

## **Joe's Pond Association Meeting Minutes** **May 27, 2023**

Meeting called to order by President Joe Hebert at 10:01 am. There were approximately 70 members attending. New members were asked to stand up and introduce themselves. Elaine Rossi said hello and Allison Srinivasan introduced herself saying that she had taken over the Tassie camp when her father passed away. Joe Hebert welcomed everyone to the meeting and started off by giving heartfelt thanks to Jamie Dimick, Joanne Stewart, and Diane Rossi and her Ice-out team. Jamie Dimick puts in all the pond buoys. Sailboat race buoys and fixed the pavilion microphone. Joanne Stewart creates the annual JPA Newsletter, Directory, and is the webmaster for the new JPA webpage. Diane Rossi and her Ice-Out team work very hard to make the contest a success every year. A rousing round of applause was given to all.

### **Board Actions:**

1. 2023 is an election year and Joe formed a nominating committee of Kim Kidney, Mike Rubalcalba, and Mike Yesalonia. This nominating committee will come up with a slate of officers for the Annual Meeting on July 1. The existing officers and directors have indicated they will stay on if so elected but anyone interested in any of the positions to get in touch with one of the above-mentioned nominating committee members
2. The State of Vermont will have a container at the boat launch for fishermen and campers to place their lead sinkers, mono-filament fishing lines as they are banned. The Board is also addressing the State for signs to prevent boat launchers from parking in the wrong spot at the boat launch after launching their boats.
3. JPA supports the organization of 'Responsible wakes for Vermont Lakes' (RWVL). This winter an email polling of the members was conducted whether to support the mentioned group. The email polling was overwhelmingly in support of the RWVL position.

**Secretary's Report:** Jamie Stewart gave a condensed version of the 8/27/2022 meeting. For full details please go to the [Joespondvermont.com](http://Joespondvermont.com) website. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as is.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jack LaGue gave the financial report. We are doing good and have about \$56,000 in the bank. The dues are coming in and we had a successful Ice-Out contest. The reason for the negative newsletter results is that the advertisers' payments are not all in. This will change by the July meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as is.

**Water Quality:** The Invasive Species Survey was conducted last fall with no signs of milfoil. Nicole Begin also reported that the Boat Launch employees are set and are getting on-line training. Nicole asked for any members to report immediately and signs of any invasive species.

**JPA Events:** Sue Bouchard reported on the upcoming summer events and referred everyone to the newsletter and/or website. The Ham Dinner is set for June 17 put on by Marian Cairnes

and Marty Beatty. There are 130 tickets available for \$20 per ticket and see Paige Crosby. The Italian Dinner is scheduled for July 8th. This dinner is being organized by Jeremy and Lori Grenier. 150 tickets are available at \$20 each and since this is the most popular dinner be sure to get your tickets. Jeremy stated later in the meeting that if you call him and leave a message and/or email him for tickets to not assume you have them until he acknowledges your call or email. The Pig Roast will be on July 29 and for tickets to see Bo Keach and/or Maryann Cassani. Sue Bouchard also reminded members that there are no take-out options for any JPA dinners this year. Larry Rossi will allow his lawn to be used for the "Brooks Henry Band on July 15 from 1 - 4 pm. Come and listen by boat only. The Cocktail party is on August 19 hosted by Sue Yesalonia and Nancy Buttura. The same band will be there as last year and cost \$5 per person and bring hors d'oeuvres to share. Sue also reminded the members about Yoga, Mahjongg, and Pitch games so please see the Events calendar on-line and/or the newsletter. The pickleball tournament will be held on August 15 and see Tom Segale for any details. There will be 3 sailboat races for singles and doubles and see Sue Bouchard for details.

Sue Bouchard also announced the donation from Kim Silloway and Gerry Weber of \$1000 in honor of her father Dr. Kim Silloway and requests that the money be used for the support of the sunfish races. Sue announced that complimentary T-Shirts will be given to the racers and these same T-shirts will be sold to any members and showed the design. The costs for the T-shirts will be \$20 for a child size and \$25 for adults.

Jeremy Grenier stood up to talk about the Pitch card games. They will be held on those days from 4 to 6 and we need even numbers of players. The cost is \$5 to play.

Jenny Gelfin asked if a boat parade could be started up again and Sue Bouchard said she will work with her to try to start this.

**Memberships:** Peter Crosby said all road signs were up and some plaques need to be changed. Thierry Guerlain was given thanks for painting the plaques. Some road signs need painting also.

**Maintenance:** Larry Rossi gave the maintenance report and said most things are in great shape. Some fence posts and rails need to be replaced and the new tent sides wintered well. The tennis courts also wintered well. If anyone has any concerns or suggestions for projects to please see him.

**Fireworks:** There was a lot of discussion about fireworks. Richard Gagne recapped the late fall email polling and the majority of the respondents voted to cancel the fireworks due to the increased costs. Richard reported that NorthStar said the fireworks for 2024 would be the same price as proposed for 2023 (\$12,500). NorthStar also said that 7/2/2023 was still available if the JPA wanted them this year. Richard asked for input from the members. He also noted that since the Rail Trail is now open beyond the trestle that a state permit will be required to have the fireworks on the rail trail. An alternate route for bikers/pedestrians would have to be supplied to go around the set up for fireworks. This is a major issue. Island Drive and Channel drive are private roads and to assume we could redirect traffic up and down those roads is wrong. NorthStar may have to allow traffic through their set-up during daylight hours.

Comments from Members:

- Jenny Rafuse asked if the Ice-Out committee could raise the price of the tickets from \$1 to \$2. As a major seller of the tickets, Jenny said she was not motivated to sell tickets due to no fireworks. She stated that people are willing to pay for fireworks.
- Diane Rossi stated that she was not in favor of raising the prices. She suggested asking for more donations to offset the costs.
- Chrissy Knowles commented that fireworks are terrible for the birds, and she knew this was an unpopular position, but we do not need fireworks
- There were comments that Channel drive is too steep for an alternate route.
- Richard Hackett asked if there was any liability for JPA by doing a diverted route around the rail trail.
- Richard Gagne said that no obstruction was allowed on the rail trail.
- More discussion is needed in the July Meeting
- Jack LaGue stated that the JPA can afford the fireworks, but it is a lot of money for an 18-minute show (\$700 per minute)
- Many members said that the fireworks was a JPA worthwhile event
- Diane Rossi commented that the fireworks generate a lot of good will for the Pond
- Don Sherwood asked why the \$2500 extra for 2023 fireworks was a big deal. We spent \$10K in 2022. For years \$5k was given by the ice-out contents, donations contributed \$1K to \$2K more so not a lot more money for the JPA to cough up.
- Jack LaGue commented that all revenue for JPA goes into the general fund which then disperses the money.
- Paige Crosby commented that the Fireworks are a celebration of our freedom and good for the community.
- Joe Cassani gave a comic relief to the group. Stating that “Don’t take this the wrong way, but all you guys are pretty old and please consider starting up fireworks again.” There is a long history of everyone using their boats to go out with their family to enjoy the show and now he is concerned for future generations not having that same experience.
- More discussion and a decision needed at the July meeting.
- Jack LaGue said again that the JPA can afford the fireworks but for the 18-minute show it is close to \$700 per minute.

**Lake Wise Program:** Emily Finnegan gave another short presentation of the program. The goal is to reach out to property owners to assist in the slowing down of the run-off into the lake. This is a voluntary program for owners with no coercion, only suggestions. 22 camp owners on Joe’s Pond contacted her with 4 owners working with her. See Emily Finnegan for details. Dorothea Penar spoke about her project to be completed in 2023. She also spoke about the cyanobacteria bloom we had last year, and she will track any blooms in 2023. She emphasized that green grass is nothing but green concrete and will not slow down any run-off into the lake. Allison Srinivasan, a Lake Wise Award Winner, spoke about her participation in the project.

Anne Powers spoke about Community outreach and her sponsorship of the 5K walk/run which starts at the Pavilion to the West Danville beach. This will be on July 8.

Jenny Rafuse stood up to put a plug in for Hastings Store in that they will deliver groceries to the camps.

Michele Walker talked about the 2023 Ice-Out contest. It was a good year with over 11,000 tickets sold with the winner from St. Johnsbury getting \$5,200. She commented on the unusual donation by Bill Dimick to the Waterford School with a ticket for all students and staff. Michele expressed concern about how unsafe the ice is and talked about the dog that went into the water.

MaryAnn Cassani gave a special thanks to Jenny Rafuse as the major seller of Ice-Out tickets. Jenny received a round of applause.

Patty Coffrin said that the price for fireworks will be held for 2024 (\$12,500) if the JPA agreed to have fireworks this year. President Joe Hebert reiterated that the decision was already made for no fireworks in 2023.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 am.