

TORSEY POND ASSOCIATION

Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting Minutes

July 5, 2025

1. Clerk Mark Dershwitz called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. He asked the other officers present to introduce themselves: President Darcy Whittemore, Treasurer Keith Coulling and Clerk Mark Dershwitz. Kasie Rogers is Vice President. The other directors present in the audience also were asked to stand and introduce themselves, Stephanie Donaldson, John Kingsley, and Andy Zuorski. Other Directors include Judith Beck, Andrea Falaguerra, David Gross, Alan Howie, and Ben Parish.
2. The minutes of last year's annual meeting were considered, and approved unanimously.
3. Treasurer Keith Coulling presented the Treasurer's Report. At the beginning of the fiscal year, our bank balance was \$44,721. During the year, our income was \$21,677. Our total expenses were \$12,900, with about \$10,000 of that amount paid to the Watershed Friends for their services to the TPA. Our balance at the end of the year was \$53,497.

The beginning balance in the scholarship fund was \$2,273 and we received \$450 in donations. We awarded one scholarship in 2024 that has not yet been claimed. We approved one scholarship to be awarded this year. Keith made a motion to award one scholarship in 2026 and it was approved unanimously.

Keith said that the budget for this upcoming year would be about the same as last year. He said he would like to transfer \$5,000 from the general fund to the invasives reaction fund, and made a motion to do so. It was approved unanimously. That brings the balance in the invasives reaction fund to about \$30,000.

So far this year, we have received dues from 48 members and a total of 101 donations.

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

4. In lieu of an invited speaker, there was a panel presentation by several Board members.

A little TPA history by Mark Dershwitz. "I am going to emphasize some of the people who participated in the early days. In 1987, the family that owned the dam, the Dumaines, decided that they didn't want the responsibility going forward, and they did not register the dam that year. The state took ownership at the beginning of 1988, and announced that the dam would be dismantled, by removing the wooden stop boards that held back the water, unless a lake association was formed to take responsibility for it. On May 12, 1988, Manny Buss, who owned the service station in Readfield Depot, filed the incorporation papers for the Torsey Pond Association. An organizational meeting was scheduled, and a letter was sent to property owners around the lake. In addition to Manny, the initial Directors included Mike Pastore, a woodcutter who was the first person to live year-round on Quiet Harbor Road, Bill Williams, a retired school teacher and carpenter, who built many of the original cabins on Quiet Harbor Road and elsewhere around the lake, and Fran Reilly, the retired assistant headmaster of the Kents Hill School. They immediately started raising money to repair the dam as the existing dam boards were in bad shape. Those dam boards were indeed replaced in the fall of 1990, without obtaining any Town or State permits, but that is another story.

"There is a plaque on the dam naming it after Bill Holman. Who was he? He lived on Torsey Shores Road and was a quiet and modest person, and an avid fisherman. He had a funny looking boat that looked like a small tugboat, painted green and white, and every day, late in the afternoon, he could be seen going up and down the lake, over and over again. He was on the Board of Directors in the early 1990's, and the Board appointed him in 1992 as the first, and so far the only, harbormaster of Torsey Pond, and paid for him to go to harbormaster school. The harbormaster has no enforcement authority but informs boaters of infractions in a friendly and educational way, and that is what Bill did for 16 years. He died suddenly at the age of 66 in 2008, and the position of harbormaster remains vacant, should there be anyone who would like to volunteer to fill the role.

"The TPA awards scholarships to students graduating from Maranacook High School who plan to study ecology or environmental sciences, and it is named after Stanis Coryell. Who was he? His family built their first cabin on Torsey Pond in 1912, and Coryells have lived on the pond ever since. When I was serving my first three-year term as President, Stanis came to me in 1991 and said that we had to do something about the high spring water levels that were eroding the shore and flooding his property. I told him what a big deal it would be to get permission from the Cobbossee Watershed District to adjust the water levels, but he was undeterred. As an engineer for Grumman Aerospace, his job was to make things happen, like the Apollo lunar module, and he took up the challenge. He compiled decades of water level data, as well as evidence of erosion and flooding, and wrote a report. By hand, printing each character as if it were an engineering diagram. And the Board approved his report, and presented it to the Cobbossee Watershed District for their approval, and every year since then we have dropped the water level in the fall, and let it rise up again in the spring after ice out, and the shoreline has greatly improved. He lived to be 85 and died in 2006. I could keep telling lots of stories about Stanis, but those will have to wait for another time."

Adopt a shoreline by Darcy Whittemore. This is a program with the Watershed Friends in which volunteer citizen scientists examine a designated area around their property for suspicious growth that may be an invasive plant. This way we spread the workload and hopefully catch an invasive expeditiously. This work fills gaps in between formal surveys by the Watershed Friends. The next training session is July 26 at the Quiet Harbor Beach.

The latest on loons by Stephanie Donaldson. Four chicks hatched so far this year, two each to two loon pairs. An additional pair is still incubating eggs on an artificial platform we placed in the north end of the lake. Of the first set of chicks, one disappeared, possibly snatched by an eagle, and the other appears to be thriving. The second set of chicks hatched on an artificial platform we placed in the south end of the lake. One of these fell off the parent's back and couldn't get back on, and the second one disappeared during a fireworks display that made the parents frantic. We need to spread the word that the time around the Fourth of July is a time during which the loon chicks are very fragile and scaring the parents with fireworks hurts chick survival.

Courtesy boat inspections by Andy Zuorski. The program started in 2001 and has been very effective in keeping invasives out of Maine lakes in general and Torsey Pond in particular. In New Hampshire, about 10% of its 950 lakes greater than 10 acres in size have an invasives infestation. In contrast, only about 1.5% of the 2,700 similarly sized lakes in Maine have an infestation. In 2024, there were about 78,000 inspections in Maine, and 102 instances of invasive plants were found on boats. If every TPA member donated \$5 per week, we could cover our boat launch with inspectors every day instead of just weekends and holidays. We use volunteer inspectors whenever they're available, otherwise we use paid inspectors. Several volunteer inspectors spoke of how rewarding the experience has been for them. Since Andy will be stepping down from running the CBI program, the coordinator position is open.

5. Keith also presented the Damkeeper's Report. He said that there was essentially nothing to report in that the renovated dam is functioning very well. Several members present thanked him for his work as the damkeeper.
6. Clerk Mark Dershwitz presented the Nominating Committee's report. Three Directors, Judith Beck, David Gross, and Andy Zuorski, are stepping down from the Board of Directors at the end of their terms this year. The Nominating Committee proposed Kerry Conway and Ann Wagner as Directors for three-year terms. Mark then asked for additional nominations from the floor. Stephen Fennell was nominated. Mark asked for a motion to approve the slate of Directors as presented. The motion was made and approved unanimously.

Mark then presented the nominations for officers. Vice President Kasie Rogers has agreed to serve as President, and President Darcy Whittlemore has agreed to serve as Vice President. Treasurer Keith Coulling and Clerk Mark Dershwitz have agreed to continue in their positions. Mark asked for a motion to approve the slate of Officers as presented. The motion was made and approved unanimously.

6. Mark thanked Judith Beck for her more than 20 years as a Director, including several terms as Vice President. She attended countless Board meetings, and served as the eyes and ears of the south end of the pond.

Keith thanked Dave Gross for his 15 years as a director, including terms as both President and Vice President. His experience in civil engineering was consistently of great help to the Board.

Darcy thanked Any Zuorski for starting the courtesy boat inspection (CBI) 24 years ago. He raised the needed funds and trained the volunteers. He has saved the TPA thousands of dollars in CBI costs and helped keep our lake free of invasives.

7. Keith discussed water quality monitoring performed by Andrea Falaguerra and her son, Roc. He demonstrated how a Secchi disk and underwater viewer are used to measure the water's clarity. The clarity is lower in the spring when there is a lot of pollen in the water, and it improves later in the summer. Peak water clarity measurements in Torsey Pond are about 8 meters now, and each year there is gradual improvement.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Dershwitz, Clerk

Torsey Pond Association

TREASURER'S Report 2024-2025 June 30, 2025						
	General Fund	Sandra Memorial	Invasives Reaction	Invasives Prevention	Total	
Ending balance June 30, 2024	\$ 9,305	\$ 7,802	\$ 21,640	\$ 5,974	\$ 44,721	
2024-25 Revenue						
Dues	\$ 4,300					
General Donations	\$ 3,685	\$ -	\$ 1,515	\$ 10,632		
Bank Interest	\$ 1,545					
Total Revenue	\$ 9,530	\$ -	\$ 1,515	\$ 10,632	\$ 21,677	
2024-25 Expenses						
Paypal	\$ 108					
D&O Insurance	\$ 877					
GL Insurance	\$ 613					
State Corporation filing	\$ 35					
Zoom annual fee	\$ 169					
Website(2024 & 2025)	\$ 167					
Lake Stewards of Maine(2024)	\$ 103					
Maine Lakes Society(2024)	\$ 206					
'24 Year End Donor Mailing	\$ 109					
2025 Newsletter Mailing	\$ 552					
FOCW CBI Inspections 2024				\$ 5,108		
FOCW Plant Survey 2024 - 1st half of lake & high impact areas				\$ 3,000		
FOCW CBI & Plant Survey 2025 Deposit				\$ 1,879		
Readfield Mtng Rm Deposit Refund	\$ (25)					
Total Expenses	\$ 2,913	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,987	\$ 12,900	
50% dues transfer to Invasives Prev.	\$ (2,150)			\$ 2,150		
Ending balance June 30, 2025	\$ 13,770.93	\$ 7,802.25	\$ 23,155.00	\$ 8,768.58	\$ 53,496.76	
Chg since FY24					\$ 8,776	
Coryell Scholarship Fund			Member and Donation Stats			
Ending balance June 30, 2024	\$ 2,273	Calendar Year		2024	2025	
2024-25 Revenue		Member dues paid		99	48	
Donations	\$ 450	General Donations		27	20	
2024-25 Expenses		Scholarship Donations		16	8	
Total Expenses	\$ -	Dam Donations		0	0	
Ending balance June 30, 2025	\$ 2,722.50	Invasive Prevention Donations		55	19	
Additional Approved Expenditures		Invasives Reaction Donations		10	6	
2024 Scholarship to Wyatt Stevensor	\$ 750	Sandra Memorial Donations		0	0	
2025 Scholarship	\$ 750	Total number of donors(includ		113	101	
Future Expense Total	\$ 1,500					
Final Balance	\$ 1,223					