

FY20 PPA Spring Meeting: 14 June 2020

Present were:

23 properties were represented. Please see membership attendees at the end of these minutes.

The meeting was held at Dan Blanchette's camp, 113 Lower Pratt Pond Road. Special thanks to Tom & Mandy Moran for originally planning to host, and for Dan for offering at the last minute to provide some extra social distancing space, and for ultimately hosting.

Current PPA Officers: Joe Woodworth, President; Dwayne White, Vice-President; Bill Symonds, Treasurer; and Sandy Heim, Secretary. PPA Board Members are Mary Fortier, Brett Kivela and Tom Moran.

Introductions

We welcomed all members to our annual meeting.

Topics:

Secretary Report

We discussed the Fall meeting minutes, but did not spend a lot of time reviewing them in order to expedite our meeting. The meeting minutes were accepted.

The web site has been up and running for over a year now. The web site can be found at www.prattpond-nh.org. The web site and email account (PrattPondNH@gmail.com) are managed by Sharon Atwood, Deborah May and Bruce Brennan.

Treasurer Update

Bill Symonds reviewed the FY20 PPA Treasurer's Report (attached). The current balance is \$9,726.79. The PPA spent \$470.00 on registration fees and water testing.

In addition, but not yet reflected on the treasurer's report, on Saturday 6/13/20, the PPA paid an invoice for \$2,000 from Card Transport for ten (10) deliveries of gravel. Grading efforts are expected to begin on the week of 6/22/2020, funded by an appropriation of up to \$1,500 from our 2019 Spring meeting. Please reference the attached Treasurer's Report.

Sandy Heim is accepting membership dues. Please mail your dues to 99 Lower Pratt Pond Road, or feel free to drop the dues of \$60.00 with one of the PPA officers or board members.

Road Committee Update

Joe provided an update on the condition of the roads. Beginning the week of June 1st, ditches were cleared along Lower (thank you Marc Fortier), at the Lower corner near Diane's, at the Flinkstrom corner, and at the boulder near Brenda's. Ten (10) loads of gravel were delivered and placed on Lower (3), Middle (3), and Upper (4). These were roughly spread in preparation for grading efforts. Professional grading efforts may begin as early as the week of June 22.

After the PPA Board identified the locations for the gravel, Joe coordinated with Dean Card and the trucking folks to deliver and spread the roughly 180 yards of gravel. All gravel was delivered and spread during the week of June 8. A motion was made, voted on and approved to reimburse Joe for the expense of servicing his tractor in addition to fuel expenses.

After the meeting, the PPA Officers and Board members decided that reimbursement of tractor repair and/or servicing fees could consume a significant portion of the annual budget. It could

also create a precedence where volunteers may expect some type of payment or reimbursement for their efforts. For this reason, Joe's efforts and donations have been considered as donations to the PPA. Fuel expenses of ~\$30 will be reimbursed.

Note that this does not preclude members from performing paid services to the PPA; PPA may continue to contract members for their services such as culvert repair following typical service procurement processes (quote, approval, service, payment, etc.).

It was decided to allocate funds for 2020/2021 road maintenance. After some discussion, a decision was made to appropriate \$1500 for grader and roller next year. Also, it was decided that we would need additional material, but an actual appropriation could not be made at this time. Instead, it was agreed that the PPA Officers and Board Members would decide how much gravel to purchase. This will be communicated to the PPA as soon as it is determined. Appropriation of the 2020/2021 grading, and the decision to fund some amount of gravel was approved by vote.

Dam Update

Brett provided an update on the dam. Per the PPA handbook, the drawdown started after Columbus Day (actually started on October 9, 2019). Per our discussion with the visiting biologist, and as communicated in the Fall meeting minutes, the drawdown was fast in hopes to eliminate some of the silt floating in the pond. Here is an excerpt from the Fall meeting minutes:

On July 29th, Dan Blanchette and Joe Woodworth were able to discuss weed control with the visiting biologist (Kerri Strobeck). During this discussion, we clarified our understanding of the following:

- Typical dam owners draw down the pond as quickly as possible, subject to downstream restrictions (i.e. care is taken not to flood people's yards downstream).
- Fast drawdowns are preferred because floating silt, particles, weeds, etc. will pass over the dam
 - Fish, turtles and wildlife will only flow over the dam if they want to (extremely unlikely)
 - There are no drawbacks that she was aware of for fast drawdowns.

Brett continues to monitor boulder movement near the original spillway; no significant movement or concerns were identified.

This year is a full drawdown. In October, all boards will be removed and be at its lowest until at least late December when the ice freezes. Those needing to work on their beaches, docks and shores should use this time for those efforts.

Water Report

Norm Sheppard provided an update on the water testing. No additional water test results were available since the Fall. However, due to temporary changes at the laboratory, our measurements will not happen until sometime in July (we need to schedule this). Also, the laboratory will not be performing testing for bacteria (i.e. E-coli).

Norm is investigating local laboratories that can test for E-coli. Dan volunteered to help gather samples, and work with Norm and the PPA to coordinate transportation of the samples and test equipment.

Work Detail

The next scheduled work detail is on Saturday June 27, 2010 at 8:00 AM. Members will meet at the dam. PPA cleanup day typically consists of cutting back brush along the spillway and dam, digging culverts and ditches, picking up trash along the roadways and trimming branches along the roadways. Help is always needed (and appreciated).

Help is requested from members, and non-members, as the work detail is typically difficult when there are few volunteers.

Location for Next Year's PPA Meetings

The Fall 2020 Meeting will be held at Joe Woodworth's camp, Sunday, September 13, 2020, 10:00am at 174 Upper Pratt Pond Road.

Mandy & Tom Moran again volunteered to host next year's PPA Spring Meeting. Per the bylaws, the Spring Meeting occurs on the 2nd Sunday in June. Our Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 13, 2021, 10:00am, at 140 Upper Pratt Pond Road.

The PPA Officers and Board express their appreciation to Mandy & Tom for volunteering to host the Spring meeting.

New Business

We have a domestic duck enjoying pond life. Unfortunately, this temporarily happy duck likely will not survive the winter. Dan and Josie Nason found a home for it in Cheshire, and is willing to help catch and relocate it for the winter. I think this is a good plan, but if you are interested in providing food and housing, please reach out to Dan and Josie.

Dues have been \$60 annual for many years now. Since the cost of water testing, gravel, and the services has increased, we discussed an increase to the dues. A decision, approved by vote, was to increase the 2021/2022 dues from \$60 to \$75 annual.

It appears we have some folks, non-members putting boats into the pond at the dam. A decision was made to fabricate, or purchase "No Public Access" signs for placement at strategic locations (including at the dam). An appropriation of \$250 was made available for this effort.

The Middle Pratt Pond Road sign is missing from the Upper end. An action was taken to request a new sign from the Town of New Ipswich.

Nominations

The PPA Officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary) were up for election this year. Joe and Dwayne volunteered to stay on for two additional years. Bill Symonds volunteered to assume the Secretary position, and Sandy Heim volunteered to assume the Treasurer position. A motion was made for all Officers to continue to serve for the next two years. This motion was approved by vote.

Meeting Adjourned

Attachments

Property Owners in Attendance

2020 Dam Report

2020 Treasurer Report

Property Owners in Attendance:

Dan Blanchette	113 Lower
Brenda Bloomberg	49 Upper
Bruce Brennan	202 Upper
Jenn & Marshall Cain	27 Middle
Mary & Marc Fortier	158 Lower
Diane & Chris Gaudet	190 Upper
Sandy & Ron Heim	216 Upper
Marie Kelly	204 Upper
Brett Kivela	210 Upper
Mandy & Tom Moran	140 Upper
Josie & Dan Nason	151 Lower
Kathy & Gary Niles	109 Lower
Steve Oikelmus	48 Middle
Bruce Ouellette	159 Lower
Dean Pacheco	110 Lower
Nate Retzlaff	21 Upper
Elizabeth Shelley	159 Lower
Joanie & Norm Sheppard	185 Upper
Bill Symonds	200 Upper
Kim Vaillancourt	66 Middle
Jutka Varhegyi	3 Flinkstrom
Dwayne White	120 Upper
Joe Woodworth	174 Upper

2020 Dam Report

- Redwood boards are holding up very well; minimal leakage.
- Minimal movement of the boulders alongside the dam near the old spillway (5/8" in last 3 years)
- Fast drawdown started on Wednesday, 10/16/2019
- Spillway has been maintained at 48" since early Spring.

Note that the full draw-down is planned for Tuesday, 10/13/2020