us convince the Planning Board to write long-term conditions into the permit if it is issued. We do not want this camp to turn into one like Camp Laurel or Camp Vega on Echo Lake with their multiple water ski boats running all day long.

9. Treasurer Keith Coulling presented the Treasurer's Report that is appended. Last year we had an ending balance of \$28,630. During that year, we received \$4,900 in dues, general donations of \$1,141, we earned bank interest of \$136, giving us total income in the general fund of \$6,177. The Sandra Gorry Memorial Fund received \$75 in donations. The invasives prevention fund had general donations of \$5,021, received \$1,250 from the state, \$787 from the Town of Readfield, for a total of \$7,058. Thus total revenue for the year was \$13,310.

Our usual expenses are listed and totaled \$2,562. We paid the FOCW \$5,903 for courtesy boat inspections. Thus our total expenses were \$8,465. Our ending balance on June 30, 2022 is \$33,475.

The Coryell Scholarship Fund had a balance at the end of last year of \$2,658. We received donations of \$360 giving us an ending balance of \$3,018. We gave out scholarships of \$500 in 2019 and 2020 but the students have not requested the funds. We decided to keep the scholarships active for four years, and if not requested within that time, return the money to the scholarship fund. We did not award a

scholarship in 2021. This year we awarded two scholarships of \$500 to Claire Holman of Mt. Vernon and Anna Erb (the class valedictorian) of Readfield.

The proposed budget for the coming year includes expected dues of \$2,225, general donations of \$1,000, and \$4,012 toward invasives prevention, for total income of \$7,237. This year, in addition to our usual expenses, we are budgeting \$3,000 for Jen Jespersen, our consultant, and \$5,000 toward the water quality initiative, both coming from the Sandra Gorry Memorial Fund. This coming year we are budgeting \$6,500 for courtesy boat inspections and \$1,350 for enhanced plant surveying. We expect to receive \$2,500 from the state (that includes the amount formerly received from Readfield), leaving \$5,350 to be paid to FOCW. We have asked FOCW to suggest how we best spend our money, and in lieu of additional courtesy boat inspections, they recommend additional surveying of the lake for invasive plants, so that is what we're planning.

Susan Roberts made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded by Kasey Rogers, and approved without opposition.

- Clerk Mark Dershwitz conducted the election of Directors. The terms are up for four directors, Andrea Falaguerra, Judy Beck, David Gross, and Susan Roberts, and all have agreed to be nominated to serve a three-year term. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Joe Field made a motion to elect the slate as presented. It was seconded by Ray Bizzari, and approved without opposition.

The proposed slate of officers is Darcy Whittemore for President, David Gross for Vice President, Keith Coulling for Treasurer, and Mark Dershwitz for Clerk. Joe Field made a motion to elect the slate as presented. It was seconded by Ray Bizzari, and approved without opposition.

- Darcy thanked Andrea for serving as President and Vice President, and for agreeing to continue as a Director, Alan Howie who took over buoy duty, and Holly Ramlow for preparing the newsletter.
- Judy Beck made a motion adjourn at 11:59. It was seconded by Genie Field, and approved without opposition.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Dershwitz, Clerk

Summary of Tony Pied's Presentation on the Work of the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed

Tony is the Director of Communications for the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed (FOCW). The nonprofit organization focuses on education and conservation:

Education programs are geared toward school classrooms. The students are taught about invasive species and help raise trout that will be released to local streams. During the summer, the Tadpole Patrol on the association's boat teaches students how to measure water quality and identify plants. For adults, the FOCW holds plant identification workshops.

Conservation programs primarily target runoff (non-point source pollution) that leads to algal blooms. The "Slow the Flow" program teaches property owners how to decrease runoff from their land.

Once problem areas are identified, the property owner can hire local high school students, working for the FOCW, to do the heavy work.

The FOCW has an invasive aquatic species program that involves:

- Prevention (via courtesy boat inspections)
- Early detection (via invasive plant surveys)
- Mitigation (via manual removal and/or killing invasive plants)

There are three invasive plants in the watershed:

- Variable leaf watermilfoil (in Annabessacook Lake, Cobbossee Stream, Pleasant Pond, Horseshoe Pond, and Purgatory Stream)
- Eurasian watermilfoil (in Cobbossee Lake)
- European frog's-bit (in Cobbossee Lake)

Thus far this year, there have been 160 courtesy inspections at the Torsey Pond boat launch. Six plants were found and removed, and none of them were invasive.

The FOCW will conduct a plant survey of the entire shoreline of Torsey Pond this year.

How much does it cost to manage an invasive plant infestation? This year, the Cobbossee Lake Association will spend \$230,000 to manage the three invasive species in its waters. The FOCW will manage the mitigation efforts.

TREASURER'S Report 2021-2022 June 30, 2022

	General Fund	Sandra Memorial	Dam Fund	Invasives Prevention	Total
Ending balance June 30, 2021	\$ 10,389	\$ 11,770	\$ 238	\$ 6,233	\$ 28,630
2021-22 Revenue					
Dues	\$ 4,900				
General Donations	\$ 1,141	\$ 75	\$ -	\$ 5,021	
2021 State CBI grants(2nd&3rd pmts)				\$ 1,250	
2021 Readfield CBI grant				\$ 787	
Savings Account Interest	\$ 136				
Total Revenue	\$ 6,177	\$ 75	\$ -	\$ 7,058	\$ 13,310
2021-22 Expenses					
Paypal	\$ 100				
Website	\$ 200				
State Corporation address chg	\$ 15				
State Corporation filing	\$ 35				
Zoom annual cost	\$ 180				
Lake Stewards of Maine(2021)	\$ 100				
Maine Lakes Society(2021)	\$ 206				
2021 Annual Mtg Costs(Speaker & print c	\$ 106				
FOCW CBI Inspections 2021				\$ 5,903	
D&O Insurance	\$ 698				
GL Insurance	\$ 592				
Newsletter Mailing	\$ 280				
Readfield Meeting Rm Fee (22 Annual)	\$ 50				
Total Expenses	\$ 2,562	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,903	\$ 8,465
50% dues transfer to Millfoil	\$ 2,450			\$ (2,450)	
Ending balance June 30, 2022	\$ 11,563	\$ 11,845	\$ 238	\$ 9,839	\$ 33,475