

Thorndike Pond Conservation Association ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Held on Zoom Saturday, August 1, 2026 10am 38 households in attendance

John Brouder welcomed all.

Lisa Frantzis reviewed the settings for Zoom.

Membership Updates:

New and first time attendees were welcomed (Ernie Found, Jr. and Nathan Hurlin)

A moment of silence was held for deceased members George Benedek and Catherine Pearson as well as long-time Jaffrey community member Jane Cunningham.

John Brouder noted that there are no known properties on the market. He reminds us all to let the community know before any listing is made public if possible—as a courtesy.

Old Business:

Kathy MacKenzie moved to accept minutes of 2025 Annual Meeting. Carol Greenwald seconded and the motion passed.

Guest Speaker:

Kathy MacKenzie introduced Guest Speaker Todd Croteau, Town of Jaffrey Supt of Highways and Facilities since 2020.

Todd detailed the 2027 paving project on Thorndike Pond Road

From 124 to approximately the intersection of Gilson Road; July-August 2027; not every day.

The entire roads budget for the year \$750,000 about 10% of non-school Jaffrey budget

Road will be completely torn up and restored which includes:

- 1) Removal of all material
- 2) Replacements of cross culverts
- 3) Removal of large rocks that cause the big bumps
- 4) 4" of asphalt

Most times will be alternating lanes of traffic; culvert at Russell's/Gilson Road will be reworked to improve drainage. A paved apron will be added. Silt fences and other steps will be taken to comply with environmental protections.

Gilson Road and Thorndike Pond road gravel portions will have regular maintenance.

There should be no conflict with the logging of Hazen Forest by State; that is slated for January -February.

Treasurer's Report

Amy McGregor-Radin presented the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Treasurer's Report. We are in good shape; expenses up for Lake Host (paid), dam registration, dam materials, but we can handle that. One of our Fed Bonds matures mid August and those funds will be reinvested. Details are at end of these minutes.

Whittemore Island

Roberta Schnoor noted the closing of the island for two loon nests. Now reopened. Workday was held with Monadnock Conservancy. 6 people from TPCA joined the crew to:

- 1) Relocate landing to a safer, sandier spot with a new sign and relocated kiosk
- 2) Buckthorn was removed
- 3) A bench was added, made from materials found on the island

Water Quality Report

Molly Mansfield presented a Power Point.

E. Coli levels are elevated ; testing by town at Town Beach and Camps lead to a closure of Shattuck (aka Town) Beach. The suggestion is to refrain from entering the pond until we get lower, safe (below 88 for humans; lower for pets) Town tests 2/month. Facebook and town website will share updates.

Phosphorus is a bit high; Good oxygen, good water transparency.

DES funding and staffing has been reduced; they will not be testing for E.Coli until that changes.

Molly will continue to monitor as required and do more to keep us informed about other areas as well as the two done by the town. Her recommendations:

- 1) Do not allow runoff of pesticides, insecticides (including flea meds for swimming pets)
- 2) Do not allow runoff of goose poop
- 3) Check with materials any pest control people are using
- 4) Test septic regularly to ensure integrity.
- 5) Plan vegetation buffers to slow/eliminate run off from shoreline
- 6) No reason to test near our docks ; higher use areas are the best spots to test for changes

Dam Report—Power Point slide PDF attached.

Pepper Denman reported that the dam is in good shape; new boards holding water better than old ones. Pond refilled more quickly as a result.

- 1) Fall volunteers to remove vegetation and fill holes will be needed
- 2) Inspection due 2027/2028.
- 3) Recent rainfall—pond increased 7" over 3-4 days

Weed Watchers

John Brouder gave Chair David Nash's report. There have been no detections so far this season. David and a rep from NH Lakes trained a big group in the early season, each member

now has a T-shirt that identifies them. Recommendation is to watch your own property for new types of growth.

Lake Host

Jim Potter detailed the status of the Paid Lake Host program. We now have shifts available to the 7 hosts (5 returning and 2 new) that cover 7am-7pm 7 days per week. No exotic or invasive materials have been spotted; most boaters are compliant and cooperative/knowledgeable.

Note: Maps of infested waterbodies and passive signage has been placed at ramp.

Kathy MacKenzie held a training for new volunteer Lake Hosts. She encourages all to sign up where there are openings.

Wildlife Report

John Brouder reported that Loons, Herons, Eagles, Bobcats, Bears, Fishers, Porcupines and Turkeys are all present. It was noted that the logging of Hazen Forest is likely to disturb some bear dens and other wildlife

New Business

A motion was made by Bob Melzer and 2nd by Lisa Frantzis to ratify the actions taken to spend money for the supplies and repair of the dam since the last meeting. Motion passed.

Kathy MacKenzie spoke about the upcoming activities and benefits of same to strengthen our community ties. She encouraged participation in Monadnock Trails Week Sept 10-14.

Kathy MacKenzie motioned and Steve Magoun 2nd to authorize Molly Mansfield to do further water testing up to and not to exceed \$1,000. Motion passed.

Election

Steve Magoun presented the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee which was Wendy Webster, Carol Greenwald and Steve Magoun.

President: Kathy MacKenzie, VP Lisa Frantzis, Secretary/Treasurer Amy McGregor-Radin, Demi Ayres, Jim Potter and Pepper Denman were elected to another term. John Brouder will fill Lisa's remaining year as a member-at-large. John Brouder made the motion, Bob Melzer 2nd. Motion passed.

Social

John was thanked for his dedication and leadership. Social Event to take place and Jinnie and Peter Russell's 5pm Sunday August 2 rain or shine. Bring your drink and an appetizer to share. Emily Carr reminded members that "20(mph) is Plenty" on our roads.

Motion to adjourn made by Carol Greewald., 2nd by Bob Melzer. Passed.

Meeting adjourned 11:46am.

Thorndike Pond Conservation Association

Financial Report Fiscal Year 2025-2026

ASSETS	Beginning Balance 7/1/2024	Ending Balance 6/30/2025	Beginning Balance 7/1/2025	Ending Balance 6/30/2026
TD Checking	\$4,616.97	\$6,722.88	\$6,722.88	\$2,714.15
TD MM Plus	\$2,232.51	\$2,518.77	\$2,518.77	\$0.00
Fidelity MM	\$2,990.62	\$89,680.00	\$89,680.00	\$23,289.53
Fidelity investments	\$123,599.55	\$53,719.00	\$53,719.00	\$135,778.90
<i>Fidelity holdings total</i>	<i>\$126,590.17</i>	<i>\$143,399.00</i>	<i>\$143,399.00</i>	<i>\$159,068.43</i>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$133,439.65	\$152,640.65	\$152,640.65	\$161,782.58
Increases				
Dues		\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$13,800.00
Donations		\$7,175.00	\$7,175.00	\$2,525.00
Memorial donations		\$9,178.64	\$9,178.64	\$0.00
Interest at TD		\$1.26	\$1.26	\$0.00
Interest Fidelity		\$4,822.04	\$4,822.04	\$1,717.60
TOTAL		\$35,176.94	\$35,176.94	\$18,042.60
Decreases				
Lake Host /NH Lakes		\$10,500.00	\$10,500.00	\$13,000.00
Dam Registration		\$400.00	\$400.00	\$800.00
NH Lakes Dues		\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Water Testing		\$260.00	\$260.00	\$230.00
Dam Maintenance		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$636.05
Postage/stationary		\$31.21	\$31.21	\$14.60
PO Box key		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Copying and printing		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$135.00

Bank Charges		\$15.00	\$15.00	\$45.20
Website hosting		\$124.90	\$124.90	\$124.90
Lake Host Chair		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lake Host Umbrella		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Filing Fees		\$54.99	\$54.99	\$54.99
PO Box		\$102.00	\$102.00	\$106.00
PayPal fees		\$118.07	\$118.07	\$61.16
501 c 3 registration		\$27.00	\$27.00	\$0.00
TOTAL		\$11,933.17	\$11,933.17	\$15,507.90

Dam Committee Report

TPCA Annual Meeting; August 1, 2026

The following is a report on the activities of the TPCA dam committee since our last meeting.

We removed 3 of the short boards and the long (spillway) board in late October 2025. The short boards, which are approximately 4 feet long and 12 inches in width slide in a sloped channel in the middle of the dam. There are a total of five (5) short boards and one (1) much longer board, approximately 14 feet long and about 6 inches high, installed over the spillway weir.

It was determined that the short boards should be replaced and new boards were crafted over the winter by Jim Potter, MD.

We do not ever remove, routinely, the 4 th and 5 th boards unless we need to do structural work on the dam. This was last done in 2013. Of note, the level of the pond never dropped to the level of the top of the 4 th board – i.e. the pond never fell to the lowest level possible, with 3 boards removed, as the inflow exceeded the outflow over the entire winter months.

The 3 new boards were installed on April 19, 2026 and the pond rapidly refilled following this and the replacement of the spillway board. We will need to replace the spillway board in the near future.

The dam received its NH DES inspection in 2022, receiving a passing grade and is

determined to be a minimum risk dam. There were some deficiencies noted in that inspection - the board and committee are grateful for the remediation and repairs that Jim Banghart and Jack Belletete did to address the findings. We will be doing some routine maintenance in the autumn on the dam, but this will not require the water level to be reduced any more than the standard board removal.

We are grateful for all the work the citizens of the pond do to support the efforts to maintain the safety and the integrity of the dam. We especially want to thank Tammy Fortune at Camp Wa-Klo for allowing us to access the dam when needed and the coordination we receive from Archie and Nina McIntyre at Clothespin Farm (as they have a pond downstream with a dam) and Jim Potter, MD for the beautiful non-leaking new boards.

Respectfully submitted,
Pepper Denman, Chair, TPCA Dam Committee

2026 TPCA Lake Host Report

The Lake Host program at Thorndike Pond has been slowly growing over the past several years. Last year was the most robust participation in the paid lake host program that we had ever seen. This year has taken us to an entirely new level. We are fortunate to have 5 of our 2025 participants return to work at our boat ramp this year. In addition, we hired 2 new lake hosts, one experienced and one trying lake hosting for the first time. Finally, the TPCA board decided to expand the available hours for paid lake hosts to 7AM – 7PM, 7 days a week. This has resulted in considerable improvement in the presence of lake hosts at the ramp and at the same time significantly increased our expenditure for the program. This is something that we had planned for several years ago when we increased our dues to be able to afford this expanded coverage.

Visiting boaters to Thorndike Pond are almost exclusively familiar with our lake host program and the principles of “Clean, Drain, & Dry”. So far this year we have only needed to submit one photograph of a specimen removed from a boat trailer in early July. It was a native plant hitchhiker. The longer we continue the lake host program and the more hours we are present at the ramp, the less likely we will get surprised by the emergence of a non-native aquatic invasive species. If that were to happen, the result to our lake could be catastrophic and enormously expensive to remedy.

We have replaced the old, tattered “Lake Host On Duty” sign with a new one. Additionally, we have added signage revealing a map of nearby infested water bodies, courtesy of Amy McGregor-Radin. We have also secured the umbrella to the table & chairs so that it does not need to be stored under the porch at the scout camp. This has resulted in the umbrella getting used more regularly for sun protection and has prevented it from getting muddy when it rains.

Jim Potter

Lake Host Coordinator

Water Quality Report (partial)

Forgive my choppy cut and paste from Molly's Power Point. I wanted to get the test results report into the actual minutes rather than just an attachment: Amy M-R



THORNDIKE POND
JAFFREY
VOLUNTEER LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

STATIONID	STATION NAME
THOJAFO	DEEP SPOT
THOJAFNW	NORTH WEST INLET
THOJAFO	OUTLET
THOJAFSW	SOUTH WEST INLET

8/1/2026 4

Outlet
2. NW Inlet 3. SW
1. Inlet 4. Deep Spot

5. *E. coli*

Testing

Sites

Pond

Thorndike

2025 & 2026 Testing Results

July

2025 October 2025 June 2026 Standard				
E. coli Bacteria	1 MPN (well below)	(none) test once per year	23 & 13 MPN (higher than normal)	88 MPN/100 ml
Phosphorus	6.7, 6.9, 7.3, 8.4, 12.1 19.1 7.20, 8.47, 10.6, 12.1, 12.4	6.8, 6.9, 7.2, 8.5,	Oxygen Saturation	40.5 - 96.1 % (none) (none) every other year
Dissolved Oxygen	3.48 - 7.76 mg/L	(none) (none) every other year	Ave.: 11-20 ug/L > 5 mg/L	
Varies	Transparency 3.7 – 4.2 m (deeper) 4.3-4.36 m (deeper) 3.7-4.27 m (deeper) 3.3 m			
Water				
pH	6.71-7.41 6.27-6.71 6.26-7.04	pH 6.5 - 8.0		
Acid Neutralizing Capacity	3.9 mg/L 4.6 mg/L 4.5 mg/L 4.5 mg/L*			

* Note: historically NH has low acid neutralizing capacity in water levels due to the granite bedrock; >2 – 5 is “endangered”

8/1/2026

2025 & 2026 Testing Results

July 2025 October 2025 June 2026 Standard			
Chloride	3.46 mg/L 4.33-5.33 mg/L 5.1 mg/L	< 230 mg/L	
Conductivity	29.20 - 30.46 uS/cm 26.88 - 33.53 uS/cm 30.74-36.36 uS/cm	42.3, <100 uS/cm	

High *E. coli* Levels – What We Know

- July 24 – Molly tested and found **23 MPN/100 mL** and **13 MPN/100 mL**



- July 29 – Town of Jaffrey twice a month testing found **117 MPN/100 mL** and **167 MPN/100 mL**
- NH State standard for freshwater beaches is **88 MPN/100 mL**
- Advisory is issued if any one freshwater sample exceeds **158 MPN/100 mL** or if two freshwater samples from one sampling event exceed **88 MPN/100 mL**

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More About *E. coli* &

More About *E. coli* & Coliform Bacteria

- Coliform bacteria come from the fecal waste of

warm-blooded animals (birds, humans, etc.)

- Some coliform bacteria can make us sick (and our pets too) so we don't want high quantities in the pond
- Gets into the pond through: rain events washing fecal material into the pond, septic leaks or failures, etc.
- Shattuck Park (town beach) had a bacteria

- Shattuck Park (town beach) had a bacteria closure in July 2020, may have been anomaly
- Historically our bacteria numbers have been very low – only 2008 and 2011 had high counts

Avoiding a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB)



- None on record for Thorndike Pond so far
- Other NH lakes and ponds have had harmful algal blooms this year
- The last 5 years have broken state records for harmful algal blooms in NH

Harmful Algal Blooms

SMALL BLOOMS LARGE BLOOMS

- Can clear naturally
 - Can clear with some interventions
 - Temporary restrictions on water recreation
 - Temporary toxin warnings
 - Short term health effects
- Long term or permanent “Lake Death” • Human health hazards, in water and in air near pond
 - Lethal to smaller animals
 - Decreased quality of life near pond, damaged ecosystem
 - Well water contamination
 - Property value decreases



Loon Health & Pesticides

Pepper & Lisa shared an article about recent NH research about loons and how PFAS chemicals and heavy metal pollution in the environment harm them

Thorndike Pond wasn't part of the loon egg study; we could do environmental testing for these pollutants

These pollutants harm us too!

<https://newhampshirebulletin.com/2026/07/14/these-more-researchers-look-the-more-contaminants-they-find-in-new-hampshires-loons/>



- **Weed watching** - Contact: David Nash
- **Lake hosting** - Contact: Jim Potter
- **Lake Smart Training** - Contact: Amy McGregor-Radin

- Get your **septic tank** inspected
 - Do **NOT** put fertilizers on your property
 - Keep a **vegetation buffer** around the pond's edge
 - Strategically **direct rain water to filter** through soil, not runoff •
- Thoroughly research **pesticides and pet medications** and avoid those that disrupt pond ecosystems
- **Monitor pond ice** OR **donate caught fish** for mercury testing
 - **VOTE** to support DES funding and lake-friendly legislation

Contact Molly Mansfield: 603-801-0110 mansfieldme@gmail.com