

ISLAND POND LAKE HOST PROGRAM, 2018

Under the auspices of the New Hampshire Lakes Association the three Stoddard lakes participate in the lake host program. The program is run by a combination of paid hosts and volunteers with the purpose of checking boats coming in and out of the lakes for invasive plants or animals. Both boater, and nonboater, awareness and education about the problem is also a goal of the program.

The 2018 Island Pond lake host program was managed by David Lesser. There is only one public access to our lake, the ramp/beach area on Route 123. Over the late spring/summer we covered weekends, holidays, and fishing derby days, using a paid lake host or volunteer. A total of 458 paid staff hours and 55 volunteer hours were recorded at Island Pond. The number of inspected boats was 725, a decrease from last year. We attribute the smaller number of boats to several poor weather weekends over the summer. Since the Island Pond boat ramp is also popular with local swimmers/sun bathers we were able to share information about the Lake Host program with several hundred non-boaters.

We remained invasive plant free as of the end of the season. One Chinese Mystery snail was discovered on the shoreline of an Island Pond property, but there were no more reported sightings of invasive animals.

Special thanks to our point people: Anna Hubbard, Dan McCann, Sandy Sherman, and Alan Carlyle. A big thanks also goes to the 8 local volunteers who assisted the program. Island Pond Association plays a key role in that their membership in the NH Lakes Association allows us to have a lake host program. We are also very appreciative of the financial support allotted to us by the Stoddard voters. Even though we are NH Lakes grant based, we do not get enough money this way to support our complete program. So thanks Stoddard residents—Island Pond can remain an invasive plant free, favorite boating and swimming spot for many in the area because of your financial assistance.

Island Pond is also very fortunate to have an active weed watcher program. These 12 participants, all volunteers, regularly inspect our lake for any signs of invasive plants or animals. The combination of a lake host and weed watching program has proven to be very effective statewide in keeping lakes free of invasive species. Thanks to all of these volunteers and their coordinator, Charlotte Lesser.

Respectfully submitted,

David Lesser

Island Pond lake host point person

2018-19 Annual Report of the Stoddard Conservation Commission

Community Outreach Programs:

Olde Home Days: Approximately 20 people attended the annual conservation commission forum to hear conservation commission member Helen Tam-Semmens give a presentation entitled "*How to eat our way to a healthier planet and stronger body.*" The talk focused on the environmental and health benefits of eating a plant-based diet. The latest research relating healthy intestinal bacteria to eating plant-based was discussed. A Link to the slides of the presentation can be found on the town website.

Planning Board Request: The chair of the Planning Board, Dian Matthews, attended a meeting on November 28 to discuss an update effort to the Master Plan. She requested assistance from the conservation commission on making updates to the Conservation and Preservation section of the Master Plan this winter/spring. Geoff will take the lead on writing the content, while Scott is working on the GIS maps.

Wind Farm on Tuttle Hill, Antrim

As mentioned in last year's town report, on Dec.19, 2016 the Site Evaluation Committee voted, 5-1 in favor of issuing a permit for Antrim Wind Energy LLC to construct 9 five hundred foot wind towers on Tuttle Hill in northwestern Antrim. Construction is underway with a completion date scheduled for late 2019 or early 2020. According to one participant who has been involved in the 7+ year fight: "there's a lot of sadness in the town of Antrim". I suspect that when this project is completed and the folks from Stoddard experience the full visual impact to our town from these industrial towers.....that there will be "a lot of sadness" here, as well.

Stewardship Activities (Town Forest & Beyond):

One of the main responsibilities of the conservation commission is to annually monitor the 732 acre Stoddard Rocks/Pioneer Lake town forest and to provide necessary maintenance to the bounds, trails, roads, and earthen dam. In the fall we received a notice of a suspicious looking plant at Pioneer Lake. Scott and Helen Tam-Semmens investigated, taking samples and pictures and sending them to the NHDES. The plant was identified as a native milfoil, *Myriophyllum humile* (nothing to be worried about).

On Oct. 20, 2018 a volunteer trail crew of Paul Crosby, Sabine Duran, Geoff Jones, Rick and Lynn Cavallero, spent 5+ hours clearing the trail to Stoddard Rocks. The effort to mow the dam was thwarted by a mid November snow storm.

If you are interested in being part of the trail crew, contact Geoffrey Jones at geoffreytjones@gmail.com

NHACC Annual Meeting

Scott Semmens, Helen Tam-Semmens, and Geoff Jones attended the annual meeting of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. Geoff Jones gave a workshop on "*Forest Fragmentation: What is it? Why is it a Problem?*" The workshop was attended by 25 people.

Looking for new Conservation Commission members:

If anyone in the community is interested in serving on the Stoddard conservation commission, the main credential we look for is interest and enthusiasm.....and if you have natural resource expertise, all the better. Please contact chair Geoff Jones by e-mail: geoffreytjones@gmail.com

Monthly Meeting: The conservation commission meets on the FOURTH Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm at the town hall. The public is always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Jones, chair

Scott Semmens, vice chair

Helen Tam-Semmens, secretary/treasurer

Paul Crosby