

Fathoms

The Newsletter of The Sebasticook Lake Association

Volume 29
Number 2

*Our association was formed in 1972 to improve and maintain
water quality and the general conditions of Sebasticook Lake*

November
2022

President's Message

"I like this place, and willingly could waste my time in it"

William Shakespeare

If I didn't know better, I would think that William Shakespeare owned property on Sebasticook Lake, as his quote easily describes my sentiment about being here.

I willingly waste a LOT of my time around Sebasticook lake, all year round. However, I might argue with Mr. Shakespeare that I am not wasting my time, rather, I am INVESTING my time - whether I am sitting in a lawn chair with my feet in the water, or visiting with family and friends on the porch, or raking leaves, or taking pictures of the frozen sunrise – the time I spend here is not a waste of anything.

I KNOW I am investing my time to deepen connections to others when I spend time sharing camp with them. I also know that I am investing my time when I willingly plant one more tree or deep-rooted bush to act as a buffer, or walk the shoreline on the lookout for invasive plants. I am CERTAIN that I am investing my time when I check the Maine DEP or Maine Lake Society websites for updates on accepted practices to help protect the lake and the things living in and around it. And I am just as certain that these investments will not only strengthen relationships, they are SURE to benefit me, the future generations who will come to camp, and the lake itself.

That said, I ask that ALL of you make the effort to INVEST in yourself and the lake; reflect on the number of times you enjoyed the FABULOUS lake water quality we had last summer, take notice of the trees and wildlife around the lake on your daily walks, plan an afternoon of fellowship with family and/or friends on the lawn next summer, and introduce yourself to any new property owner-neighbors. By welcoming newcomers to the lake community, you offer them the opportunity to learn how to become caretakers of this precious, fragile gem that we may take for granted, but which begs to be protected.

As the seasons progress and people button up their property against the cold, there will be time to contemplate your own 'waste of time' at the lake, and to determine which investments you can make to ensure that your Dear Ones will have this resource to enjoy for generations to come.

*Happy, Safe, Healthy Winter to All,
Muf*

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday July 8th 10 a.m. at the American Legion Hall



**Coffee and Donuts Before the Meeting
Barbecue After the Meeting**



We are asking for Lake Association members to please help with the annual barbecue by bringing a dessert.
Thanks.



Lake Association Officers

President – Muffy Pare 207-368-5424
Herhighnes@midmaine.com
Vice President - Deb Ferrell 368-4769
Secretary- Darcy Parlee 461-2452
dlparlee@yahoo.com
Co-Treasurers – Andre Cushing 207-745-6776
andre@andrecushing.com
Tom Quintino 775-570-1924
tquintino@ymail.com

Committee Chairpersons

Dam Committee – Deb Ferrell 368-4769
daferrell11@gmail.com
Membership Committee – Allan Fernald 368-5492
Nominating Committee - Dick Stone 368-2272
Social Committee – Barbara Cloutier 368-5601
sportsnanaofsix@gmail.com
Claudette Amaroso
amorosojt@aol.com

“Fathoms” Newsletter Staff

Debbie Ferrell 368-4769
Muffy Pare 368-5424
Rick Perlmutter 368-2225

**2021 Annual Loon Count
For Sebasticook Lake:**



**27 Adult Loons
1 Chick**

*Loons sing their praise
tree frogs echo through the
night.
New friendships are made
and old friendships strengthen
and reunite.*

Corey Long

**TRANSFER
STATION
HOURS**

**Tuesday thru Friday 8 am to 6 pm
Saturday 8 am to 4 pm
Closed Sunday and Monday**



ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

For those of You
Who Wish To Be Part of
The Sebasticook Lake Association
Yet Do Not Live on the Lake
\$8 Per Year
Includes
“The Fathoms” Newsletter



Sebasticook Lake Association
Caps and Shirts and Canvas Bags
Make Great Christmas Presents

Show off your membership in the Lake Association
and support it at the same time!
Check them out at the annual meeting or
Contact Muffy 368-5424

Shirts \$20

Caps \$10

Lake Association E-Mail Data Base

We are continually building an e-mail database of Sebasticook Lake Association members. There will be an e-mail sign-up sheet at this year’s meeting. If you are unable to attend, please send your e-mail address to
PERLMUTTERS@MSN.COM

Of course, e-mail addressed will be used only for Lake Association business and will *never* be given out.

SEBASTICOOK LAKE ASSOCIATION MINUTES

July 9, 2022

The meeting was held at the American Legion Hall in Newport, Maine on Saturday at 10:00 am.

There were 72 people in attendance.

We opened with the Call to Order and the Flag Salute.

Introduction of Officers - Muffy introduced herself as the President, Debbie Ferrell as the Vice President, Darcy Parlee, as the Secretary and Rick Berry as the Treasurer.

Muffy asked if there were any new members in attendance and asked if they would introduce themselves.

The Presidents Report and Secretary's Minutes of 2021 were accepted and approved.

Treasurer's Report – *Rick Berry* – Rick handed out the balance sheet for 2021 to the officers and quickly went over the deposits and expenses. Allen Whitaker mentioned that an invoice will be coming for the new meter as one needed to be purchased. He said, “We have the meter but don't have the cable and once we receive it, we'll receive the invoice.”

The Treasurer's report was accepted as written.

Membership Committee – *Allan Fernald* – Allan is looking for someone to take over the membership committee as he has done it for 27 years. We have been getting dues from about 75% of the lake property owners, but the last few years it has dropped due to Covid. This year we are at 61% but there are a lot of new property owners, and they don't understand who we are. There are three areas that make up about 60% of our no pay areas: Camp Benson, Maplewood and Durham Bridge. Do we have a flyer to explain who we are? Maybe we can come up with something to assist and give to property owners that don't know who we are. If there is any documentation regarding the watershed coming up, maybe we can mention the lake association with it? A question was asked if we got a good response from requesting people to pay ahead for future years. Allan said he did and got some negative feedback and comments as well. Muffy said she believed there was a flyer or informational from a past Code Enforcement Officer and maybe it could be sent to the current Code Enforcement Officer.

Water Sampling Committee – *Allen Whitaker* – Two tests have been completed this year. The secchi disc reading was 3.30 meters deep which is pretty good. This week was 2.6 meters. It has gone down that much in two weeks. A third one should be done to really see how it is. Last year in August it was 1.81 and in September 1.89. Allen and Donnie Gross were both certified by the State of Maine to do this. Muffy offered the lake association to pay for the gas for his boat and Allen declined. The question was asked about how long do meters last. The last one we had lasted 15 years and we just recently purchased a new one.

Newsletter Committee – *Rick Perlmutter* – *Debbie Ferrell* - We got a huge number of returns from the Post Office. Thanks to Tom Hannula's letter, we didn't have to plagiarize anything. Is there anything anyone would like to see in the newsletters? If you didn't get your newsletter, please check out on the table to see if yours is there? Debbie received 40+ newsletters back this year. Usually, it's 10-15. Debbie asked how many people were here the first week of June and if she waited until the second week of June to mail them out, would it make a difference in how many people would be here to their summer homes. She then suggested for people to go onto our website if they didn't get their newsletter. It was also mentioned that the Post Office has gotten pickier with addresses. We could always use more people on the staff of the newsletter committee. Muffy said we like to put “how we got here” in the newsletter, so if anyone wants to submit those, that would be helpful.

Cookout Committee – *Myron Winders* – The hamburgers will be juicy, the hotdogs will be snappy, and we'll have a great cookout this year.

Fireworks Committee – *Mike Vining* - The fireworks will be at just about 9:15pm tonight. Our fireworks donations were above budget but we're going to have a major change in our donations as the Loconte's are no longer going to be here. They usually donate about 50% towards our fund. When we first started, the shows were short, and we had to stretch it out. We're going to have to raise more money in the future. We're all set for next year as far as the permits and we just need to talk to Dave to mow the lawn. Central Maine Pyrotechnics is the company we use for the fireworks. A reminder was said to keep your boat lights on, no canoes or kayaks in the cove. There is a boating safety book at the town office. Go get a book and a map if you have questions on boating safety.

New Business – Onions! Muffy went to remind the cookout committee to start the onions.

Hamlin Marine purchased the Vic Firth property. There is a 10-year plan with incremental changes as there was some asbestos that needed to be taken care of. Right now, it is being used for storage.

Watershed Management – Can we keep the water high in the winter? Engineering companies were used and there were interviews. We had \$70,000 given to us from the Maine DEP 604(b) grant. We should be receiving information via email, on the website, etc. There is going to be a survey and property owners will be asked to contribute to that data base. The plan will end in 2024. There may or may not be some changes. Next year will be exciting as we'll have more information at that point.

Officer Positions – We're hoping that new people will participate as a lot of officers have been doing this a long time. We need some new blood. Rick would like to have someone take over the Treasurer's position, Muffy would like someone to take over being the President and Allan Fernald would like someone to take over the Membership Committee. We do have some interested parties that would be interested in being co-Treasurers, Tom Quintino and Andre Cushing. It was motioned to have Tom and Andre be the new co-Treasurer's and accepted. It was a unanimous vote.

Andrew J. Colford has graciously considered the position of President. Muffy said it was a good move. If she won the lottery, she wouldn't be here tomorrow. There might be some changes next year. Andrew is newly elected to the Town Council.

Railroad Bed Improvement Efforts - Across the lake, by the new campground there are 1.3 miles where coal was used back in the day. The black coal dust is bothersome to people when it is stirred up. It may be contributing to some poor water quality. There are funds to the Maine Trail systems that will be used for resurfacing, some fabric, crushed shale and slate to help resolve this issue. It will be compacted to minimize the dust. This is at no cost to the Lake Association. Any work that the Town of Newport does as far as grading will be 90% reimbursed.

Miscellaneous – Allan Fernald mentioned that he likes to have some help in the spring for mowing and cleaning up. He mentioned that he had found a good person to assist with things like that. If anyone wants a business card of his, to please go see him.

There is a schedule for the Watershed Program if anyone would like to have one.

Anyone born after 1999, you may need to get a license to operate a boat. There are new laws going into place. Seniors statewide are eligible for stabilization for Property Tax owners. LD290 – Stabilize your property taxes. You must be a year-round resident.

Guest Speaker – Melissa Genoter, Student Research Assistant at UMO – What is the economic value of Maine's lakes to the state? She's comparing to the study of 1990.

She grew up on Maranacook Lake. When she was at the age to start working, if she could find a job, she would stay in Maine during the summer. She helps with the Cobbossee Watershed. She has helped with buffers, boat checking for invasive plants, etc.

The original study looked at in state and out of state comparisons. It looked at recreation uses, summer camps, water usage and lakefront property taxes as well as the value that comes from being on the water. People coming into town to use the lakes contribute to the local economy. The economic impact was in the billions. This is very important economically to the state. Melissa thought that since it's been 30 years, it was time to see what the changes were, especially with Covid and a lot of people currently buying property in Maine. The basic aim of the study is to determine how water quality effects economic value. She wants to get this info out to lake associations so we can decide how to manage the lake for the best economic outcome. Lake Regional Analysis – they are looked at in groups – they have data from the 1970's and are now looking at doubling the areas from back then. Seven regions in the 70's to 13 now. All the secchi disk data is sent to the Maine DEP. They can use that to tie into property value. Clear water increases the value of the home. If there are invasive plants, it would decrease or change the value of the property. One-meter changes up or down can change property value by 3-9% from the 1990 study. They are also looking at travel trends to see how many people are coming into the area for the lakes. How much are they spending? Drinking water – there are several lakes that are used for drinking water, so the clarity of water effects the cost of drinking water. Summer camps bring in hundreds of millions of dollars for the state. They are going to send out surveys to ask people questions about what drew them to a lake, what are they using it for, etc.? There are a lot of other activities, snowmobiling and winter activities that bring value as well. They are working on a way to measure those values when the water is frozen. Not as easy to put a sticker price on. Money Talks! It's exciting to hear about the work she is doing. It keeps her going!

Any information on the traffic circle? Maine Department of Transportation is going to put a rotary in 2023-2024. Last year there was a mention of a rice looking weed in the water by Margo Jackish's place. Margo was asked if anyone came out to look at it. She said no one had been out.

There was a mention of trash at Durham bridge and on County Woods Road bridges where people fish. Is it possible to get trash cans put in these areas? Muffy is going to ask the town. She knew at one point they didn't want to put them out as they froze in the winter, but she would ask again and see if maybe they could put them out for the summer for people that fish.

Mr. Fernald asked about the new restaurant. No one knew much except that it's going to be Caribbean cuisine. Paul Greene asked if the watershed program included the entire watershed. There is an informational packet that tells about it. He's asking about all the surrounding ponds and lakes in about a 10-mile radius which would include about 17,000 people. It should, but we will know more in the coming months/years.

Motion to adjourn was at 1127 am.

The Lake Book

Everyone should look at the fourth edition of *The Lake Book* which was developed by Maine Lakes and FB Environmental Associates with funding provided by the Margaret Burnham Charitable Trust, Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund. and Curran & Woodard Foundation.

You can either purchase the book for \$8.50 or download the PDF version for free at www.lakes.me/lakebook.

I think you will really enjoy all the information, explanations, and pictures it provides

DID YOU KNOW?

The Newport Cultural Center offers the following:

Free downloadable eBooks and audiobooks through the cloud library. You can access the cloud library at <https://www.youreloudlibrary.com>

Free downloadable comics and graphic novels through ComicsPlus. For first time users follow this link to set up your account: <https://www.maineinfonet.org/comicsplus/digitalmainecomics/>

Cooks Corner



Best Cocoa Mix By Rick Perlmutter

You may never buy cocoa mix again after tasting this incredibly rich chocolatey mix. All ingredients are available at either Hannaford or WalMart.

280 grams of Nonfat Dry Milk
220 grams of Confectioners Sugar
(I use 200 grams for a special dark chocolate taste)
295 grams Dutch-Processed Unsweetened Cocoa Powder
258 grams of White Chocolate Chips
1/4 teaspoon Salt

Combine all ingredients in large bowl and mix well. Working in two batches, pulse ingredients in food processor until white chocolate chips are finely ground.

To make hot cocoa, stir rounded 1/4 cup of this mix into a cup of hot water.

Suggestion: Serve with a generous pour of Peppermint Schnapps.

Shoreland Permits

by
Debbie Ferrell

Many of you are aware of the egregious violations that occurred on our lake this past year. Newport town officials are currently investigating three very serious violations with ME DEP. Those responsible are faced with heavy fines and required repair of the violated areas. Once these violations are resolved we will publish the results. Please bear in mind that there are permits required to do any work in the shoreland zone. Contact numbers are listed below if you are unsure of what is required.

NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT (NRPA) The Natural Resources Protection Act requires a permit from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for projects located in, on, over, and adjacent to protected natural resources, including great ponds (natural lakes larger than 10 acres or 30 acres if impounded by a dam) and freshwater wetlands. Activities in or within 75' of a waterbody or wetland that require a permit include removing or displacing soil, sand, vegetation, or other materials; constructing, altering, or repairing a permanent structure; and filling, dredging, or bulldozing. Two types of NRPA permits include:

PERMIT BY RULE (PBR): This permit gives approval for 18 activities that have limited impact and low risk of harm to lakes. The DEP regularly reviews this list so check their website (maine.gov/dep/nrpa/ip-pbr.html) for updates. The activities now include such things as shoreline stabilization and movement of rocks or vegetation along a shoreline. Applications must be filed prior to beginning work on the activity and agree to follow prescribed standards. The current application fee is \$250, though permit fees may be waived for certain activities. Check with your local DEP office for more information.

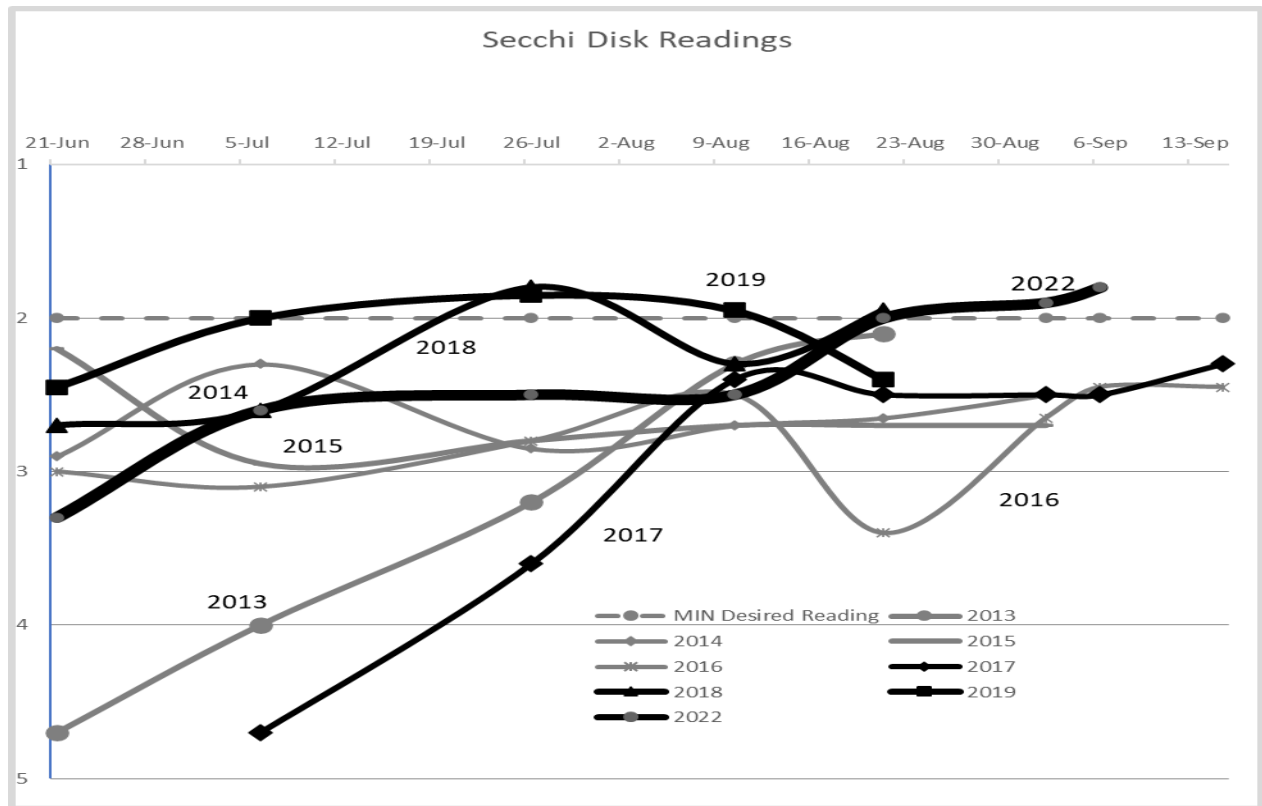
FULL NRPA PERMIT: A full NRPA permit is required when activities proposed do not qualify under PBR standards, for example, dredging of a channel in a lake or installing a private boat launch ramp. These types of projects generally require review by staff from several state agencies and take longer to process. Among other things, each full NRPA permit requires that the activity will not cause unreasonable erosion or lower water quality. Visit maine.gov/dep/land/nrpa/ for more details.

NRPA CONTACTS: For permit questions, or if you need a field determination, call one of the following numbers, and ask to speak with the "on-call" person for the NRPA program. Augusta: (207) 287-7688 or (800) 452-1942 Bangor: (207) 941-4570 or (888) 769-1137.

A Big "Thanks" To All 2022 Fireworks Sponsors!

Doug Qua
Kim and Sandra Carter
Douglas and Gail Rice
John and Susan Burgess
Goody Gilman
Debbie Ferrell
Allen Graves
Richard and Gayle Perlmutter
Roger and Sharon Crosby
Bill and Christine Fowler
Michael Giambro
David Barbour
4 Seasons Floral and Gift
Bear's One Stop
James and Debra Ricker
Hartley's
William Johnston
Goody Gilman
Christies Campground
Newport Campgrounds
Maine Fireworks

Lovely's Motel
Newport Fireworks
Debra and Greg Lovely
Newport Chiropractic
Angler's Restaurant
Janet & Bob Ellsworth
James Bullitt
Jim Ricker
Carol & David Hetterich
Muffy Pare
Midge Gamboa
Ralph and Donna Fowler
Sonya Frey
Diane Garnelis
Avis & Dana Adams
Andrew/Donna Colford
Joyce Shippee
The LoConte Family
Allen/Terry Fernald
Tom Quintino
Bryan Liebenthal
JS Lemieux & Sons



Note: 2020 and 2021 are missing from chart due to lack of sufficient data.

2022 Water Quality Readings were taken by Allan Whitaker along with some Donnie Gross at times. Due to the pandemic 2020 there were no certified readings and in 2021 we had a few “non-certified” readings taken by Andre Cushing and Allan Whitaker. The first training classes were in 2022 and Allan Whitaker and Donnie Gross were certified to take Secchi Disk readings by the Lake Stewards of Maine. Since our new Dissolved Oxygen meter was not available from the manufacturer until mid-July Alan Whitaker and Donnie Gross will be certified on that device next spring.

A Letter from Our New Treasurer

Greeting fellow lake association members. I am Andre Cushing and I took over the position of treasurer at the last meeting.

I wanted to first thank Rick Berry for his help in the transition and his many dedicated years of service. As we are an all volunteer organization with no real fixed office location for materials, it was decided to add a co-treasurer to assure continuity of access to our accounts and information. Tom Quintino agreed to serve in this role. We don't anticipate any issues but it always good to have a plan in place before you need one.

The officers are reviewing potential options to set up an online payment system for dues and to accept donations. Muffy recently polled the membership for feedback, so stay tuned for any announcements.

As a little background, my wife Gwen and I bought our home on Maplewood in the summer of 2015 and have come to love living on Sebecook. We find it a very peaceful and friendly place. We both are real estate agents and have 3 adult children and now 6 grandchildren. I serve as county commissioner for southern Penobscot County and previously served in the Maine Legislature and on two town councils.

Tom is from Milford and is sales manager for a fire equipment company and he and his wife LaDawna who works in technical support for a large company have owned their Grove Street property since the fall of 2021. They have 3 children, 1 daughter and 2 sons. We welcome them to the Sebecook Lake community.

We thank the association for their confidence in electing us and look forward to seeing you all next summer.

My mailing address for any dues payments or donations is 123 Maplewood Rd, Newport, ME 04953



Sebasticook Lake Association

www.sebasticooklakeassociation.org

Membership Form

Name _____

Address (Summer) _____

Address (Winter) _____

Telephone (Summer / Winter) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please check if this is an address change

Dues for January 2022—December 2023:

Regular \$10.00 Associate \$8.00

Make Checks Payable To:
Sebasticook Lake Association
c/o Andre Cushing
123 Maplewood Road
Newport, Maine 04953

FALL 2022 ISSUE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



22 Loon Drive
NEWPORT, ME 04953