

G.P.A.



Georges Pond Association

John Eliasberg, President; Brian Friedmann, Vice President;

Nancy Cooper, Secretary; Marvin Ellison, Treasurer

Officers at Large: Lynn Durkin, Callie Carr, Chuck Dawes, Ginger Eliasberg, Yvette Kovats, Marie Phero

Minutes

GPA ANNUAL MEETING – 7/7/2019 Town Hall, Franklin – 9:00 a.m.

Call to order, welcoming remarks, agenda- John Eliasberg: 74 people present, 41 properties represented

Current status of pond: Clear today, BUT Total Phosphorus (TP) readings have been above 15ppb, the bloom will reoccur with warmer weather. We cannot afford to be complacent. A brief overview:

1st hour: Jen Jespersen and Ken Wagner

- How does the Science work, where are we now in the data collection, timelines and rationale for Alum treatment, and what you can do to help.
- Stewardship programs: LakeSmart
- Finances: Treasurer's Report, GPA membership, 2% pledge, grants, donors & gifts
Budget: detailed presentation of sources of income, expenses and projections
- Elections: BoD, 4 volunteers on the slate. All 4 may be elected
- Calendar: upcoming events

GPA is a voluntary educational organization. The Alum treatment will block the internal load of Phosphorous (P) from producing blooms. It is up to each of us to not add to the external load by monitoring our actions. How do we do that? Robert Swan, "The greatest threat to our (Pond) is thinking someone else will save it."

- Join the GPA
- Sign up for LakeSmart
- Take care of our Septic Systems
- Encourage our neighbors

Recognition of BoD and their efforts in research, data collection, training, grant writing, promoting stewardship, and communication

Guest Speakers:

Jen Jespersen:

- Historical Perspective
Collecting data on GP since 1977. Three significant blooms since 2012
GP on ME. DEP's list of impaired lakes, 21 out of 151 lakes classified as declining quality
- Watershed Based Management Plan – The WBMP is the driving force in creating an action plan to deal with existing blooms and prevent future blooms.
 1. Normally a 2yr. timeline. GP's commitment and action reduces timeline to 1 yr.
 2. WBMP in place by January 2020 with commitment to redo in 10 yrs.
 3. partnership with HCSWC and ME. DEP

- GP Watershed -
 1. GP = ½ sq. mile, watershed = 1 sq. mile.
 2. 1 outlet to Web Pond
 3. Ave depth 14 ft. max. depth = 45 ft.
 4. low flushing rate: 0.45 flushes per year
 5. GP has sandy soil; leach fields wash into ground water → lake
 6. 5-10 X more phosphorus coming off developed areas
- Water Quality Analysis
 1. Full report posted on GPA website
 2. < 2 m. clarity in 4/7 previous years 1983 P= 8 ppb, 2012 P = 36 ppb

Ken Wagner

- Causes of bloom: weather; cold wet spring yields more loading but more O₂, hot dry spring= less loading but less O₂
- Phosphorus loading, there are 5 main categories or sources; atmosphere, internal, wildlife, wastewater, watershed run off
- Watershed- If 10X size of lake then loading is manageable
GP Watershed is 2X the size of the pond.
GP is like a leaky boat; we must fix small problems before they become overwhelming
Direct loading over a decade feeds internal loading.
- Algal blooms & Anoxia
June 1 – small area of anoxia and as lake stratifies GP loses more O₂
August 1 – algae blooms where light penetrates & phosphorus is released, prediction that algal bloom will rise to surface in August
Bluegreen blooms indicates serious blooms. Some blue green algal blooms are toxic
- Approaches/ Treatment Options
 1. Dredging – difficult, permit required, prohibitively expensive
 2. Oxygenation – requires H₂O, limits internal recycling, expensive, ongoing expense, manager required
 3. Phosphorus inactivation – Binds iron to Phosphorus → aluminum, used in recreational lakes, good for @20 years
 4. Watershed management- reduces future loading BUT cannot alleviate current load. Slow return to poor conditions inevitable.

Questions

- GP spring fed: Do springs contribute to P load? Can P be filtered out?
Impregnate leach field with alum, storm drain inserts; both require maintenance
Inject alum into tributaries or pond. We need to deal with P load now in the pond.
Alum treatment brings immediate improvement by stripping P out of H₂O column and seals P at bottom of pond.
- New organisms attaching to rocks at lower depths are freshwater coral; don't help but not a problem
- Management of sediment= only way forward. Can we get an acuity index? KW's & JJ's report includes analysis of testing.
- Well water test – good information to have. If tap well, send data to lab in Bangor

- Effect on fish & wildlife
Ratios of chemicals in formula critical. Last fish kill was in 2000. We are taking muck from bottom and H2O samples to determine the correct formula
- Application Details
 1. When: Aluminum reacts better when H2O < 40 degrees; April, May early June
 2. Where: 8 Meters & below or where P is released, at 6 M. We need to determine dose, area and cost
 3. How – by barge, 2 manifolds 15' wide, 8-10 'deep. There will be some drift, but will not come to shore. Measurements taken each day, will not apply in windy weather
- Is it safe to swim? Today, yes. If water is cloudy when chest high- no. If blue green algae present assume it is not safe to swim.
- Drinkable? No one should drink untreated water
- Showers? Inhaling could present a long-term risk
- Septic and or leach field testing; We test shore line, not individual systems

Next Steps

- Scientific Treatment Plan
 1. Complete 2019 Lake Monitoring & Field Studies
 2. Sediment Assays (U of Me)
 3. Second Model Run (calibrated with 2018 & 2019 data)
 4. Draft Action Plan & Final WBMP
 5. Grant writing & Permitting
- GPA & Pond Owners
 1. LakeSmart- plant a buffer
 2. Septic Systems- replace systems pre-dating 1974
 3. Roads – Owners should form road associations
- 319 Grant
 1. submitted June 2019, addresses Watershed issues, roadwork, septic and individual properties
 2. \$80,000- government will contribute 50%, GPA will contribute 50%
 3. Monies available in January & distributed over 2 years
 4. SSCRd, Cousins Rd; must re-build roads to Federal qualifications; Josh Platt engaged to look at roads, up to \$600 available per property to improve
- Volunteers should clock time; in-service time counts towards fundraising
- Core water samples – owners volunteer to have septic/leach fields tested
Contact GPA if interested

LakeSmart

What is our responsibility? We have been part of the problem, we must be part of the solution. How do you protect your investment?

- Buffer – L.S will provide examples of what to plant, moss, ferns, native Maine sod. Wild Sods of Maine- \$.25 reduction per square foot if GPA member
- Septic systems- pump every 5-6 years, 2-5 if full-time occupancy

Finances

Thank you for your support of our fundraising and membership efforts

- Membership- in 2018 150 dues paying members, 140 members as of this morning @ %40 of property owners
- Restoration/ Alum Treatment fee= \$400,000. (working figure)
Fall 2018 – raised \$30,000, hired KW and JJ, seeking \$120,000 in grants = \$150,000.00
Target = \$250,000 through private donations. As of today, July 7, 2019 we have raised \$132,0000
- Anonymous donors
 1. GPA membership drive- Donor will match each \$25 pledge in 2019 (retroactive) \$5,000.00 bonus if reach %95
 2. LakeSmart - \$25 per LakeSmart signup to have property surveyed
 3. \$5,000.00 bonus if reach %95
- Pledge Form –The 2% pledge is an investment in what you love.
Total figure for all properties (160) on the pond in tax rolls Town of Franklin = \$26 mill.
2% = \$525,000
East Pond raised \$1,000,000.00 in 1 year. We can do this!
- Financial Report and Report of Funds to restore Georges Pond approved, seconded and accepted.

Administration

- Minutes from Annual meeting August 2018, summarized, motion to approve, seconded and accepted by show of hands vote.
- Elections – Call for floor nominations for Directors, no volunteers. 4 Directors elected; Nancy Cooper & Yvette Kovats terms renewed, Stephanie Kelley-Reece, Stephen McMullen newly elected. Assembly moved and accepted election of Directors by show of hands rather than by paper ballot.
- Calendar – BBQ & Silent Auction at the Branch's July 14th, rain date July 21st
- Contact information – please update your contact information and sign in
- Raffle – winners announced

Meeting adjourned 12:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Cooper, Secretary
July 31, 2019

Attendees:

Alley, Garrett
Alley, Dwight
Alley, Lynn
Bellatty, Bill
Branch, Lisa
Brenton, Julie
Brenton, Thomas
Brodie, Hubene
Brooks Frank
Cooper, Nancy
Cousins, Terry
Dawes, Chuck
Dawes, Sue
Detre, Tony
Detre, Paul
Detre, Ally
Dick, Becky
Durkin Lynn
Eliasberg, Ginger
Eliasberg, John
Ellison, Marvin
Erikson, Gordon
Erikson, Donna
Friedmann, Linda
Friedmann, Brian
Garner Karen
Garner Stephen
Genter, Fred
Genter, Sue
Gray, Christine
Green, Bill
Hanscom, Jim
Harriman, Pat
Hartley, Danielle
Hartley, Christian
Hatcher, Scott
Hatcher, Chloe
Herklotz, Keith
Jespersen, Jen
Jordan, John
Jordan, Joe
Kearns, Jamie
Kearns, Sandie
Kelley-Reece, Stephanie
Kennedy, Angela
Kennedy, Roger
Krantz, Michael & 2

Leavitt, Tim
Liddy, Carol
Liddy, Frank
Lounsberry, Liz
Minear, Brendan
Moore Rhonda
Nichols Margie
O'Connor, Michael
O'Connor, Nicholas
Oliver, Moe
Phero, Marie
Phero, Walter
Phero,
Richardson, John
Strout, Cindy
Todd, Sheila
Wagner, Ken
Willhite, Mike