



BEAR POND CURRENTS

August 2002

Bear Pond Improvement Association

BPIA Representatives

President

Mary Monahan Wallace
224-7198

Vice President

Dick Bray
224-7763

Secretary

Doreen Maxwell
224-7147

Treasurer

Connie Bilodeau
224-7487

Board Of Directors

Bruce Goddard - 224-8034
Mike Gordon - 224-7812
Ken Holt - 224-7925
Bill Lamb - 224-7739
Bernie McAllister - 224-7611
Kent Mitchell - 224-7375

Newsletter Editor

Rich Bray - 224-8036
rnbrayjr@aol.com

Committee Chairs

- ◆ Dam Keeper - Moe LeClerc
- ◆ Dam Fundraiser - Goddards
- ◆ Loon Nest - The Pillsburys
- ◆ Membership - Tim Verrill
- ◆ Monitors - R. Bray, K. Holt, K. Mitchell

Other Important Numbers

Hartford Town Office 388-2674
Turner Office 225-3414
Game Warden - 657-2345

BPIA Recieves DEP Grant

Last week, Jeff Stern of the Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District received word from the DEP that the BPIA watershed project was accepted by the Maine DEP. The total amount of the grant is \$59,116, and will be awarded for 2003. The DEP will provide \$35,758 and BPIA will provide \$23,358 in volunteer hours.

BPIA committee Chair Vice President Dick Bray notified his committee Mo LeClerc, Bev Murphy, Barry Therrien and Ken Holt that the long hours spent these past two years had at last paid off.

The DEP proposal review committee evaluated many proposals using weighted criteria and grant fund allocations. They concluded their letter by congratulating Jeff Stern of the Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District and the BPIA for the development of a successful proposal and welcomed the opportunity to help BPIA improve and protect the water quality of Big and Little Bear Ponds.

BPIA wants to thank everyone who has worked so long, Jeff Stern and his associates, Dick Bray and his committee and all the volunteers who conducted the actual survey. We also wish to correct an error that Ken Holt's name was left off the committee in the last newsletter and the LaPlante Road Association was not included in the list of letters of support for the survey that were submitted with the application.

Now the real work must begin as criteria are developed on how the money will be spent.

Schedule Of Activities

NEXT BPIA MEETING

Sunday, August 25th

At Boofy Quimby Hall at 9:00 AM

2003 Pot Luck Supper

Saturday July 19th, 2003 at 5:00PM

Bear Pond Currents Is The Seasonal Newsletter



Of The Bear Pond Improvement Association

Committee Chosen to Study Repair of The Dam

At the last meeting of the BPIA, Mary Wallace, president, appointed Mike Gordon, one of the dam keepers, chairman of a committee to study the repair of the dam. Mo LeClerc, dam keeper, had previously reported that the eight beams that comprise the superstructure of the dam will need to be replaced. The committee needs volunteers, particularly members that have some experience in construction. The role of the committee will be to study the best way to repair the dam that will be cost efficient, and last for the long term. They will present a recommendation to the membership at the June meeting next year for a vote. The work will take place one year from this October.

The dam is over 100 years old and has received tender loving care and attention from the BPIA who now owns and insures the dam. One hundred fifty years ago there was only a stream here. The dam was built for a saw mill and its building created Bear Pond. Like many other lakes and ponds in Maine, Bear Pond is held in by the dam. The dam fund has almost \$5,000, raised over the last 8 years by selling our "Bear Wear." This money has been earmarked for the upkeep and repair of the dam. Our dam fund raiser chairpeople, the Goddards, (phone number on page 1) still have some T-shirts available and will have a supply of new merchandise next year.

Our volunteer dam keepers are Mo LeClerc, Roger Marshall, and Mike Gordon.

REMINDER: Be sure all docks, etc., are secured for the winter because when they float away they can cause damage to the dam in the spring.

Jeff Richards Gets \$500 Grant From IP

For the second year, BPIA member Jeff Richards has received a grant from International Paper to aid the Association in disseminating information about the prevention of milfoil in the lake. The monies will be used in part to prepare new signs for the boat launch as well as several other accesses to the pond that will warn of the dangers and the fines surrounding bringing milfoil into a lake on motors, transports and jetskis.

Milfoil, especially Eurasian milfoil, is a seriously invasive plant that thrives and overtakes a lake or pond until there is no room for swimmers or boaters. It is almost impossible to destroy without going to great expense. (See other articles in previous newsletters.) It is brought into a lake by a motor, transport or jetski and even when it looks dry or dead can still grow in the pond. Boats that have been on other lakes should be washed and inspected before they enter Bear Pond. Infestation lowers property value significantly.

We are very thankful to Jeff Richards, and applaud his initiative on behalf of our pond.

Highlights of July Meeting

40 members in attendance

- Treasurer's report:
Checking: \$1,891.91
Savings: \$1,038.63
Dam fund: \$4,831.60
- Dam Keeper: See article elsewhere on repair of dam
- Membership: 141 families on the pond have joined BPIA. There are 210 families on the pond. Dues are \$15 a year. All families are encouraged to join, especially since dues help with water testing and the dam fund.
- Dam Fund Raiser Committee: only a few shirts remain. New merchandise next year.
- Water Testing Committee: Last Secchi disk reading was over 21.5 feet or 6.6 meters of water clarity.
- Nominating Committee: Officers for the next two years will be Mary Wallace, President Dick Bray, Vice President Connie Bilodeau, Treasurer Peggy Poskus, Secretary

Pot Luck Supper Cooks

Approximately 90 people gathered at Boofy Quimby Hall for the annual pot luck supper and auction. Chair-couple Arnie and Roberta Burgess and a host of volunteers prepared the hall for the sumptuous feast of dishes lovingly prepared by our members. The food was plentiful and the air was filled with laughter and friendship.

The annual auction was conducted by auctioneer Ken Holt and assisted by Barbara Lamb. Many lovely handmade items and home cooked goodies were auctioned to raise \$362 for the dam fund.

Hartford to Reassess Properties

All members of the BPIA who own property in the town of Hartford should be aware that the town will be reassessing all property throughout the next year. Having some knowledge of appraising, assessments, etc. I have volunteered to assist the town in this effort as the present assessments are nine years old.

Having talked to a couple of reputable Maine appraisers, I am reasonably confident that the reevaluation company that the town is working with, O'Donnell and Assoc., is a reputable firm and will do the job right.

It is expected that work will start in the Bear Pond area the last week of August. Reevaluation people will be inspecting all properties from the exterior to determine the condition, additions, etc.

Special care should be taken by all property owners that their property is correctly listed in terms of size, condition, extra features etc. In some cases an interior inspection may be advised especially with seasonal properties so they are not counted as year round residences as sometimes happens.

I am available to assist any BPIA member with questions about this process.

Thomas C. Novak 978-538-9876