

MEETING SCRIPT

I. INTRODUCTION (NATE) (1:30-1:40)

A. Welcome

Martha and Nate

B. Housekeeping

Results of election. Maggie and Judy reelected to Board of Directors, Sue Harris elected, all for terms of three years ending in 2027.

[What to do if it rains.]

C. The Board of Directors

The BoD is the association's motor, directing its activities and carrying out much, but not all, of the association's work. Our bylaws provide for 3 to 11 members. Presently, we have 10 and would welcome one more.

Introduce BoD members. Have members stand up.

Jill Whitehead Bryant,
Me, Nate Cagle,
Maggie Fairbrother,
Judy Kildow (secretary),

David McFarland,

Mike Breen,

Valerie Breen, our treasurer, and

Sue Harris, our newest member.

Merritt Blakeslee (president) [not present]

Will Anderson [not present], who is the webmaster of our excellent and now regularly updated website, which is our chief means of communication with you.

Without the board, the Association could not function, and we thank them for their service.

The BoD meets as needed, typically 2-3 times a year. Since the pandemic, all of our meetings have been hybrid – part in-person, part Zoom. Our meetings are open to all members, and we would welcome your attendance and participation, whether remotely or in person. The meetings are publicized in advance. Just let us know if you would like to attend.

D. Newcomers

If you are a newcomer and are comfortable doing so, please stand and introduce yourselves. I know that I and the other officers and members would like the opportunity to welcome you.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT (VALERIE) (1:40-1:42)

Copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed at the sign-in desk

III. MEMBERSHIP REPORT (JUDY) (1:43-1:45)

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (AND Q&A) (1:55-2:15) (MERRITT, READ BY NATE)

I am speaking to you from Denver, where I am confined by a bout of COVID. Welcome everyone and thank you for coming.

I want to begin by thanking Nate Cagle for heading the committee that organized this meeting, the members of his committee who got us set up, and Nate for speaking in my place.

A. ONGOING INITIATIVES:

B. Water quality testing (3 types):

Perhaps the most important activity carried out by our association is water quality testing. We now conduct three types of testing:

a) Secchi Disk Monitoring for Water Clarity

Secchi disk testing to monitor clarity is an important indicator of water quality. Ron and Leslie Volpe take Secchi disk readings twice a month between May and October report the results to the Lake Stewards of Maine.

b) Water column testing

David, Mike, Nate, and I take measurements of the water column monthly, recording temperature, dissolved oxygen, and salinity. We are

no longer trying to test year-round. Testing is now done from April through November.

c) Fecal coliform, e. coli testing

This year, we have initiated a new type of testing – testing for fecal coliform and its most concerning component, e. coli.

From 2010 to 2014, the Association tested regularly for fecal coliform. We decided to resume this testing after watching the Boothbay Region Water District dealing with defective septic systems on Knickerbocker Lake, and concluded that it would be prudent to begin our own testing regimen to spot any problems on our pond.

We will sample once a month at selected locations around the pond. Sue Harris is heading up this project; and the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District is processing our samples at no cost to us, yet another example of the Sewer District's generous, ongoing support of the Association.

The source of fecal coliform can, of course, be human or animal. If we find troubling levels of fecal coliform, we can have the sample DNA-tested by Bigelow Labs.

So far, we have found nothing of concern. But in looking back over our historical data, there were months in the 2010-2014 period when the fecal coliform levels were alarmingly high.

In the event that we again find high levels, we will alert our members and the other pond-side residents.

C. LakeSmart initiative

As Rebecca Jacobs will explain in a moment, a danger to the Pond, and, hence, to those of us who live on it, is water pollution from shoreside runoff (erosion), which carries phosphates into the Pond.

LakeSmart is a program developed by the Maine Lakes Society to educate owners of waterfront property about the dangers of runoff, to provide assistance in remediating runoff, and to recognize waterfront

property owners who have successfully dealt with runoff problems on their property.

Our LakeSmart program has been inactive for the last few years. If you would like a formal or informal evaluation of the erosion issues on your shoreside property or if you would like to be trained as a LakeSmart evaluator, please speak to me or another BoD member.

D. Operation of the siphon

The West Harbor Pond siphon performs three key functions:

- Evacuating saltwater from the Pond after king tides;
- Maintaining a flow of water through the fishway, particularly in the spring and fall to facilitate eel and alewife migration; and
- Keeping the Pond from dropping too low, which is a particular concern during periods of drought, or rising too high (although there have been no complaints about high water for some time).

In January, following the storms and storm surges of December and January, we realized that the prominent halo in the harbor that shows the upwelling of the siphon discharge had disappeared.

We hired Tim Pinkham, a local diver and Bigelow Labs alumnus, to dive and see if he could determine the problem. He found that the intake was obstructed with sand. He was able to clear the blockage and restart the siphon.

However, shortly thereafter the halo disappeared again. Each end of the siphon terminates in an elbow, designed to face upward. But Tim discovered that both at the intake and the outfall, the siphon pipe with its elbows was lying on its side. The pond side pipe had apparently lain that way since it was installed. But the harbor side pipe had apparently been rolled over by the storm, with the result that the discharge, instead of going straight up to the surface to create the distinctive halo, was being discharged parallel to the bottom, diffusing the stream of water so that it did not produce the halo. Tim installed another elbow, this one

properly oriented upward, on each end of the siphon, and we now have our halo back.

We also took Tim's advice to install a pressure gauge on the siphon, which will give us additional information about its operation. Mike Breen can give you additional information.

E. Our loons

Please remember the basic cautions about loons. Because loons must build their nests close to the water's edge, these nests are highly vulnerable. Please stay away from their nest and please maintain a 200' no wake zone when passing a nest.

And loons are at risk of lead poisoning. Please don't use lead fishing gear.

There is loon information at the check-in table.

F. The Great West Harbor Pond Fishing Derby of 2024, July session

Two sessions, July and August. Not only can you win a hat like this one (Show a hat) but you can have your picture of you and your prize-winning fish posted on the WHP website.

For July, the winner is 10-year-old Christopher Neary who caught a whopping 19-inch largemouth bass. Please participate in the August session.

Our thanks to Michael Bujnowski for again organizing the fishing derby.

G. NEW DEVELOPMENTS

1. Proposed Campbell Cove Subdivision

In March, the owners of the Beach Cove hotel brought to the Boothbay Harbor Planning Board a proposal to subdivide the property where the hotel formerly stood into four lots, each for a single-family dwelling. This is a welcome development, because in its current state, there are no measures to control stormwater runoff. However, the original proposal was problematic, because there was no commitment to remove the large, impermeable parking lot and hotel foundation adjacent

to Lakeview Drive and only minimal measures for establishing a vegetative buffer to control stormwater runoff into the pond. The proposal will again be before the Planning Board at 6 PM on August 14, hopefully with additional modifications to address the stormwater runoff issue. The meeting is open to the public.

2. Mountain View Road

Earlier this year at our request, Rebecca Jacobs surveyed the serious erosion problems on Mountain View Road and immediately below the intersection with Lakeside Drive, which produce significant runoff into the Pond. She produced a detailed report for remediating these problems, but the Association has yet to act on her recommendations. If you would be interested in taking ownership of this issue and moving it forward, please let me know.

H. Questions and Answers

Since I can't answer your questions today, you are welcome to email me, and I will respond. My email address is mrb@blakeslee-law.com.

V. REBECCA JACOBS, *BACKYARD CONSERVATION. WHAT LANDOWNERS CAN DO TO HELP PROTECT WATER QUALITY AND HOME VALUES AND MORE.* (2:05-2:25)

Nate introduces Rebecca.