

Rust Pond Association 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, August 17, 2024, 10:00-11:00 AM

Wolfeboro Public Library - Bradley Room

- **Call Meeting to Order at 10:00 AM**

Libby Peard called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Members introduced themselves and there was acknowledgement of the passing of Elizabeth Greenwood, Carla Copeland, and Penny Curtis.

- **Establish Quorum (15 members in good standing)**

31 properties represented. Total attendance - 46

- **Approve 2023 Minutes**

David Nelson made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes and to approve them. Jill Duffield seconded and motion was approved.

- **Treasurer's Report**

- Jack provided highlights from his report, posted on the Rust Pond website (rustpond.org). Paper copies were also made available at the meeting.
- Rich Coan asked how reserve was invested. Jack said currently held in a checking account but the Board is planning to address how best to strike the balance between maintaining liquidity and earning some return on funds in the RPA reserve. It was agreed that the Board would investigate best options and take action on this.
- It was also announced that Jack would be stepping down when his term expires in 2025 and anyone with an interest in taking over as treasure should let Libby or Jack know.

- **Committee Reports:**

- **Dam** (scheduled lake draw-down Fall 2024) Report provided by Bob Piekarz in Bill Tappan's absence.
 - Dam is in good shape and in compliance with state guidelines. No special maintenance required this year. Some work to be done in the coming year or two.
 - Draw-down is scheduled for September 15 and level should drop by about 2 feet.
 - Members expressed concern about the September 15 date. Perspectives were provided in both directions as the date is early for pulling boats out but will provide summer-only residents time to address shoreline issues.
 - Weston Autobody sold. New buyers are leasing the property. We have deeded right to property and will keep in touch with new owner.

- **Water Quality**

- Keith Simpson provided a detailed review of VLAP sampling results from 2023. (2024 report will be posted to the website when available.)
- We have had spirogyra algae which is sometimes mistaken for cyanobacteria. Spirogyra is not hazardous but speaks to conditions being appropriate for other blooms that are.
 - What can waterfront owners do to keep nutrients from getting into Rust Pond?
 - Stormwater management is critical with the goal of stopping run-off from going into the lake. Shoreline vegetative buffers (like blueberry bushes) can make a big difference.
 - Lawns, if you must have them, should only be fertilized with zero-phosphorous fertilizers.
 - Septic systems should be pumped regularly (every 2-3 years depending on usage).

- **Old Business**

- **North End Project Update**

- Libby provided an update. Work to begin in September though it's been a much-delayed process.
- In early 2023 Rust Pond was awarded 319 grant funding, along with matching Town funds (totaling \$52K). The plan for remediation mainly addresses sediment removal from run-off at the North End.
- Due to last July's storm, and the resulting beaver dam breach, plan had to be revised, but NHDES has approved the new plan and we are now waiting for permitting so that work can proceed. The plan calls for stabilizing drainage channels and installing multiple stone gabion sediment traps on Pleasant Valley and Cross Road. An RFP is supposed to go out for contractor bids in the coming week.
- Adredging feasibility study is also included in this project and work is underway, with representatives from engineering firm CEI on the lake earlier in the week. Once results are available, we plan to apply for additional grant funding to address what could be a major remediation project. Wolfeboro's interim planner is assisting with this process.
- Conversation with engineer and town officials indicated that adding "check dams" along Pleasant Valley and Cross Road could make a meaningful difference in reducing the volume and velocity of water heading for Rust Pond. Current project funding will most likely be insufficient to cover these add-ons, but we plan to ask contractors responding to the RFP to provide a per unit cost for up to four check dams.
- In 2020 RPA members authorized the Board of Directors to allocate up to \$20,000 from our reserve for "Rust Pond water quality protection and mitigation". We have not used any of this allocation, but this could be a time when it makes sense for the Board to do so. When final

pricing information is available, we'll follow up with details about the cost of check dams and about any Board decision to allocate funds to cover these add-ons.

- It was pointed out that maintenance will be the key once these BMPs are installed. Our hope is that Steve Randall, Director of Public Works, will address this on an as-needed basis, and members are encouraged to check periodically for excessive sediment build-up. All proposed remediation will be on public property.

- **Camp School Road Remediation Update**

- Work to curtail stormwater run-off from Camp School Road is scheduled for October. This will be privately fund, without using any RPA reserves.

- **New Business**

- **South Main Street Project**

- Run-off from Route 28 where it borders Rust Pond was identified as the most significant contributor to water quality impairment in a recent Wolfeboro Bay watershed management study. Conditions worsened after the Department of Transportation replaced vegetative borders with rip-rap. This has led to more sediment going into Rust Pond, including salt from winter de-icing, which may explain our increasing conductivity numbers.
- In follow-up to this study and as part of the Wolfeboro Bay Watershed Management Plan, conceptual designs for remediation are being completed for this stretch of road. This is the first step towards securing funding for the project. In partnership with the Lake Winnepesaukee Association, we will work to accelerate plans for remediation. This cannot wait for the DOT's next 10-year cycle. Libby and Art hope to report progress well before next year's annual meeting.

- **Cyanobacteria/LakeSmart**

- This has been a summer season like no other in terms of Cyanobacteria blooms in area lakes. Rust Pond has been spared so far but we must commit to keeping nutrients that foster the growth of potentially toxic algae blooms out of our lake.
- Members are encouraged to look at the list of 10 Ways to Keep Lakes Healthy, which was sent in an email to residents and is also available at rustpond.org. Those renting properties are asked to share with renters as well.
- Lake decline is often compared to "death by a thousand cuts". Our individual choices, including inaction (like failing to pump septic systems or address run-off issues on our property), can have meaningful impact. Combination of little things can quickly

become a big thing, especially as water temperatures warm creating an environment more conducive to algae growth.

- Other valuable resources available on the Lake Winnepesaukee or Wentworth Watershed sites or UNH's Landscaping at the Water's Edge. And, NHLakes LakeSmart program offers a free evaluation to determine how lake-friendly your property is and provides guidance on how to improve conditions impairing water quality.

- **Bylaws Change on Loss of Membership**

- Read by Libby, motion by Terry, seconded by David Nelson
- Goal is to lower the barrier for rejoining the Association. We all benefit when as many residents as possible are included in the conversation about maintaining the dam and preserving water quality.
- Vote required min of 22 votes and was unanimous, well exceeding the threshold for approval.
- Bylaws will be updated and re-posted on website.

- **Nominations and Election to Fill Open Officer and Director Positions**

Officer: Secretary Elaine Webb

Motion to approve from Kurt Bamberg, seconded by Terry Bowman, passed unanimously.

Directors: Kurt Bamberg term expires 2026
Ryan Yost term expires 2026
Bill Tappan term expires 2027
Bob Slovek term expires 2027

- Ryan Yost of 48 Rusty Lane self-nominated for the open board position. He gave a brief bio. He is very interested in water quality and has an engineering masters with background in biology and data science.
- Terry Bowman made a motion to approve the slate of directors. David Nelson seconded, and motion was unanimously approval.

- **Motion to Adjourn**

- Terry Bowman provided motion to adjourn, Pete Colbath seconded. Motion approved.
- Meeting Adjourned at 11:15am

Proposed Bylaws Change

Article II(C) Loss of Membership

Current:

1. Any Member whose dues remain unpaid for two years shall automatically cease to be a Member.
2. Any member who fails to pay an assessment as provided in Article II(B) shall automatically cease to be a member, but shall continue to be liable for such assessment.
3. Any member whose membership has ceased as provided in this Article II(C) shall be re-eligible for membership upon curing the default.

Proposed:

1. Any Member whose dues remain unpaid for two years shall automatically cease to be a Member.
2. Any member who fails to pay an assessment as provided in Article II(B) shall automatically cease to be a member. ~~, but shall continue to be liable for such assessment.~~
3. Any member whose membership has ceased as provided in this Article II(C) shall be re-eligible for membership upon ~~curing the default~~ paying current year dues.