

## Joe's Pond Association Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2024

President Joe Hebert opened the meeting at 10:01 am. There were approximately 85 members present. Joe welcomed everyone back from their winter sojourns. He asked if there were any new members in the audience and, if so, to introduce themselves. Grant Currie and Kim Fuller stood up and said hello. They bought Walter Ruf's camp at 52 Meadow Lane.

**Ice-Out Presentation:** A certificate with a check was given to Stuart Ramsdell of Danville. Joe asked why he chose the time of 4:02 am and Stuart responded, "just because". A round of applause was given to the winner and the Ramsdells gave a nice donation back to the JPA.

**Board Actions/Announcements:** The only announcement was the decision by the State on wake boat use on lakes. Joe's Pond meets the 500 feet distance from shore with 50 contingent acres available with more than 20 feet of depth. The State is not prepared to certify 'home lakes' and enforcement procedures. Thus, the new regulations are a work in process, and everyone needs to be patient. Peter Crosby stated that the DEC website has a map for each VT lake indicating the area legal for wake surfing.

**Secretary's Report:** Jamie Stewart read a condensed version of the 9/2/2023 JPA meeting that was primarily all about fireworks and the vote for 2024. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were approved by voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jack LaGue stated that the JPA was in good financial shape. A motion was made and seconded and by voice vote approved.

**Water Quality:** Nicole Begin reported that the Boat Launch shed was in place and there will be 3 greeters (as usual) for the season. One is trained and the other 2 will be trained by 6/15. State funding is on the way. Nicole directed anyone interested in being a VT Inspector VIP to the water quality page on the JPA website. She has 2 quotes for the aquatic inspection to be done in late August.

Dorothea Penar discussed the Fall 2023 cyanobacteria blooms. Blooms are all about surface run-off and not just water temperature. She gave a plug for the "Lake Wise" program and invited people to check out the JPA website for information. She and Paul planted a portion of their lakefront with the recommended plants from the State program.

**JPA Events:** Sue Bouchard thanked Jeremy and Lori Grenier for their work on the Conniption Fits band that was the night before. She mentioned it was the earliest JPA event ever. Sue mentioned that in the newsletter and on the JPA website is the event schedule. The next scheduled event is The Ham/Mac & Cheese dinner on 6/22. There will be 130 tickets available (\$20 each) and Paige Crosby has them available today. She talked about the 3 sunfish races and that the sailing T-shirts are available. If anyone wants to purchase a T-shirt, let her know. Also mentioned was the recurring weekly yoga, mahjong, and Pitch games. The pickleball tournament is in August but games are played every weekend, and all abilities are welcomed. She ended her report by giving thanks to all the event coordinators and asked if anyone wants to get involved, please do, as we all want new blood coming into the association.

**Memberships:** Peter Crosby mentioned that many of the signs have been repainted and the loon artwork is being taken care of. Peter gave thanks to Louis Cassani, Nicole Begin and others for their help in repainting them

**Maintenance:** Larry Rossi commented that the tennis courts seemed to hold up well and the existing small cracks had not opened up. He gave thanks to Louis Cassani for the touch up painting done. Larry has ordered 3 yards of mulch to fluff up the playground area.

**Fireworks:** Richard Gagne reported that the fireworks will be July 3 with a rain date of July 5th. A lot of work was done to find a suitable new place and thanked Mike Rubalcaba and Joe Cassani for their help. Richard announced that the fireworks will be shot off from the second pond location of Garry & Marion Cairns property on Rte 15. The rail trail is not an option given the State will not allow us to shut down the rail trail as required by North Star. The option of rerouting the trail traffic up to Rte 15 would be too expensive and unsafe. Richard thanked the Cairns for their generosity in allowing their site to be used. A round of applause was given.

### **Member Questions:**

**Fireworks:** Joe Cassani mentioned that some people wanted to donate extra money for an enlarged show for next year. He requested that this outside money for a bigger show should not be denied. Several points were made about if the show goes from \$13K to \$18K with outside money and this money may not be relied on to happen every year. Will this outside donation happen every year? Other comments were that any donations given should be used to offset the costs for the Association and not supplement the costs.

Mike Rubalcaba asked why there is no fund balance for the Fireworks and there should be. Jack mentioned that there is no fund balance because all of the donations each year is used up for that year's fireworks show. Mike asked if we should create a fund balance like we have for the courts. Several motions were made but not seconded and the discussion was tabled so the Board can consider the issue whether donations given should offset the costs or supplement the costs.

**Membership:** Joe Cassani suggested that we can get more involvement from people by granting memberships to the 'next generation' of camp owners. This would mean that current camp owners' children would be granted memberships. Currently memberships are by camp only and not by individual, meaning each camp gets one vote. Joe Cassani gave an example where only members and their guests can use the tennis courts. Does this mean he has to have his parents with him to use the courts? He commented that renters can use the courts. He asked the Board to consider this. Joe said that he is not requesting the ability to 'vote' on issues nor pay dues for this 'associated memberships. The Board agreed to consider this. Other comments were: how do we know who the people are? Who keeps track of members? Jamie Stewart said it was his responsibility as Secretary.

**Wake Boats:** Dave Kidney stated that the JPA needs to talk about wake boats. The ANR has ruled that Joe's Pond is allowed for wake boat use because it has the 50-acre minimum, 500 feet from shore and deeper than 20 feet depth. Joe's Pond is one of 30 lakes permitted for wake boats. Seven lakes permitted are now petitioning the State to ban wake boats and he feels that the JPA needs to join this effort. The permitted area for our lake is from the boat launch to the sunken island buoy if they keep 500 feet away from shore. Dave expressed concern about the stirring up of the embedded phosphate in the lake bottom. Dave said that the poll conducted in 2022 of members whether to join the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes needs to be honored since over 70% of the respondents wanted to keep wake boats off the lake. The petition to file is a paperwork burden but Dave volunteered with others to file this. Joe Hebert

responded that the Board is aware of the petition. Dave Kidney said he would not want the JPA to take a wait and see attitude about this petition. The Board agreed to discuss this among themselves and report back in July. Sharon Dewitt asked when this poll to join the RWVL was sent to members, and it was in November of 2022. She did not get the email poll. She was concerned that this subject was not on the agenda and any votes regarding joining this petition needs to be warned and publicized. A motion was made and seconded to have the agenda for future meetings be placed on the website, Jane Brown's blog and a copy posted at Hastings Store.

Cheryl Chesley informed the members about the West Danville Methodist Church services at 9:15 on Sundays and asked for members to join the worship. She also mentioned the church needs a summer organist or piano or a guitar player for the services. There is a Roast Pork dinner on 6/29 with take-out from 4 to 5 and a sit-down dinner at 5:30. For reservations call Jane Milne. She is also looking for a tennis instructor and please contact her if interested.

There were no other members' questions.

Ted Decker made a motion to adjourn at 11:08. It was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Respectively submitted,

Jamie Stewart  
Secretary