

2023 MINUTES

**Basin David Tilton Pond Association Annual Meeting
Saturday, August 5, 2023 at 10am @ Fayette Central School, Fayette**

BDTPA Members total = 34

Required quorum= 25%of members in good standing, having paid dues

BDTPA household voting units present = 18

1) Call to Order

2) Vote to approve 2022 minutes – Voted and passed

- a. Change Deb Cayer is only LakeSmart rep, not 30 MRWA Rep
- b. Minutes approved as corrected

3) President's Comments by Steve Smith-Erb

Thanks to the newsletter people who generated the newsletter.

BDTPA.org website has tons of information available for those interested.

Thanks to everyone for work on the impoundment, and water level, and by-laws review. Should be ready to review and vote next year.

One maybe 2 chicks on David, 2 chicks on Tilton. Can add pictures of loons to the website.

No major proposals that require voting. Just officers for next year and donations.

4) Reports from Officers and Liaisons

a. Treasurer's Report – Gail Rioux

- i. Starting Balance \$5,787.78
- ii. Dues/Donations +1670
- iii. Expenses -1976.36
- iv. New Balance \$5481.40

Treasurer's report was voted on and approved.

b. Water Level and Beaver Deceiver – John Andrews

- i. Maintaining the water level and impoundment a critical reason for the group.
- ii. John – Recapped last year – rise in water level due to Beaver activity at impoundment. Removed debris, reached out to state fish and game, for input. Installed beaver deceiver. 2023: Explained water deceiver; Deceiver had a bend in it, so water was not moving through. Water levels are currently the same as last year. Fixed the impoundment several times, tore out beaver dam again. Beavers rebuild in two days. Discussion about

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what is the right water level – between 391 and 392. Deceiver has not been proven to keep water level yet. (What needs to be done?)

Bob Harradon – summary of monitoring started in 2017. Explained his process, set benchmarks around the lake with references back to a USGS elevation and reading from 1966. Corrected based on changes to the ‘datum’. Pond goes up and down 2 feet over the course of a spring/summer. 2016 drought photos sent out. Added a string measurement at 391 right across the dam so they can measure across when they go down. Want to keep it at 391.6.

Things to maintain the water level: Board will look into removing beavers and come up with options.

c. Invasive Plant Patrol – Stephen Smith-Erb

Many trained including Cayers, Joe and Moe, Sue, Steve. Online material website available. Need to submit paperwork to lake stewards – action item. Currently no known invasive plants. Keep boats clean when friends visit. Bill Cayers – does invasive plant surveys, retired, not on David Pond. Best time to survey is August. Bill and Deb do the neck. BDPTA needs to coordinate invasive views on each pond. Lake stewards of Maine has an online course to take.

d. Water Quality Report – Deb Cayer

30Mile does 2X month on David may-sept, Tilton starting, and do it on Basin. Volunteers and 30 mile people perform the tests. Clarity reading (disc), dissolved oxygen, chemistry readings (phosphorus included). MWRA has website with all the clarity readings. Clarity reduces over the summer. Currently 5.5; dissolved o2 loss worse – likely due to more rain and runoff. Leads to phosphorus increase, and algae. Small increases cause substantial algae. Was 6.6 in 2022 historically has been higher. Basin is protected, deep woods buffers runoff is nonexistent. Clarity: 11M, last year 10.5; Tilton less clear due to the runoff. To reduce your runoff – use lake smart, can help you determine the level of runoff. Signup sheet and will be contacted by lake smart. Conservation corps will help mitigate (part of 30mile) will identify and help with the mitigation. What are the three things: Any open area will bring in runoff; winding path down to the dock and a good buffer; No lawn if possible – no fertilizer;

e. 30 Mile River Watershed Association (MRWA) – Lidie Robbins

Update on the work that directly benefits the three ponds; Regional coalition of connected watersheds. Grant to fund Tilton Pond monitoring. Data placed on website and an annual water quality report. Have been doing it 8 years, need 10 for a trend evaluation. Work at public boat launches. Fighting invasive variable milfoil on Androscoggin lake, making progress. Need more volunteers for lake smart. Working with towns to help get grant money to address runoff issues. Lake books are available for free at the meeting, normally \$8. Resource for how to live near a lake. 30Mile has a building in Mount Vernon, near corner store. Funding – from towns and lake associations and individuals. Full season of David Pond water monitoring takes \$4500 per year. Any increase would be appreciated. Don't use any products with phosphorus, make

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sure septic is functioning. Sandy River road has some check dams to gather runoff. DEP has David Pond on threatened list due to its sediment chemistry. Happens when there is no or low oxygen.

5) Additional Reports

a. Town Land on David Pond – Stephen Smith-Erb

Two handouts, tax map and report. Property acquired by the town is on North David. The committee has produced recommendations. Pond interests were highly represented. June 27 made a report with recommendations. 100 acre, R20 and R22, R18. Committee has recommended the town keep the property in perpetuity. Recommendations inline with the town's master plan. Supreme court decision, Maine Law has a section that the town may need to pay a difference. BOS has to figure out the legal side. Mark, town manager, recommended keeping the land. Sales will not cover the costs the town would need to incur to provide services. Fayette residents can and should vote.

Comments: Bob? – BOS staff can change, Is there a permanent decision that can be made so it doesn't change in 10 years. Can the town put a conversation easement which would protect the land forever. The association can send a letter to the town in support?

Motion: We represent to the town manager and BOS that the association supports the recommendation from the public lands committee proposed plan and with the addition of a conservation easement that codifies in perpetuity with low impact, and no motorized vehicles.

Comment: Additional access, parking areas discussed, what about other uses? What path are we pushing for? KLT involvement desired. KLT could own the land, but BDTPA owns the conservation easement.

Vote: Approved

b. Review of BDTPA Bylaws – Steve Melchiskey

Review of the bylaws started with Tom last year. Bylaws are a living document, needs to be refreshed. Need better definitions, adding the rights for the impoundment. How will the bylaws best serve the organization. How do we take votes, decisions? Need more precise definitions of membership. Volunteers welcome. Are we an LLC? Not for profit corporation, but bylaws don't specify. Work continuing with new bylaws to be presented at next year's meeting.

6) Regular Business

a. Election of Officers and Trustees (nominations from floor welcome)

Slate of Candidates for 2023-2024

2023 MINUTES

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1. Officers:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| a. President | Stephen Smith-Erb |
| b. Vice-President | Steve Melchiskey |
| c. Treasurer | Gail Rioux |
| d. Secretary | Ellen Smith-Erb |

2. Trustees:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| a. Sue French Smith | new 3-year term |
| b. John Andrews | (one year remaining – not up for vote) |
| c. Chris Riley | (two years remaining – not up for vote) |

Moved, Voted and approved.

b. Dues to affiliate organizations

- i. 30 MRWA (\$600 recommended)
- ii. Lake Stewards of Maine (\$100 recommended)
- iii. Maine Lakes Society (\$100 is recommended)

Motion to approve, seconded.

Discussion: Increase to 30MRWA? To \$700? Gail opposes may need to trap beavers, it's a third of our income. Look into other ways to support 30MRWA instead of our membership funds, would we do a fundraiser instead?

Voted on amended \$700 Approved

Voted on all three – Approved

7) New business

- a. Request for updated contact info at <https://bdtpa.org> (necessary for emails and newsletter)
- b. Other as appropriate

8) Set date for 2023 meeting and motion to adjourn. July 20th proposed, no objections.

Motion approved for adjournment. Next annual meeting will be July 20th.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue French Smith

BDTPA trustee