

President's Report
Association of Owners of Lowlands and Meadows Around
Chilmark Pond
June 2017

I. Updated Website

I would like to draw everyone's attention to the new and improved Chilmark Pond website (www.chilmarkpond.org) designed by Andria Jason. It is a work in progress and we are hoping to continue to make improvements and add additional content moving forward. If anyone has information or photos that they would like to share on the site please contact Andria at andriajason@gmail.com.

II. Pond Openings and Maintenance of Opening

We have had three successful openings of Chilmark Pond since January 2017. The wet winter/spring necessitated the three openings in fairly quick succession with an average water drop of 51". Because of these excellent flushes the water quality should be quite good going into the summer season. The Association approved monies for an "extended cut" to maintain "proper drainage" of the pond at last summer's meeting. We attempted to make this cut in March and the Chilmark Conservation Commission raised concerns. As a result, we chose not to move forward with the extended cut at this time

III. Water Sampling

We have recently formed an alliance with the Great Pond Foundation to conduct water sampling on Chilmark Pond starting this summer. Their goal is "to understand overall pond health both seasonally and through time." Their protocols including measuring "dissolved oxygen, salinity, pH, ORP, temperature, depth, pressure, conductivity, turbidity." This will be done within the water column—surface, mid depth and at the bottom.

IV. MV Shellfish Group

At last summer's meeting representatives from the MV Shellfish Group informed us that they were studying the effects of harvesting phragmites as an aid to our nitrogen problem in the pond. We are hopeful that they will have results to share with us at this year's annual meeting.

V. Biodiversity Works

The "piping plover people" have cordoned off a couple bird-nesting areas adjacent to the pond on South Beach. Please respect the areas and remember that all dogs must be leashed at the beach. The good news is that the enclosures are allowing the beach grasses to grow back due to lack of human traffic! The enclosures will remain in place until all of the young birds have fledged. For more information check out their website at www.biodiversityworksmv.org.

VI. Member List

We continue to update our membership list to accurately reflect all property owners who have a property interest in, and benefit from use of the pond on our tax rolls. If your property comes with any right-of-way concessions for others please provide us with their contact information when returning your payment to Steve Lewenberg or by email at lewenberg@cornell.edu.

VII. Update on Chilmark Pond Foundation

At last year's annual meeting it was suggested that it may be time to form a foundation to work on interests surrounding Chilmark Pond to supplement the work of the Association of Owners of Lowlands and Meadows Around Chilmark Pond (a.k.a. the Chilmark Pond Association).

A number of interested members stepped forward to take the steps to form such a group at last year's annual meeting. We will look forward to hearing about their progress as well as the scope of what the foundation hopes to accomplish at our annual meeting. If anyone has any questions about or would like to become involved in the work of the foundation I would suggest contacting Randy Milch. His email is: rsmilch@gmail.com.

VIII. Annual Meeting

Sunday, August 6, 2017 at 4 P.M. Chilmark Library

Submitted by:

Walter (Terry) Meinelt, President
June 2017