



SPIA Semi Annual membership meeting  
9 am Saturday, June 28, 2025  
Acton Town Hall

1) Meeting call to order 9:01AM

2) Standing Reports

A) President's Report.

Lee welcome, thank everyone for attending and acknowledged our broad base of volunteers and the volunteers present at the meeting with a show of hands. Community and growing year round residents. Encouraged everyone to get involved.

There are several changes to corporate governance; Brian is stepping down as treasurer, Mark Parenti will be taking on the position. The Board of directors voted Mark onto board and into treasurer, to be ratified at August membership meeting

There is an opening on board and Lisa Garroway has been attending meetings in anticipation of joining the board, more to come at the August meeting.

Recognitions for commitment and countless hours of service:

-Marji Kilgus was acknowledged. For 17 years we have enjoyed the SPIA newsletter from Marji, which includes educational, family stories, articles of interest to residents. Quality is an envy of other lake associations. Everyone looks forward to the newsletter every year. Christine Beaudoin will take over going forward. Marji is also Facebook administrator for SPIA, manages the tone and content of page. SPIA president assistant for Bill during presidency. Marji involved with snail snatchers as surface support. Marji was presented with a gift to show our appreciation.

-Donna Rosenkrans has been IPP coordinator for 14 years, resident expert in invasive identification. Honing skills and sharing knowledge of Invasive plants. Proactively addresses high risk areas of the lake, recruits volunteers. Countless hours spent volunteering and so far no invasive plants. Continues on IPP team and advisor to Aaron Smart who is the new IPP coordinator. Donna was also Membership chairperson for 5 years before handing off to Kim. Also surface support for snail snatchers. Token of our appreciation gifted to Donna.

B) Review and Approve Secretary's Report.

John Cole was not able to attend, secretary's report was available for review and was approved.

C) Review and Approve Treasurer's Report.

Budget documents were available for membership to review. Brian presented good cash on hand. Filling of dive tanks is now taken care of and donations. Good spot for finances to be

ready to preserve lake if needed IPP. We moved, seconded, and unanimously passed his report.

### 3) Other Reports

#### A) Water Clarity Test Report - Rob Caron

Twice already tested: clarity, dissolved oxygen, temperature. Clarity higher than 20.4, pollen should be resolving and getting better. Dissolved O2 stable, on par with previous years. Temp just warmed up this week. Surface 71 degrees, bottom 53 degrees last week. On par with the current time of year.

Last year 2024, phosphorus test was back in October: state DEP tests phos, copper, iron, pH, etc. We are way below EPA limits for bodies of water.

Bruce Tessier is monitoring bacteria as well, not started yet this year. Last year was good.

#### B) Chinese Mystery Snail report/Dive Team – Rob Caron

First dive 2 weeks ago, next tomorrow. 10 divers, 13 surface support. 210 pounds of snails. Limited time down due to temperature. Dive planned for Sunday, encouraged more surface support to join to support divers.

Stressed importance of surface support for safety of divers. Explained how to sign up on [Signupgenius.com](https://signupgenius.com) via link in email.

102 volunteers on email list for dives. 38 certified divers on the list. Good for snails as well as a response team if needed for invasive plants or other issues that may arise.

Education occurs to divers on invasive plants to help spot early.

SPIA obtained a dive fill compressor to fill dive tanks: this was motivated due to volunteer effort needed to fill tanks. Use 23 tanks per dive, the shop at Winnepesake is far and the shop is overwhelmed by the number of tanks to fill at once. They supported our efforts to obtain and educate on compressor. This was also a lot of tanks in a vehicle, heavy to carry. Volunteers have an enormous job to do and can only take half a lot of the time for 2 trips. Moving tanks a lot to get filled. Time to fill takes hours so someone has to wait or go back and forth. SPIA procured a dive fill compressor from the town of Acton. It is located at 124 W Shore Dr (Caron's garage where the dive trailer is stored). An 8'x10' shed was purchased to house the compressor. Electrical was installed from garage to shed, in the next 2 weeks to be up and running. Lot of work, excavating, electrical, obtaining the shed. Acknowledged folks for donating money, materials, and time including: Dale Johnsn, James Kittredge, Ken and Jay Roy, Dave Wells, Billy Plante, Donoghue family, Scott Matthews, etc. We will no longer need to pay for tanks to be filled. A group was trained by the dive shop and help from Marley Mann of first stage divers on how to fill the tanks and inspect the set up.

Lee thanked Rob for management skills and ability to delegate responsibilities to volunteers efficiently.

#### C) SPIA Sponsored Social Events -Kristen Morrisroe

- The 3rd annual cribbage tournament was held on June 8th. There were 14 players for round robin style play for 2 hours. Several spectators attended as well. Connor Donoghue was the winner.
- The big paddle will be held July 4th at 9 AM, meet at the little island.

#### D) Invasive Aquatic Plant Report. - Aaron Smart

Aaron introduced himself and gave credit to Donna Rosenkrans for her previous work, big shoes to fill. Discussed his role as administrative help for IPP, paperwork to track who and when looks at the portions of the lake. Donna can be in the field as good use of expert resource in IPP and teaching.

Aaron plans for field time with Donna for education. No infestation to date.

There are 25 people on the email list for information/involvement.

Map of covered areas, looked at Good's cove twice since early May. Water temp remaining low until recently, which means need multiple checks per year. Challenged volunteers to try and do multiple checks per year. There was a Live plant identification seminar at the town hall, 10 volunteers participated.

About 15 - 20% of the Perimeter of lake and islands surveyed so far. Most in biggest risk areas, Good's cove and boat launch. ASYCC active before memorial day weekend with boat inspections, also attended lake plant ID workshop.

Lay people doing inspections who have been trained but don't know details of ins and outs of property maintenance. Have resources to ask and guide to what inspectors need to do.

Lee stressed you don't need to be an expert but willing to learn to participate. Skills come with time volunteering and experience.

#### E) Land based Invasive Plants. - MaryAnn Robator

Protecting the lake's edge. Japanese knotweed is not yet widespread but is taking root in patches on the shoreline. Disrupts the natural balance of the lake. Threatens health and beneficial plants and organisms to help shoreline thrive. Rapid growth pattern, reduces biodiversity, compromises ability to filter runoff and risks water quality.

Identify and report sightings to the lake association. Handouts provided for education and reporting steps.

Fencing: prefer living fencing instead of traditional. Bushes, shrubs are nature's filtration systems, absorb pollutants, reduce runoff, and provide habitat for wildlife. Buy in Maine to ensure native plants. UMaine extension website is a great resource.

#### F) Membership – Kim Caron

Currently at about 300 members on par for the time of year. 90 non-members that were previous members may trickle in or paid today. Membership letter in the newsletter, questions or concerns? Motivation was to save on postage by combining. Usually send another posting in August.

Mark Parenti notified the website changed to invoice driven system instead of renewal. If you are having trouble, let him know. An invoice was sent to all members on the website. Can pay online or renew online and send a check.

Jane Kirton spoke of the Loon count. It is the third Saturday of July (20th). Jane goes out at 7:30 and goes around the lake counting loons. Acknowledged help of her co-pilots have helped in the past (mother for several years). Sometimes they don't see any. She encouraged everyone to Stay away from the loons. Jane knows of 1 nest, if any others are known let Jane know. Stay

away from nests. Please keep jetskis away from loons as well. She tries to post on Facebook about the behavior of loons for informational purposes.

#### 4) New Business

##### A) Lake Stewards of Maine – Alison Cooney

Executive director of Lake Stewards of Maine

Also a long time family on Square Pond, 4 generations. Passion for the pond as well. Square has one of the most active volunteer groups of many around the state.

What do we do? 1 of 2 statewide lake focused non-profits. Water quality and invasive species. Trains for water quality testing and sent information every year for collecting data. Resources for questions, Rob submits data to them at the end of the year. DEP quality control of data and uploaded to database website.

1200 volunteers collecting data on 530 lakes around the state. (6000 lakes in the state total).

Trainers of the volunteers around the state. Also train IPP on invasive species. Conference like last week and they do live paddles on lakes to teach.

Trainers, technical support and notification, work closely with Maine DEP.

Also provide resources: waterproof key to look for suspicious plants, if there is a question then notify someone on IPP. Maine field guide to invasive plants is available for purchase or comes with certification as IPP volunteer.

Free webinars available on website, “know your plants” such as milfoil or bladderwort. Lake conference annually.

Opportunities to join an IPP travel team doing work on their own lake but also help survey lakes who don't have an IPP team on the lake or help start an IPP on a lake that doesn't have one.

Just went to Big Lake and surveyed the lake to find milfoil and where it is growing. Opportunity to see other parts of the state, volunteer, help lakes who need it.

There was a question on AI accuracy in identifying plants, Alison is unsure of accuracy but it is known there is not a robust database of aquatic plants vs land plants.

##### B) ASYCC 2024 review and plans for 2025

Scott Lansberry: 25 years of the non-profit which speaks to support of BOD, towns, volunteers.

Thrive on funding, budget \$100,000, which has increased in the past 3-5 years. Acknowledged

Jane and Elias Thomas who have raised funds, over \$100,000 in the past few years. Also contribute for golf balls, mailings, and efforts to support ASYCC. Many thanks to them. Also thanks to SPIA who has supported the work of ASYCC. SPIA has increased support this year to \$9,000. Boat inspections last year were restricted due to low water. 781 boats still inspected, expect higher numbers this year with high water levels

Launch hours weekdays 7A-6P, weekends 7A-7P.

To inspect a boat and trailer, all pockets that capture small plants and fragments. Funding this year is about \$75,000. Funds from SPIA, MLRA, and Acton (\$24,100), Shapleigh (23,100).

Davis grants 10,000 every year. Leaves \$25,000 short of budget Golf tournament August 1 sign up or sponsor to help.

Why to use ASYCC on property: Staff educated, labor is gratis, anything within 75 feet of water that requires a permit from DEP (\$400) or town (\$100) costs are waived. SPIA covers \$500

toward materials. Tech will evaluate property and plan, \$200 fee covers design, evaluation. Property owner organizes for material on site, (always ask about ASYCC 10% discount). 319 grant: federal program secured, provides more funding to property owners ASYCC is no longer permitted to do any maintenance at the boat launch (cut brush, weedwhack, etc). ASYCC previously opened sidewalk, cleared parking lot overgrowth. Jim Dochtermann program assistant, specialist in environmental science. Environmental conservation and stewardship background at Wells Reserve Laudholm farm. History in estuary, coastal marine. Works with Dave Burns as his assistant director. Erosion control crew leader with projects on Square, Mousam, Loon. Work with boat inspectors as well, dedicated crew with experience and returning members each year. Land based invasive plant, working to identify invasives. Sign up sheet for projects, property owners who would like an evaluation. Looking to increase the number of projects to qualify for 319 grant, no financial obligation for site visit to evaluate erosion. Minimal impact and cost approach. Can meet on your schedule, summer, fall or winter (snow permitting).

#### C) Three Rivers Land Trust Update – Ruth Gutman

25 years of the land trust. Community and giving back to the land. Since 2000 conserved 4,000 acres in the service area. Thanked Square Pond folks for support over the years. Still working to grow membership, \$25 basic membership level makes a big impact.

Marjorie Dannels Chadbourne reserve. SPIA helped raise stewardship funds (monitoring, improving natural habitat, will be building a trail). Land trust time over the next couple of months work on a new 1 mile trail with small parking at log landing on Apple Rd. Small loop along main trail and another trailhead on Apple Rd. Map available to see. Eldridge lumber to donate bridge material over stream to not impact stream flow. Also will be protecting streams and sensitive wetlands. Runs directly along square and has 2 streams flowing into Square, will maintain banks and prevent erosion. Continuing forest management, will be maintaining health of forest, reducing invasive plants without herbicide for health of pond and also threatened species of moths and butterflies.

Another big project is Sanford Community Forest: recently broke ground on new accessible trail there.

Challenges for land trusts due to price of land. Any donations are appreciated and make a big difference. Also helps when applying for grants to demonstrate community support of the organization.

#### D) York County Soil + Water conservation District 319 Grant Phase IV- Alexander Brown

Project manager with YCSWCD. Non-regulatory agency, some funding from dept agriculture, conservation and forestry. Work a lot with grant funding.

Offer technical assistance program similar to ASYCC. Flier for technical assistance program available.

319 funding: grant submitted on June 16 waiting for notification around late Fall, early winter (reviewed by Maine DEP and EPA).

The project would start January 1, 2026 for 2 years. Planning in winter and implementation in summer 2026 and 2027. It is a competitive year for funding. Proposing to do 7 sites, 4 on Willow St., Driveway on W shore dr., Willow st boat access. 15 residential matching grant programs, selection process is dependent on landowner interest and cost.

Lee: The town of Shapleigh has a survey for a comprehensive plan, Shapleigh residents can go online and provide input.

Rob Caron announced the Lazy susan raffle to raise funds for SPIA to be drawn at August membership meeting.

#### 5) Informational items

A) Please visit our Square Pond Improvement Association Web site, [squarepond.org](http://squarepond.org) for information and updates during the year.

B) Support our SPIA advertisers and let them know you do when making purchases

C) Next meeting is Saturday August 23 th at 10:00 and there will be a “pot luck” pie/dessert social following the August meeting.

D) SPIA's Tax Deductible Annual Membership Dues are \$ 25 for the basic membership, our Gold (\$50), Platinum (\$100) and Diamond (\$250) level memberships are used to fund additional lake improvement projects.

E) Special recognition for our Gold, Platinum and Diamond members.

#### F) 50 / 50 raffle

- Joyce Smith won and generously donated back toward SPIA compressor project: \$95

#### 6) Open floor to Members questions.

#### 7) Adjourn meeting