

## **Thorndike Pond Conservation Association Annual Meeting, August 2, 2025**

The 66th Annual Meeting of the Thorndike Pond Conservation Association (TPCA) was called to order at 10:05 by John Brouder, President. The meeting began with a moment of silence for the late Priscilla Hurlin, a long-standing member who summered at Thorndike Pond. John also reminded attendees to inform Amy McGregor-Radin if any properties on the pond are planned for sale within the next 12 months.

John Brouder welcomed new homeowners and members Winston and Kelly Hagen.

Discussed below are the Minutes of the 2025 TPCA Annual Meeting.

### **Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Kathy MacKenzie made a motion to accept the 2024 annual meeting minutes. Steve Magoun seconded, and all were in favor. The meeting minutes were approved.

### **Monadnock Conservancy's Land Conservation Mission**

Roberta Schnoor, is the liaison with the Monadnock Conservancy (which owns and manages Whittemore Island) and introduced Dr. Janine Marr, the Land & Recreation Manager for the Conservancy. Janine discussed the organization's mission to conserve land and promote recreational use. She explained the different types of conservation deeds, including easements and fee lands, and highlighted the Conservancy's work in protecting forests, fields, water properties, and wildlife. Janine also described the Conservancy's community engagement efforts, including guided hikes and volunteer opportunities. She shared the organization's history, achievements, and future plans, including the upcoming opening of their new building in Keene. Janine emphasized the importance of conserving land for water quality protection and invited the audience to get involved with the Conservancy in various ways.

### **Treasurer Report**

John presented the 2025 financials in Amy's absence, and noted that we had a \$19,200 increase over 2024, bringing our total assets to \$152,000. He noted that there was a significant donation from the Fritz family to support the pond. Most of this money is being saved for any potential dam repairs. 46% of our revenues come from donations and our expenditures in 2024 were about \$12,000, 90% of which are for salaries for the Lake Host program.

### **Dam Report**

Pepper Denman noted that this past year we removed three boards, but the water did not drop as much as usual due to beaver impoundment and more rainfall. He discussed the need for future board replacements. Lisa Frantzis raised a question about hiring professionals like Gordon Services for board replacements, which will be discussed further in October. 2026 will be a one board removal year.

### **Weed Watching and Lake Host Updates**

David Nash reported on the weed watching program, which has doubled in participants with new members joining. He noted that while no invasive species were found this

year, there was a close call with potential milfoil at the boat ramp, but this was determined to be native milfoil. There is also a lot of normal water weed in the pond this year.

### **Lake Host Program**

Jim Potter discussed the Lake Host program, which now has 8 paid hosts, up from 6 last year. The lake hosts have been successful in educating boaters and have received reports of suspicious growth from boaters, indicating their educational efforts are paying off.

The group discussed the challenges and costs of maintaining a volunteer Lake Host program, with Lisa Frantzis suggesting a shift to more paid staff due to volunteer shortages and concerns about the importance of pond quality and risks of leaving the boat launch unattended with Lake Hosts. She suggested having a full-time paid person in charge of the overall program (paid and volunteer) to support Jim and Skip, who runs the volunteer program. Jim highlighted the importance of volunteerism and suggested improvements to the sign-up process, while Tammy Fortune emphasized the benefits for campers at Wa-Klo to volunteer and the need for clear scheduling. The Lake Host program will be a priority of the October Board meeting. Members were encouraged to share their thoughts with board members prior to this meeting.

### **Water Quality and Ecosystem Monitoring**

Molly Mansfield, a new volunteer for water sampling, presented her background and plans to continue the water quality monitoring work previously done by Jonathan Birch. Molly presented water quality results for the past year, highlighting improvements in transparency and dissolved oxygen levels, but expressed concerns about acidity and the potential for harmful algal blooms due to climate change. She emphasized the importance of monitoring invasive species and taking practical steps to maintain a healthy ecosystem, such as regular septic system checks, avoiding fertilizer use, and supporting vegetation buffers. Molly also discussed the impact of acid rain and the need to be cautious as environmental regulations may be relaxed, potentially leading to increased acidity in the pond.

Kathy announced that the NH Smart Lake team would visit Thorndike on August 25th, seeking homeowner participation.

### **Ratification of Actions Taken by the Board**

The board ratified a decision to appropriate up to \$5,000 for updating the TPCA website, with Kathy MacKenzie and Steve Magoun planning to reorganize the content.

### **Road Conditions on the Pond**

Kathy MacKenzie reported on road conditions around the pond, highlighting the town's responsiveness to maintenance issues and the importance of keeping culverts clear. She encouraged homeowners to clear clogged culverts if they see them blocked or to call the town to have them clear them. This winter Kathy MacKenzie and volunteers will

put stakes up around the culverts to prevent snow plows from blocking the water flow from culverts.

Tammy discussed the need to maintain the bridge at the north end of Thorndike Pond Road for emergency vehicle access, as it is a critical part of their summer camp's emergency response plan. She will be putting in a formal request noting that emergency vehicles need the bridge and it is critical to their evacuation plans. The bridge is officially in Dublin's jurisdiction.

### **2025-2026 Dues, Volunteer Plans, and More Regular Gatherings**

The 2025-2026 dues of \$200 per property are now due, with payment options via check or PayPal that Amy sent to everyone. Checks can be sent to: TPCA, P.O. Box 595, Jaffrey, NH 03452 or by going to our website at: [www.thorndike.org/duesandcontributions](http://www.thorndike.org/duesandcontributions) to pay with credit card or PayPal.

The importance of volunteering around the pond was emphasized, with opportunities mentioned for weed watching, Lake Hosting, water testing, and a special Fall project to mark culverts. The marking of culverts will need about 5 people for 2 – 3 hours.

Kathy MacKenzie presented plans for additional social activities at Thorndike Pond other than the kayaking on Thursday mornings at 10:00 at the Narrows and the annual social event at the Russell's. Some additional activities might include trail activities at Whittemore Island, hikes, biking, and events for grandchildren.

### **Election of Board Members and Officers**

The nominating committee's report was presented by Pepper Denman, recommending Steve Magoun, Lisa Frantzis, and Wendy Webster for two-year terms on the board, along with the re-election of current officers John Brouder as President, Kathy MacKenzie as Vice President, and Amy McGregor-Radin as Secretary-Treasurer. Anne Stuart made a motion, Carol Greenwald seconded and all were in favor.

### **Jaffrey Property Assessment Updates**

John Brouder discussed the property assessments in Jaffrey, where waterfront properties, including those owned by TPCA members, saw significant increases, with some values doubling or tripling. John explained that these reassessments are required by the state every five years and are primarily driven by increased land values, with the assessors using factors to determine property values. He reassured attendees that while property taxes would increase, they would not double or triple, as the overall property tax rate would be adjusted based on the town's total assessed value. The conversation ended with a recommendation for those concerned about their assessments to schedule appointments with the town assessors for further clarification.

### **Next Steps**

- Board: Discuss management of the Lake Host Program as the number one issue at the October board meeting, considering transitioning to more paid Lake Hosts to account for lack of volunteer coverage. Kathy and Steve to also discuss with Greg

about improving the Lake Host sign-up process on the website. Board to also determine whether to hire Gordon Services for dam board replacement due to insurance/liability concerns at the October meeting.

- Tammy: Ensure Wa-Klo staff properly indicate times when signing up for Lake Host slots on the website.
- All members: Notify Amy McGregor-Radin if their property will be going up for sale in the next 12 months; notify Janine if they observe beech leaf disease on Whittemore Island or around its outskirts; contact David Nash if they notice unusual plant growth in the pond; and contact the Monadnock Conservancy if interested in volunteering, joining committees, or sharing photos of Whittemore Island.

### **Adjournment**

Kathy MacKenzie made a motion to adjourn the meeting around 12:00 pm. Jim Potter seconded; and all were in favor.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Frantzis".

Submitted by Lisa Frantzis, Board Member (for Amy McGregor-Radin, Secretary)