

Torsey Pond Association
c/o Holly Rahmlow
118 Thundercastle Road
Readfield, ME 04355

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**Our July 9, 2022, Annual Meeting is in person!
See details inside.**



Keith Coulling and Roc Falaguerra set up one of two loon nesting platforms on the lake. Platforms were supplied by Maine Audubon. These platforms and loon activity will be monitored all summer as part of a study for Maine Audubon.

Board Members

(p) indicate year term ends

Darcy Whittemore, President (2023),
207-441-0680
darcywhittemore@gmail.com

Andrea Falaguerra, Vice President
(2022), 508-965-4800
2momsroc@gmail.com

Keith Coulling, Treasurer (2024)
and Damkeeper, 207-838-5023
keithc@sacoriver.net

Mark Dershwitz, Clerk (2023)
207-685-9373 (camp)
508-653-4450 (home)
Mark.Dershwitz@umassmed.edu

Judith Beck (2022)
207-685-3281, 631-474-1715
judithbeck@optimum.net

David Gross (2022)
860-227-9153
d.gross200@comcast.net

Alan Howie (2023)
Supervisor of Buoy
207-685-8167
however2@comcast.net

Greg Parish (2023)
617-872-1494
bparish747@gmail.com

Susan Roberts (2022)
718-517-0807
susan@susanroberts.com

Kasey Rogers (2024)
508-843-0119
kagarreis@yahoo.com

Andy Zuorski (2024)
Courtesy Boat Inspections
603-930-3705
azuorski@septemberpartners.com

Also serving TPA:

Holly Rahmlow, Newsletter Editor
207-685-3287, holly@tc2.net

Don Rahmlow, Assistant Damkeeper
207-553-3000, don@tc2.net

**Stop Aquatic
Hitchhikers!
CLEAN, DRAIN
and DRY
your boat!**

Greetings from Torsey Pond!

The twenty inches of ice that graced the pond this winter have melted and spring is in full swing! The loons, eagles and osprey are back, along with many other migratory bird species. The trees and shrubs are flowering and leafing out and pollen is in the air. Ah, spring!

Not all was dormant this past winter. Several of us from the TPA worked on two new initiatives for Torsey. One is the Water Quality Initiative, which the 2016 Watershed Survey and Watershed Protection Plan gave rise to. The other is a Loon Nest Monitoring project that we are doing in partnership with Maine Audubon. The goal of both of these projects is to maintain, and even increase, the quality of the water and life on the pond. Please see the article or photo about these initiatives elsewhere in this newsletter.

There are many ways to be involved to help maintain the health and well-being of Torsey Pond. One is to volunteer to be a Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) at the boat launch. Andy Zuorski manages this important program — please see Andy's article for more detail. Visit our website, torseypond.org, to sign up to volunteer to be a CBI. And please consider making an additional donation to specifically support this vital program.

We will hold our annual meeting **IN PERSON**** on Saturday, July 9, at 10 a.m. at the Readfield Town Office. Along with the official business of the association, we will hear from Toni Pied, Director of Conservation for Friends of Cobbossee Watershed (FoCW), on the state of lakes in the watershed and the work that FoCW is doing to try to ensure that Torsey remains healthy and uninfested.

**For those of you who may not be able to attend the annual meeting in person for whatever reason, upon request we will provide a link to a Zoom meeting so that you can listen in and see slides of the meeting and presentation. You will not be able to comment or vote on articles, however, so please designate a Proxy if you cannot attend in person. Use the Proxy Form to indicate that you'd like us to send you an invitation to view the meeting via Zoom. If you have any questions about the annual meeting, please contact me via email: darcywhittemore@gmail.com.

We have a busy and promising summer ahead! Thank you again for the many ways you support the TPA and help to keep Torsey healthy and safe.

— *Darcy Whittemore, TPA President*

2022 TPA Annual Meeting Agenda

- Friends of Cobbossee Watershed Presentation, Toni Pied, Director of Conservation
- 2021 Meeting Minutes Approval
- Dam Keeper's Report
- CBI Program Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Officer Elections
- Q & A

Invasives Prevention/CBI Program

Warmer weather has finally arrived and Torsey has awakened from the long winter. I hope you had a healthy and safe winter and are looking forward to spending time at this beautiful place.

We are ramping up our boat inspection program and will provide coverage every weekend beginning in late May and running through Labor Day. Last year, more than 400 boats were inspected at the Torsey launch during coverage. Fortunately, no invasives were found on boats entering the pond, but the state recorded eight “saves” at other lakes which would have otherwise spread invasives to those lakes and potentially to other lakes in the area as part of a domino effect.

The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed in partnership with the state continue to battle infestations in Annabessacook and Cobbossee. Infestations in both lakes have proved to be more extensive and stubborn to contain than initially anticipated. No other infestations in the Cobbossee Watershed have been discovered, although the state has reported three new infestations in lakes not in close proximity to Torsey. Infestations are devastating to the ecology of a lake and expensive from a resource and property value loss perspective. For instance, the 7 Lakes Alliance reported they have spent \$1.4 million in containment and eradication efforts in Great Pond.

In their newsletter, the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed made mention of the level of volunteer commitment to protecting Torsey and, specifically, those doing boat inspections. Those volunteers were (I apologize if I missed anyone):

Dan Hill, Carolyn Gorry, Garrett Zuorski, Don George, Patti Dardano, Deb Waterhouse, Paul Dube, Linda Hamilton, Connor Gorry, Ellen Zimkin, Ann Wagner, Keith Coulling, David Gross, Kristin Sanzone, Ashley Zuorski, Holly Rahmlow, Joe Field, Susan Roberts, Peggy Barnes, Diane Wengell, Stephanie Donaldson, Melanie Lanctot, Nancy Allen, Michael Westfort, Donna Crabb-Hanna

Also, we had a swim event spearheaded by Ashley Zuorski and two of her cohorts from the Camden Master’s Swim Program to raise money for boat inspections and plant survey programs. The swim event raised more than \$3,000. Thank you volunteers and those of you who donated to our invasive protection programs!

Protecting Torsey takes time, money and effort. It is to all of our benefit to keep invasives out of Torsey. Please help by volunteering your time, making a donation and encouraging friends and relatives visiting you this summer to CLEAN, DRAIN AND DRY their boats before launching in Torsey. Please go to www.torseypond.org to sign up for boat inspections or to make a donation.

Thank you for your continued support and have a great summer!

— Andy Zuorski, CBI Manager

Torseypond Water Quality Initiative

Over the winter months, a team from Torsey Pond (Keith Coulling, Carolyn Gorry, Mark Dershwitz and Darcy Whittemore) met several times with Bill Monagle, director of the Cobbossee Watershed District, to plan for the next steps in preserving the water quality of the pond. The aim of the Water Quality Initiative is to mitigate and prevent erosion of sediment into the pond. Sediment carries phosphorus and excess phosphorus can promote algal blooms.

The 2016 Watershed Survey and subsequent 2020 Watershed-Based Protection Plan provided the data of high-impact sites. Bill used this data to complete an application to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for funding to mitigate the most problematic sites. If the application is successful, the state would provide 60% of the funding and the landowner(s) would have to provide the 40% balance. The work could begin in 2023 if both sources of funding are secured.

Torsey Pond Association

TREASURER'S Update 2021-2022 May 27,2022

	General Fund	Sandra Memorial	Dam Fund	Invasives Prevention	Total
Ending balance June 30, 2021	\$ 10,388.59	\$ 11,770.00	\$ 238.22	\$ 6,233.37	\$ 28,630.18
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2021-22 Revenue					
Dues	\$ 2,500.00				
General Donations	\$ 1,006.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 3,861.33	
2021 State CBI grant(2nd pmt.)				\$ 625.00	
2021 State CBI grant(final pmt.)				\$ 625.00	
2021 Readfield CBI grant				\$ 787.00	
Bank Account Interest	\$ 99.71				
Total Revenue	\$ 3,605.71	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 5,898.33	\$ 9,554.04
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2021-22 Expenses					
Paypal	\$ 91.76				
Website	\$ 200.17				
State Corporation address chg	\$ 15.00				
State Corporation filing	\$ 35.00				
Zoom annual cost	\$ 180.36				
Lake Stewards of Maine(2021)	\$ 100.00				
Maine Lakes Society(2021)	\$ 206.00				
2021 Annual Mtg Costs	\$ 106.22				
FOCW CBI Inspections 2021				\$ 5,903.00	
D&O Insurance	\$ 698.00				
GL Insurance	\$ 592.25				
Total Expenses	\$ 2,224.76	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,903.00	\$ 8,127.76
50% dues transfer to Milfoil	\$ 1,250.00			\$(1,250.00)	
Ending balance May 27, 2022	\$ 10,519.54	\$ 11,820.00	\$ 238.22	\$ 7,478.70	\$ 30,056.46
<hr/>					
Forecast expense(present-Jun '22)					
Newsletter Mailing	\$ 300.00				
Readfield Meeting Room Fee	\$ 25.00				
Forecast Expense Total	\$ 325.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 325.00
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Forecast revenue(present-Jun '22)					
Dues(50% to CBI)	\$ 350.00			\$ 350.00	
Additional CBI Donations				\$ 500.00	
Additional General Donations	\$ 200.00				
Forecast Revenue Total	\$ 550.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 850.00	\$ 1,400.00
Forecast Final Balance	\$ 10,744.54	\$ 11,820.00	\$ 238.22	\$ 8,328.70	\$ 31,131.46

TREASURER'S Update 2021-2022 May 27,2022

	Coryell Scholarship Fund
Ending balance June 30, 2021	\$ 2,657.50
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2021-22 Revenue	
Donations	\$ 210.00
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2021-22 Expenses	
Total Expenses	\$ -
Ending balance May 27, 2022	\$ 2,867.50
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Additional Approved Expenditure	
2019 Scholarship for McKensie Freise	\$ 500.00
2020 Scholarship for Cole Kubicki	\$ 500.00
2021 Scholarship(no recipient)	
Future Expense Total	\$ 1,000.00
Final Balance	\$ 1,867.50

Member and Donation Stats

	Calendar Year	2020	2021	2022(ytd)
Member dues paid		93	89	2
General Donations		17	17	1
Scholarship Donations		9	10	1
Dam Donations		53	0	0
CBI Donations		25	53	2
Sandra Memorial Donations		5	1	0
Total number of donations(includes members)		121	108	4

Torsey Pond Association Annual Dues for 2022

Mail in form or visit TorseyPond.org to pay membership dues/donate online!

Annual dues \$50 _____
Additional donation for Torsey Pond Association _____
Additional donation for CBI/Milfoil Prevention _____
Additional donation for Stanis Coryell Scholarship Fund _____
Total: _____

*Please make check payable to Torsey Pond Association
and mail to Keith Coulling, Treasurer (address below).
All dues and donations are tax deductible! We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Check here to volunteer as a Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) / Invasives Prevention.

TorseyPond.org has an online signup to add CBI coverage. We can arrange for quick training. Just a couple of volunteer hours can help save our pond from invasive threats. Volunteers can also help to decrease the cost of the CBI program.

Any comments or questions? We're here to keep our members informed. You can also email questions to Darcy Whittemore, TPA President at darcywhittemore@gmail.com

***The Annual Meeting will be held in person on Saturday, July 9, at 10 a.m. at the Readfield Town Office.** For anyone who is not able to attend the annual meeting in person, we can email you an invitation to a Zoom meeting link so that you can listen in and see slides of the meeting and presentation. **You will not be able to comment or vote on articles, however, so please designate a proxy using the form below.**

_____ Yes, please send a Zoom meeting invitation to me. My email address is above.

2022 Annual TPA Meeting Proxy

I, _____, a member of the Torsey Pond Association, hereby appoint _____ or the Association Clerk (please circle which) as my proxy, to vote on my behalf on all matters to come before the annual meeting of the Torsey Pond Association on Saturday, July 9, 2022. If you choose someone other than the clerk, that person must be a current member of the association.

Signature (**required** — not valid without signature) Date

Please return this form to Keith Coulling no later than July 1, 2022.

Keith Coulling, Treasurer, TPA
16 Columbine Lane
Mount Vernon, ME 04352

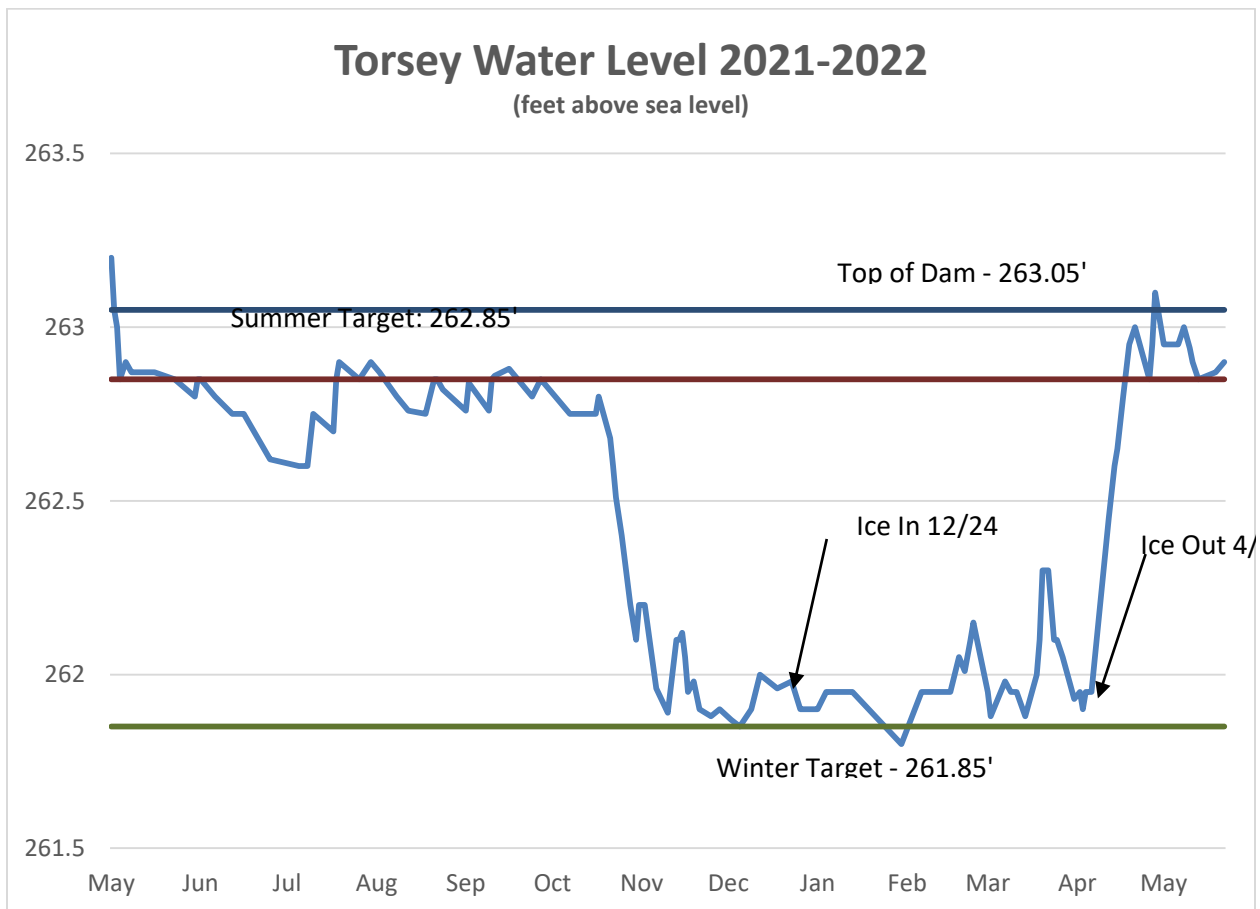
Dam Report

Except for a pesky beaver in October, the operation of the dam has gone well since the refurbishment project.

Winter drawdown started Oct 13. The ice started forming in November. Torsey had full ice cover on Dec. 23. The ice went out on April 6, at which point the dam was closed to spring minimum flow.

Feel free to contact me at keithc@torseypond.org with any questions/concerns about the dam.

— Keith Coulling, Damkeeper



TORSEY POND ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2021

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: Treasurer Keith Coulling and Vice President Andrea Falaguerra. Darcy said that Clerk Mark Dershwitz was unable to attend. The other directors present in the audience also introduced themselves. Darcy thanked Holly Rahmlow who creates and mails our newsletters.
2. Darcy described a successful year of fundraising that culminated in the repair of our dam. She thanked damkeeper Keith Coulling who oversaw the project and manages our dam 24/7. She also thanked the Social Committee for organizing the Paddle Parade that took place last week.
3. Darcy introduced the speaker, Tracy Hart of the Maine Audubon Society and director of the Maine Loon Project. A synopsis of Tracy's presentation is appended.
4. Darcy asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 2020 annual meeting that are available on the website. Ben Parish made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Judith Beck, and there was no opposition.
5. Keith Coulling presented the damkeeper's report. He described the renovation that started with a coffer dam being installed made of hundreds of bags filled with sand. Once the dam was dry, crack damage was found to be worse than expected. Loose concrete was removed from the face of the dam to reach solid concrete, then a mesh of rebars was embedded in the concrete, forms were constructed around the rebars, and then concrete was poured into the forms. Concurrently the dam plate was removed, sand-blasted, and repainted with epoxy paint. Large boulders were added at the bottom of the dam. A swale was added to improve drainage off the road.

The TPA raised \$76,616 toward its share of the renovation. The Town of Readfield paid for repairs to parts of the bridge over Old Kents Hill Road. The renovation costs were as follows:

Total project cost	\$144,666
Readfield share	\$68,289
TPA share	\$76,377

The expectation is that the plate will last 10-20 years before requiring maintenance, and the concrete work should last for decades.

6. Andy Zuorski discussed courtesy boat inspections (CBI's). This was the 15th year of CBI's on Torsey Pond. He thanked the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed (FOCW) for partnering with the TPA to hire boat inspectors paid for by the TPA. The more volunteers we can recruit, the more days that can be covered at the boat launch, and the fewer sessions we need to pay for. Prevention of an infestation is the most cost-effective expenditure of our money. Because Torsey Pond is surrounded by infestations, Torsey Pond is considered to be at high risk for experiencing an infestation. Members of the TPA can sign up to be a boat inspector on our website.
7. Toni Pied of the FOCW manages early detection and management of infestations. She described infestations in two lakes near Torsey Pond. In 2014, variable leaf milfoil was found in Annabessacook Lake and that resulted in an initial rapid response by the State, but subsequent management of the manual removal of invasive plants has been by the lake association, the Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD), and the FOCW. That approach did not work, and last year the State applied an herbicide. Thus far, this year there has been no apparent return of the invasive plant. Cobbossee Lake has three different invasive plants, European frogbit (the only lake in Maine with this invasive plant), Eurasian watermilfoil (the only public lake in Maine with this invasive plant), and variable leaf milfoil. The State applied herbicide in 2019, but the FOCW plant surveyors found Eurasian watermilfoil had returned at the end of 2020. Another herbicide treatment was applied this past June. FOCW devotes huge resources to surveying the entire shore of Cobbossee Lake frequently.

FOCW will hold a workshop in identifying invasive plants on Wednesday, July 14, at 9:00 a.m., at the Quiet Harbor Road boat launch.

8. Darcy described the association's water quality initiative that is named for Sandra Gorry. Sandra was a long-time member of the board, and was our Clerk at the time of her death in 2019. Her family established a memorial fund that now has \$11,770. The family decided to let the TPA Board of Directors determine how best to use these funds, and the board decided to dedicate the money to improving the water quality of the lake.

The TPA's existing Watershed Protection Plan has four goals:

- Reduce current sources of phosphorus loading
- Limit new sources of phosphorus loading
- Build local capacity for watershed stewardship
- Conduct ongoing assessment of lake and watershed conditions

In the 2021-22 budget, there is a line item to spend up to \$5,000 on this initiative.

9. Keith Coulling presented the treasurer's report that is appended. We ended 2020 with \$95,118, most of it raised to repair the dam. We collected \$4,400 in dues, \$1,190 in general donations, \$50 toward the Sandra Gorry Fund, \$3,950 toward repair of the dam, and \$1,880 toward CBI's. We also received \$2,500 from the State toward CBI's, \$3,500 from the Town of Mt. Vernon toward repair of the dam, and \$787 from the Town of Readfield toward CBI's. Our expenses are as shown in the report; our major expenses were \$76,377 toward repair of the dam and \$6,070 to FOCW for CBI's. Our balance is \$28,630. A member asked about 50% of dues that goes toward CBI's. Keith responded that we had previously approved that half of our dues would be earmarked toward paying for CBI's. That amount was \$2,200 in 2020.

Regarding the Stanis Coryell Scholarship, we received \$210 in donations giving us \$2,658 in the fund. Two of the previously awarded scholarships in 2019 and 2020 have not been requested by the awardees. In 2021, the school told us no one qualified for the scholarship.

In the proposed 2021-22 budget, we are including \$5,000 from the Sandra Gorry Fund to be spent on the water quality initiative. The total budget for the coming year is \$14,920 leaving us with a projected balance of \$24,147.

Judith Beck made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Alan Howie, and approved without opposition.

10. Vice President Andrea Falaguerra presented the nominations for the Board of Directors. The terms of two current board members, Keith Coulling and Andy Zuorski, are expiring, and both wish to be renominated. In addition, the terms of board members Mike Pastore and Barry Kutz are also expiring, and they do not wish to be renominated. Kasey Rogers has volunteered to be nominated to the board. There were no additional nominations from the floor. There was no opposition to electing the slate as proposed.

All of the current officers are willing to continue serving, and there was no opposition to the slate of officers.

11. Darcy thanked board member Barry Kutz for serving on the board as well as for taking responsibility in 2008 for our buoys. Since then, every spring the buoys have appeared in the right places, and every fall before the lake freezes, they have disappeared. She thanked Barry especially because taking care of the buoys is a grimy and slimy task. She also announced that board member Alan Howie has volunteered to take over responsibility for the buoys.

Mike Pastore is also stepping down from the board. Clerk Mark Dershwitz wanted to read a tribute to Mike, but he was unable to attend in person because he and his family are seeing the U.S. Sabre Team off today as they travel to Tokyo to compete in the Olympics. She read the following message from Mark:

"I would like to take a moment to thank Mike Pastore, my friend and neighbor for over 30 years. When we elected new members of the Board today, it became first time since the TPA was founded that Mike was not a member of the Board. Mike spent much of his life working in the forest as a woodcutter. He had a vast knowledge of good land practices and how to apply them properly in a watershed. One of the primary reasons that Quiet Harbor Road is in such excellent shape, and has been so since the mid-90's, is that he chaired our road association's Road Committee for over two decades. Whenever any road work was proposed, he always

considered the potential effects on the lake. When I was TPA President in 1991, Mike was first elected as the TPA's Treasurer. And he served as Treasurer until he handed the checkbook over to Keith in 2016. That's a lot of checks to write in 25 years. In terms of his service to the lake, and to the lake association, his longevity surpasses everyone else's. So thank you, Mike, for being our colleague for 33 years."

12. Linda Lally made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 a.m. It was seconded by Judith Beck, and was approved without opposition.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Dershwitz, Clerk

Torsey Pond Association

TREASURER'S Report July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

	General Fund	Sandra Gorry Water Quality Initiative	Dam Fund	Milfoil Fund	Total
Ending balance June 30, 2020	\$ 9,530	\$ 11,720	\$ 68,931	\$ 4,936	\$ 95,118
2020-21 Revenue					
Dues	\$ 4,400.00				
General Donations	\$ 1,190.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 3,950.00	\$ 1,880.00	
2020 State CBI grant(2nd payment)				\$ 625.00	
2020 State CBI grant(final payment)				\$ 625.00	
2021 State CBI grant(first payment)				\$ 1,250.00	
Mount Vernon Dam Contribution			\$ 3,500.00		
2020 Readfield CBI grant				\$ 787.00	
Maine Business Money Market Interest			\$ 234.13		
Total Revenue	\$ 5,590	\$ 50	\$ 7,684	\$ 5,167	\$ 18,491
2020-21 Expenses					
Paypal	\$ 48.35				
Lake Stewards of Maine(2020)	\$ 100.00				
Maine Lakes Society(2020)	\$ 200.00				
Website	\$ 215.01				
State Corporation filing	\$ 35.00				
D&O Insurance	\$ 1,585.00				
Dam			\$ 76,377.39		
New TPA Sign for Boat Launch	\$ 44.31				
Readfield Meeting(Annual) Room Fee	\$ 25.00				
Newsletter 2021	\$ 276.28				
Annual mtg sign update	\$ 2.64				
FOCW CBI Inspections 2020				\$ 6,070.00	
Total Expenses	\$ 2,532	\$ -	\$ 76,377	\$ 6,070	\$ 84,979
50% dues transfer to Milfoil	\$ 2,200.00			\$ (2,200.00)	
Ending balance June 30, 2021	\$ 10,389	\$ 11,770	\$ 238	\$ 6,233	\$ 28,630

Summary of Tracy Hart's Presentation on Loons

Why do we focus so much on the common loon?

- They are charismatic
- They provide economic benefit to many Maine businesses
- They are an indicator species, a visual predator that needs clean, clear water to find prey. If there are loons on a lake it is a good sign of lake health. They are one of the species chosen to evaluate climate change in our environment.

What makes Maine loons so special? Southern Maine has over 3,000 loons, over 70% of all of the loons around in the northeast. They have a wingspan of about 4 feet, females weigh about 9-10 pounds, and males weigh about 13-15 pounds. They are therefore larger than loons found elsewhere, and are about the same size as American eagles.

Loons breed on fresh water and may not return to a lake to breed for the first time until they are 3-6 years old. But overall, loons spend more of their time on the ocean, where they winter. Maine loons do not migrate far, most spending their winters on the northeast coast, some as far south as New York.

Soon after ice out each spring, male loons arrive first and establish their territory by fighting with potential competitors, sometimes to the death. The average length of a loon "marriage" is about 7 years. Usually two eggs are laid at the water's edge, and both parents share incubating the eggs, females during the night, and males during the day. Their incubation time is about a month, and the newborn chicks leave the nest and begin swimming within a day.

The primary threats to our loons are:

- Lead, from fishing sinkers, and mercury, from earlier lake pollution; these toxins used to be the most frequent cause of loon deaths, but their importance is decreasing now that larger lead sinkers have been banned and many fisherman have adopted alternatives
- Boat collisions are now the leading cause of loon deaths
- Wakes caused by boats often flood the nests and cause the eggs to be lost
- Climate change and loss of habitat
- Diseases and parasites

Maine conducts its annual loon count on the third Saturday every July. The loon count on Torsey Pond since 1983 has been remarkably stable, with an average of 11 adults and 2 chicks.