

## **Moose Pond Association Annual Meeting Notes**

**Saturday, August 20, 2022, at 9:00a**

**Shawnee Peak Ski Area – East Lodge**

On Saturday, August 20, 2022, the Moose Pond Association (MPA) board and approximately 70 interested others met for its Fall/Annual meeting at Shawnee Peak's East lodge. The following board members were present including Chip Wendler (President), Laurie Vance (Vice President), Ruth Neagle (Treasurer), Scott Frame, Stephanie Scearce, Steve Petter, Bill Dexter, Mark Patterson, Paul Dwyer, Bill Dromeshauser and Richard Niedel. Zach Clayton, Bill Muir and Anne Munstedt were not able to attend.

### **Welcome and Agenda Overview by Chip Wendler (President)**

MPA President Chip Wendler welcomed the group and noted that the annual meeting slide deck will be posted on the MPA website after the meeting concludes. Chip highlighted that a key objective for the annual meeting is to make sure that the membership has a clear understanding as to why the MPA was founded, what MPA's key goals are and how we are trying to achieve these goals. He asked the audience to provide feedback after the fact -- including any suggestions in terms of what the MPA might do to make future annual meetings more interesting and useful to the membership.

Chip noted that, although the proposed Rolfe Gravel pit is not on the official agenda, Don Gooding from the Knights Hill Association is in attendance today and would like any interested neighbors to remain after the MPA meeting to have a brief discussion about the current state of the gravel pit project. Also he wanted to speak about how the town and Rolfe Industries are responding to all of the concerns that have been expressed by local residents.

Chip followed with an overview of the agenda and mentioned the presence of two special guests including Boyne's Ralph Lewis, who was there to talk about Shawnee Peak's development of a satellite parking lot at the corner of Mountain

Road and 302 as well as Boyne's history of conservation. LEA's Ben Peierls was also there report on the lake health, invasive plant surveys and loon health.

Next, Chip presented from a slide which showed the current 15-person MPA board including Zach Clayton, Bill Dexter\*, Bill Dromeshauser\*, Paul Dwyer\*, Shawn Hagerty, Scott Frame, Bill Muir\*, Anne Munstedt (Clerk), Ruth Neagle (Treasurer), Richard Niedel, Steve Petter, Mark Patterson, Stephanie Scearce, Laurie Vance (Vice President), Chip Wendler (President). Those Board members with an "\*" after their names have expiring terms but all four members have agreed to serve if approved by the membership at the end of the meeting.

Chip then showed a map of Maine: Yellow and Blue marks on the map indicate hotspots of invasive plants and animals on other lakes. Moose Pond is surrounded by lakes with variable leaf milfoil, and it's a miracle we haven't had an infestation to date. In early July, about ½ of the MPA board and several LEA staff members went on a field trip to Lake Arrowhead, approximately 35 miles away from the shores of Moose Pond, where things are a disaster. Lake Arrowhead has had a milfoil outbreak going on for two decades. The group that visited the lake saw one of their two dive teams harvesting Milfoil. At their main boat launch they have several large pickle barrels where every day they store the harvested milfoil before carting it away. Residents cannot fish or swim by their shoreline, property prices have dropped 30-40%, and they spend >100K a year simply to carve pathways between their docks and the open water. There is nothing they can do about it, it's never going away, and is really just a matter of maintenance. Prevention – keeping milfoil and other invasive species out of Moose Pond or, at the very least, catching an outbreak early and being able to have a ready and robust response to any sort of outbreak is absolutely critical.

Chip closed by playing a video taken from the field trip showing the infestation on Lake Arrowhead to a hushed crowd.

## **Boyne Presentation - Ralph Lewis, General Manager, Shawnee Peak**

### **Boyne Development Plans & Conservation Policies**

Ralph has been at Shawnee Peak for four years but worked for Boyne (at Loon) for 18 years before taking on his current role. Ralph started working for Chet

Homer -- who ran Shawnee Peak successfully for 27 years. That said, Ralph highlighted that Boyne has more financial resources to get things done relative to the previous ownership arrangement. Boyne bought Shawnee Peak last October (2021) and ran the mountain this past winter without a whole lot of Boyne influence. One of the biggest challenges they have, for any growth to happen or even just to sustain operations as they are, is the need for more parking. That is why Boyne bought the field at the corner of 302 and Mountain Road. As of now the town has approved the project and they are waiting on DEP approval which they hope to get this fall so the lot can be built before winter. It will have about +/-300 spaces and will be lit for night skiing but those lights will turn off when the mountain closes. The parking lot will only be used on weekends and holidays and shuttle buses will carry customers from the field to the mountain and back. The current situation -- where overflow parking occurs on Mountain Road -- is not safe for guests and is not fair to neighbors, so that is why they bought the field. Ralph has heard rumors that they are putting in a hotel, a brewery, or a tram to the top of the mountain. None of that is true. There are no plans right now other than a parking lot for that area, nothing has even been discussed and nothing else would be developed in that area for many years to come.

Boyne owns 11 ski areas and are the 3rd largest ski company in the US. They have a lot of expertise and financial means to move ahead. As far as projects completed at Shawnee Peak this summer, they enlarged and modernized the bathrooms in the Main Lodge and put a new roof on Blizzards Pub. On the hill they placed more fan guns and electric power to improve snowmaking. They also plan to add additional pump capacity to allow for better snowmaking higher up the mountain and will possibly add a new high-speed lift next summer. Ralph thinks that the Boyne purchase is the best thing that could have happened to the mountain. It's great for Shawnee Peak, the area, and skiing.

Additional questions for Ralph included:

Q: Can you comment on the environmental sensitivity regarding the property on the corner?

A: Anything Boyne does, whether it's the parking lot or anything else has to go through DEP, and have engineering studies done. Boyne is 100%

transparent/above board. Boyne is committed to making sure they keep it safe. The engineering has already been done for the field, they have filtration ponds and they are meeting the stringent rules to prevent erosion and run off.

Q: Will there be shuttles to/from the lot?

A: Yes, this year there will be two busses running between the lot and the ski area

Q: What kinds of landscaping are you doing?

A: There is planting on the plans as required. Trees, bushes, shrubs, all around the parking lot and the lot is set back farther off Mountain Road than required

Q: Will there be a name change?

A: A survey was done earlier in the spring and an announcement will be made on September 14

Q: How many spaces in new parking lot?

A: Don't quote me but I think 276 and that number includes handicap parking. The other two lots will remain functioning.

Q: Does that mean no more parking on the roads?

A: Yes, we will have to enforce it, I'm sure it will take longer than one winter for people to understand that, but that is the goal.

### **LEA Report on Lake Health – Ben Peierls**

LEA goes out every 2 weeks during open water season (May – Sept/Oct) and monitors the 3 basins and have been doing that for decades in some cases. 41 lakes are being covered this year. Ben Peierls talked about water quality measures. The way the data is sent out to be analyzed means that it takes a

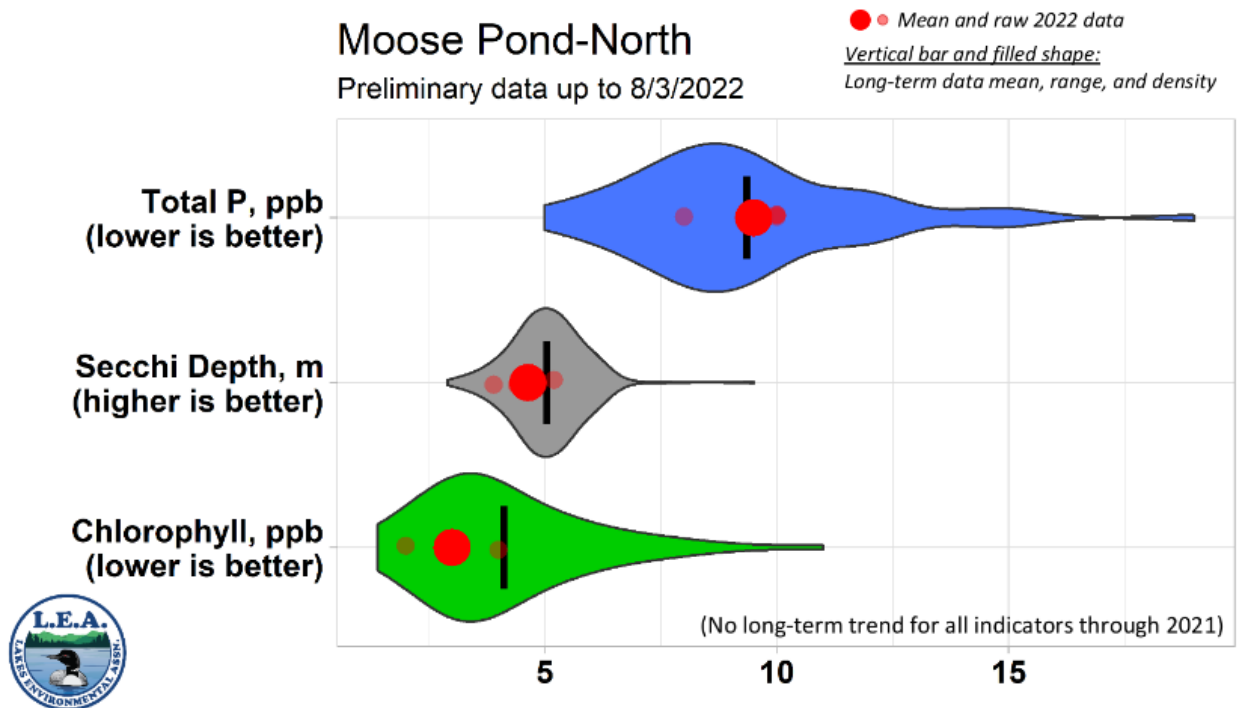
couple weeks to get back, so data presented today is reported in early August. So far data says everything is stable, and close to long term average conditions. Stable / no change since 1996, except in the south basin that has an increase in phosphorus, not at a level that is a concern yet, but they are keeping an eye on the data.

There is a new way they are presenting data. Red dots are the 2022 data. The vertical bar and filled shapes are the long-term data mean, range, and density. The shapes and the bars are the long-term mean. The thicker the shape, the more times you had a value at that level.

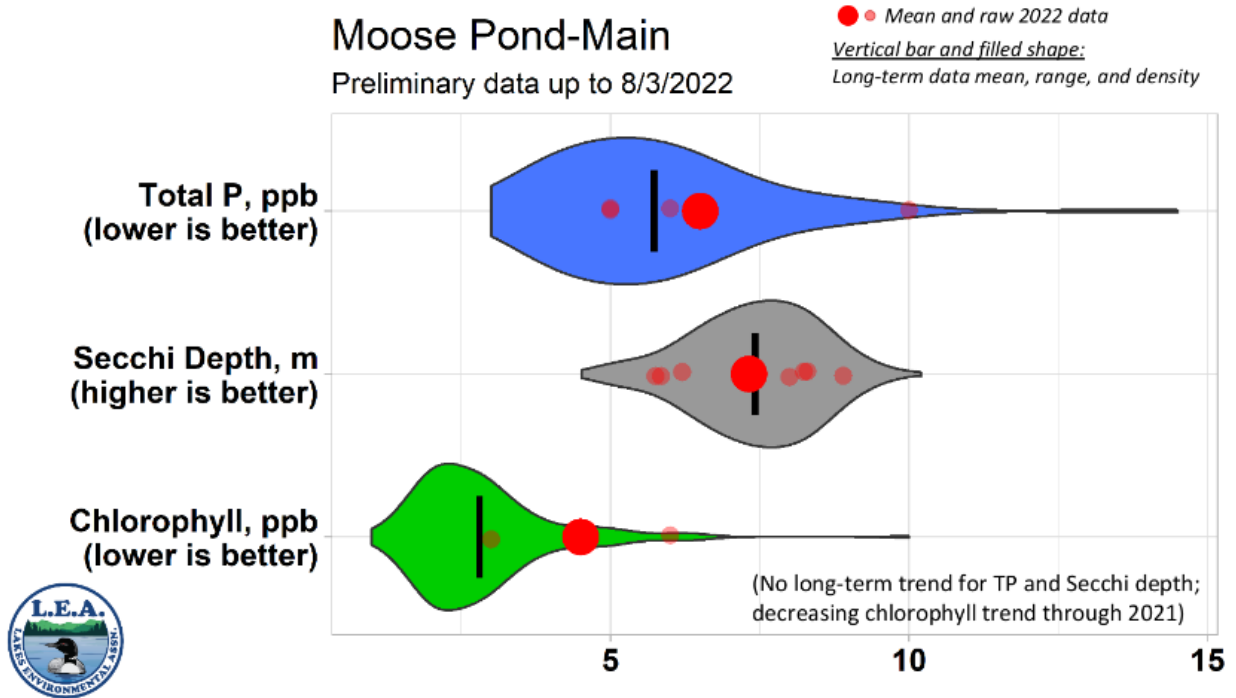
3 parameters they look at:

- Total Phosphorus (lower the number the better)
- Water Clarity (Secchi Depth) (higher number is better)
- Chlorophyll (lower the number the better)

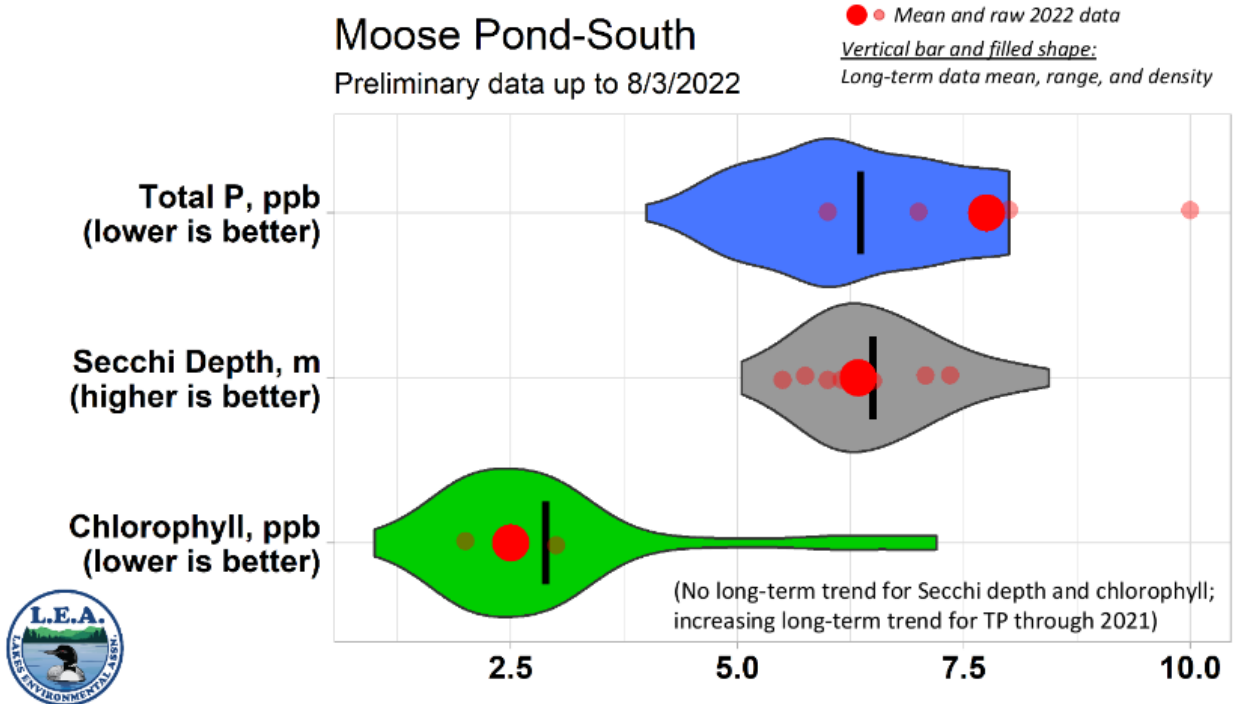
North Basin – Doing well with all three parameters



Middle Basin – Doing well in Phosphorus and Water Clarity. Slightly higher in Chlorophyll, but that is normal for spring.



South Basin – Doing well in Water Clarity and Chlorophyll, but higher in Phosphorus, which is not just because of soil but could be because of algae as well



Invasive Plants: It's not just milfoil, there are multiple species of invasive plants in Maine. Hydrilla, European Frogbit, Brittle Naiad, Curly Leaf Pondweed. Native species can look very similar to the Invasive ones. LEA has handouts as well as information on their website to help identify invasive species. While the focus is on milfoil, it's important to remember there are other invasive species out there as well.

There was a concern up by Alpine Village Dock, Chip contacted LEA and they went out to investigate. It was native, but it was good to know so it could be checked. If you see something you're not sure about, do what you can to photograph or send a sample to [Mary@mainelakes.org](mailto:Mary@mainelakes.org).

Gloeotrichia – seeing high concentrations. It's a colonial cyanobacteria that shows up in low or medium productive lakes, unlike the scary ones that are harmful to animals when they drink the water. They look like little yellow/green puff balls. Moose Pond has it in high densities but not where it is causing a film on the surface. Some people have noticed a reaction to their skin, so if you see it while swimming, it's best to avoid. Hope is that LEA will be able to actually measure toxins in the future, they are looking into that capability.

LEA does monitoring through the winter (only on main basin). This is their second year to figure out what is happening during the winter. This year they did 3 visits with similar conditions and not as much oxygen loss. They performed a water clarity and phosphorus study as well and it was comparable to the spring.

### **LEA Report on Loon Health – Ben Peierls**

A project was implemented in 2021 to improve productivity of loons. We are in year two of this multi-year effort. The project is funded from oil spill remediation money and LEA is partnering with Audubon and others.

Rafts were installed and not used, but they think it's a good location.

There have been a couple of nests spotted with one chick.

More volunteers are needed to monitor the loons / eggs / chicks

If interested please contact [maggie@mainelakes.org](mailto:maggie@mainelakes.org).

### **Post-Meeting Loon Addendum from Anne Munstedt**

Some Moose Pond loons' nests were not utilized in 2022 due to lake's water level as it was too high (after dam construction). For example, the Turtle Cove nest which was used for the last 25 years was inspected by a mating pair several times and then rejected. There could have been others that were not usable. The nest chosen by the loons in the narrows wasn't ideal, but fortunately resulted in one live birth (from 2 eggs).

### **CBI Activities and Boat Wash Stations – Steve Petter**

MPA member donations pay for the CBI staffing that is present at both the Bridgton/Rte 302 and Denmark boat launches throughout the summer. LEA hires, trains and manages the CBIs and we are grateful for that. Periodically, we have shortages of inspectors, and are looking for volunteers. We are hoping to put together a list of volunteers that can be called upon if needed.

Although several fragments were collected from boats and trailers this summer and sent into LEA for inspection, thankfully nothing invasive was found.

- 302 ramp: 548 boats inspected, 4 plants found, no invasive plants identified (on track with last year)
- Denmark ramp: 162 boats inspected, 8 plants found, no invasive plants identified (8x increase YOY when one invasive fragment was found)

An audience member who is a Courtesy Boat Inspector added: Aside from looking for and catching plants, the CBI function is also an important PR/communication effort so that we can educate boaters. It's certainly important for the CBIs to catch milfoil but fishermen/boaters need to be aware of the potential problem related to invasive plants/animals. It's important to bring it to their attention.



We had the same number of CBI days and hours in 2022 as approved last year.

- Bridgton/Rte 302 ramp: 850 hours / 85 days
- Denmark ramp: 410 hours
- Total of 1260 hours.

Cost: It's gone up to \$18/hour x 1260= \$22,680. It went up \$2 from last year, and we should expect it to go up again next year.

We apply for a grant every year, and we keep increasing what we are asking for, and they keep giving us a little more but it's about half what we ask for so we depend on MPA donations to fill the gap. Thank you MPA members. For example, in 2022, MPA applied for a \$8,825 cost share grant, and were awarded \$4,200.

There are boat wash stations at both ramps.

Collins Plumbing, who donates time and materials each year for the Denmark boat wash station came and replaced the pump this spring. The MPA paid \$750 for the replacement. The hose broke again yesterday – red squirrels are eating the hose, even after Chip added a copper mesh to try and protect it. If you use Collins Plumbing, please thank them for the work they do for us on the boat wash station. The Bridgton Fire Chief also helped to facilitate the opening of the 302 boat wash station, and a new sign was added.

In 2023 we need, if possible, a list of Moose Pond residents who would be willing to be CBI volunteers. These individuals would act as “gap staffing” when LEA is unable to find a paid staff member to monitor one of the ramps on a certain date at a certain time. We are trying to adopt a “gap coverage model” that was created on Woods Pond. If you do want to volunteer as a CBI gap coverage inspector, there are two ways you can do it:

1. When there is a persistent gap in the coverage they can't fill, then you would be asked to fill that gap
2. An Unknown gap. When someone can't make it that day on the spur of the moment, it would work like a telephone tree to see if there is a person that can fill that spot.

There haven't been as many gaps this summer as we expected, but we want to get this list together for next summer so that it's ready to go.

## **No Wake Zone and Wake Wise Program – Scott Frame**

Over the last two or three years, the MPA has been receiving an increasing number of complaints related to boater courtesy (or a lack thereof) including the impact of large wakes on other boaters, people's docks, shoreline erosion and wildlife nesting grounds.

Headway speed buoys are in the narrow areas of Moose Pond. Buoys are placed in areas identified by the warden, and have been there for a number of years now. There are 8 of them in total from Denmark to just north of 302 causeway. Volunteers for this are really important. Buoys need to be taken out in the fall and put in the spring, and we coordinate with the state to make sure they are functioning as necessary, and replaced when needed. The whole point is to make sure boaters are going slowly through those narrow spaces. Also lake users that produce large wakes create problems in narrow areas that are sensitive to their damage. Wake wise signs are oriented towards the subject of large wakes and the damage they can cause. In particular, this is a focus on wakeboarding, wake surfing, and the boats and crafts that have been adapted to increase their wake. This can be harmful to shoreline, nesting sites and other boaters. We are trying to educate and raise awareness, and to adjust behavior as to how people move around the lake. MPA would like people to maintain headway speed when they are less than 200 feet from shore and should leave their docks moving towards the center of the lake instead of parallel to the shoreline.

Q: Who determines where the buoys are placed?

A: The warden does, based on the narrowness and shoreline in that space.

Q: New neighbors on Mountain Rd. We noticed that when some speed boats are approaching the buoy, they aren't cutting the engine until they actually get to the buoy. This is too late to break the wake before it disturbs the shoreline. Who would determine if the buoy can be moved further out to address this issue?

A: That's a good question and comment – it seems like we ought to have a little latitude to where we put them out. I will talk with the volunteers to see if we can adjust them slightly.

Q: People renting the camps don't understand what the buoys are, they go slowly but not at headway speed, so they are creating more of a wake.

A: It's definitely tough because we can't necessarily change everyone's behavior, and it's a dangerous time in the world to approach people about such things, so I would caution in that regard. I wish we had a perfect solution to this.

Chip added: On Monday, Scott and I are going down to Naples to talk to their harbormaster, their Marine Safety Officer, and the hope is that we can convince Bridgton to do what they are supposed to do anyway, which is to hire a Marine Safety Officer for the lakes that surround Bridgton. Over the last 3 years, the newest complaint MPA was getting was about boater courtesy, boater safety, boater responsibility. The hope is we find out what this Marine Safety Officer does, what their agreement is, and convince Bridgton to hire one.

Q: Can we get bigger buoys, so they are more visible?

A: They are provided by the state but maybe we can attach a sign to them. We will do a little bit of thinking about it.

Q: Can we come up with a pamphlet that we drop off at each house to educate people on these things, and to have them leave for renters?

A: We do a mailing each spring to over 900 houses. We can definitely look into adding something for that.

Q: Do you think it would be effective to put those signs on docks? I am sensitive to sign pollution, but do you think it would be helpful?

A: Yes, or in their marinas as people are heading down to their docks.

Q: Maybe we can get a flyer put together that explains where these no wake zones are, and what they are, and have the CBI's hand them out during inspection.

A: That's a good idea. I will speak to LEA about it. I know there are some sensitivities there because it's hard enough to get people on a voluntary basis to let them inspect the boats, and there have been some conflicts historically, but I like the idea.

Q: Can we get a sign or sticker to put on our boats?

A: That's a good idea and we will consider it

### **LakeSmart Update – Roy Lambert (Woods Pond Resident and Regional LakeSmart Captain)**

LakeSmart is about teaching property owners how to reduce erosion and runoff to stop phosphorus entering lakes so that we can prevent excess algae growth. There are various techniques that we preach to property owners when we walk their property and see how they might make their property more lake friendly.

Georges Pond, North Pond, and East Pond have all gone bad with algae. You won't be able to use the lake as intended when you bought your property. To keep this from happening, we need to protect the lake by:

- Stabilizing the soil
- Infiltrate storm water
- Divert storm water
- Extract nutrients.

Erosion control mulch is not good for walking, but it is great to use to prevent runoff on a slope that can't be vegetated. A sloping shore is feeding phosphorus into the lake. One of the ways to remediate that is with riprap. These days DEP is tending towards planting trees in addition to adding riprap. Creating a dripline for each of your structures also helps as does creating raingardens, steps on

pathways, crowning your driveway to get water off the roads quickly, adding swales, open top culverts and rubber razors to your driveway. A fully protected shore looks natural. LakeSmart is not against lawns, but lawns don't protect the lake, especially when there is no buffer/vegetation between the lake & the lawn.

Lake Smart is a free program, no obligation to take our suggestions. About a dozen MPA members in the audience have gone through it. Typically, evaluation takes an hour then the evaluators will put together a package.

When you identify things that would be needed to improve your property, the MPA is offering matching funds up to \$1,000 to fix these problems.

If they walk your property and it scores particularly well, LakeSmart will present you with two LakeSmart award signs, one for the lake side and one for the road side of your property to help promote the program.

Following Roy Lambert's presentation, Bill Dexter presented a lake smart award to some local residents who were in attendance at the meeting. If you want a LakeSmart evaluation of your property, contact Bill at [dexathome@gmail.com](mailto:dexathome@gmail.com).

### **Membership Health – Laurie Vance**

MPA has 141 members so far this year versus 173 last year at this time. Our membership numbers have generally been very stable year-over-year which means that by year end 2022 we will probably have +/- 230 members -- which is about 25% of the 920+ parcels in and around the lake. Our ultimate goal would be to get upwards of 50-60%.

Please Promote MPA, as this will allow us to increase CBI hours, take on additional projects, and increase our Rapid Response Emergency Fund to quickly combat an infestation once detected. Our goal is to have that emergency fund get to \$200,000 or more, so when the need arises, we can jump right on it.

### **Financial Health – Laurie Vance**

We typically spend about \$30,000 and take in about \$40,000 a year. We are using any excess funds to build up the Rapid Response Emergency Reserve Fund that I

just mentioned and so that will mean a pretty slow ramp up to the \$200,000 reserve target that we want to have ready if the worst should happen (an infestation). Increasing membership will help us get there sooner.

Courtesy Boat inspectors are our biggest expense (\$20K) + LEA surveys and monitoring which is really not that expensive when you think about all they do.

We currently have a cash reserve of \$70,000.

### **Member Communication - Mark Patterson**

We wanted to give you a sense for how we try to communicate with the membership and ask for your feedback in terms of what we can do differently/better to stay in closer touch with you.

- We send out thank you/tax receipt letters to the generous donors
- In the fall, we send out our Moose Pond Matters newsletter to all 900+ property owners on the lake regardless of whether you are a member or not – we would love to have someone to take that over if someone wants to volunteer to take over coordination
- We have an MPA Facebook Page that now has 1400 members (but remember we only have +/- 230 paying members of the MPA each year!)
- We started a separate page MPA for sale or rent for people that have something to sell or want to rent something.
- We would love to have a monthly email report going out to members more often on lake health, and things like that. We would love to get a volunteer to help coordinate that effort.
- Chip is going to neighborhoods and road association meetings to introduce MPA. We got new software that helps us see how many people from an association are contributing to the MPA.

*We are finding that people who live in associations where the association gives \$100 and the residents are not giving anything does not feel good. Just because your association gives a donation, that does not exempt you from also giving a donation. The stakes are too high.*

## **Board Nominations and Elections**

The following board members were voted in again by the membership present on August 20, 2022.

- Zach Clayton is currently serving as a general member of the board with a three-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2023
- William Dexter is currently serving as a general member of the board. A three-year term was renewed this year and is slated to end in the Fall 2025.
- Bill Dromerhauser is currently serving as a general member of the board. A three-year term was renewed this year and is slated to end in the Fall 2025.
- Paul Dwyer is currently serving as a general member of the board. A three-year term was renewed this year and is slated to end in the Fall of 2025.
- Shawn Hagerty is currently serving as a general member of the board with a three-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.
- Scott Frame is currently serving as a general member of the board with a three-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2023.
- Bill Muir is currently serving as a general member of the board. A three-year term was renewed this year and is slated to end in the Fall of 2025.
- Anne Munstedt is currently serving as Clerk (Recording Secretary) of the board with a three-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2023.
- Ruth Neagle is currently serving as Treasurer of the board with a three-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.
- Richard Niedel is currently serving as a general member of the board with a three-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.
- Steve Petter is currently serving as a general member of the board with a three-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.
- Mark Patterson is currently serving as a general member of the board with a three-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.
- Stephanie Scarce is currently serving as a general member of the board with a three-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.
- Laurie Vance is currently serving as Vice President of the board with a three-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.
- Chip Wendler is currently serving as President of the board with a three-year term slated to end in the Fall of 2024.

## **Question and Answer Session**

Q: If Facebook has 1300 members is there a way to get more of those to donate?

A: We are trying! It's more hand to hand combat. That's why we are trying to meet the associations.

### **Post meeting Board Meeting:**

1. If you need to update our contact details, please let Chip know.
2. All board members present voted in favor of changing MPA's by laws to increase the number of allowable board members to 20 up from 15. Such a by-law change requires 2/3s of the board members to approve it and since we had 12 of 15 board members present (80%) and the vote was unanimous in favor of the change the motion passed. The board also voted to make Bill Monroe an associate member until the Annual Meeting next year when he will be confirmed by the membership as a full board member. All officers were also confirmed.
3. MPA plans to add an additional board meeting in January/February via zoom.
4. Our normal Spring "Spring" meeting is planned for mid- to late-May via live and/or zoom.
5. As suggested by several board members, we plan to move the MPA's Annual Meeting to occur earlier in the year to attract a larger audience, as families with children in school and sports can't usually make the late August meeting. The proposed date is Saturday, July 8th, 2023.