

June 7, 2020: eMail to List

All,

Well, here we are coming up on summer with a whole lot of uncertainty as to what we can expect in the weeks and months ahead in this age of COVID-19 and all the risks and uncertainty that brings. And now another cyanobacteria bloom has hit the pond.

Nevertheless, the Clough Pond Association is getting its plans together for the summer. Lake Hosting is underway at the ramp thanks to Perry Hayden. VLAP water testing will continue thanks to Deb Lincoln but on a limited basis due to the reduced ability of the State to process our samples. We are starting up the Weed Watcher Program. Paul Martin has agreed to spearhead that effort. The Lake Smart Program will continue as we review a few more properties where owners have approached us. And watch the ramp for changes that are coming to that area through the efforts of the NH Fish & Game Department.

The town is continuing its efforts to monitor the Town Beach for e. coli and cyanobacteria but here again the State has reduced its capacity to fully support the program. Therefore, the town will be using a private entity to test the samples. Your Board has agreed to provide a small financial assistance in the amount of \$120 this year in that effort so that Chief Blanchette can test the water once every week all through the summer. He is actually increasing the frequency of the monitoring this year and we applaud that effort. It is moving in the right direction.

So, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic your programs are continuing.

Now some disappointing news. There will be no Potluck Dinner at our Regular Meeting this June. We are planning to hold an online (Zoom) meeting on June 28, 2020 at 5:00pm. We are suggesting that everybody come to the "meeting" with a prepared picnic basket of your own making.

The Board has met online (Zoom) and it worked out reasonably well. One can successfully do business this way. But this year we cannot in good faith share the special "potluck dinner" that are so traditional for us. During these pandemic online meetings are far from ideal but quite adequate as a substitute. The Board unanimously decided that we need to avoid the close contact and accompanying risk involved with such an event this June. The pandemic is not far enough in our rear-view mirrors to ask you to take the kind of risks associated with too many people in one place at one time and sharing food.

So, what about the August Pig Roast you ask? We think it's too early to decide. We are hopeful that the pandemic conditions will permit that to happen. That all depends on how well the pandemic is beat back and whether we see another spike in cases before then. And to what extent will the State keep things closed down or possibly re-close things down. We have delayed that decision until the beginning of July in order to have more details about what the pandemic environment will look like in the middle of August. At this time, we are still hoping to have our Annual meeting outside and include the popular Pig Roast that José Cambrils so generously orchestrates for us. The August Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 16. Either the (1) Pig Roast and Social hour at 4:00pm with business meeting immediately following OR (2) an online (Zoom) business meeting starting at 5:00pm.

As to this upcoming June meeting and in spite of all things COVID-19, we continue to have Association business that needs attention. We will get an agenda out to you before the meeting. In addition to the usual updates that we offer about our financial status, program updates, elections, etc. we will be updating you about our prospects for our Annual Meeting on August 16. We might even be able to project whether it will be another online meeting or an in-person meeting and Pig Roast (we hope, we hope, we hope). As a featured speaker we are seeking a presentation on Cyanobacteria by the specialists at the NH Department of Environmental Services for this June online meeting. Not sure if we can pull that one off at this late date.

I ask that you be patient as we navigate through all this. I will get out more information as we get closer to these events. But for now, this is where we are and we are hoping for the best.

Attached is our Membership Form. Don't forget to renew your membership or, if you are not a member yet, please consider joining and/or donating to the Clough Pond Association. We are still doing good things for the pond and the local Loudon community. We use your membership fees and donations wisely.

Your support is still needed for good things to continue to happen to your pond.

Watch your email and USPS for more information that will be coming to you closer to the meeting date.

Tom Edwards, President
Clough Pond Association

tom.edwards@cloughpondnh.org
603.722.0122