



Re: North Pond Proceeding #L-30629-36-A-N

Dear Presiding Officer Mongeon,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Belgrade Lakes Association's (BLA's) to provide these comments for consideration in the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's North Pond Lake Level/Minimum Flow Proceeding captioned #L-30629-36-A-N.

BLA's mission is "To protect and improve the watershed of Great and Long Ponds through preservation, education and action." As the oldest lake association in the state of Maine, BLA is dedicated to the overall health of Great and Long Ponds. We place a high priority on ensuring water quality that supports fish, wildlife, recreational uses such as swimming and boating, the local economy and communities. North Pond is located upstream and flows directly into Great Pond, which then flows into Long Pond. For this reason, BLA and its members have a direct interest in the outcome of this proceeding.

Both Great Pond and Long Pond are designated as "impaired" waterbodies pursuant to federal Clean Water Act Section 303(d). Therefore, it is especially important that DEP ensure that the management of the North Pond dam and resulting flow regimes do not further degrade water quality in these downstream lakes. In particular, increased phosphorus discharges can contribute to harmful, costly and even toxic algal blooms. DEP should also consider how North Pond flow regimes might impact the planned remediation of excessive phosphorus in North Pond through an alum treatment and enhanced erosion control as recommended in the science-based North Pond Watershed Plan.

DEP should also ensure the water regime established in this proceeding protects important progress and investments in erosion control on Great and Long Ponds, as well as North Pond. BLA works in numerous partnerships with 7 Lakes Alliance, the state, towns, landowners and others to keep soil and the algae-fueling phosphorus it carries with it out of Great and Long Ponds. This includes 7 Lakes Youth Conservation Corps, LakeSmart and DEP-administered federal Clean Water Act Section 319 grants.

Finally, dam management should be flexible enough to ensure public health and safety as appropriate. In recent years, for instance, North Pond has experienced major algae-laden waters have flowed from North Pond into Great Meadow Stream and Great Pond. In addition, as a leader in the prevention and remediation of invasive variable milfoil in Great and Long Ponds, BLA urges the DEP to ensure that dam management accounts for the safety of 7 Lakes' dive teams that survey and manage invasive plants, including infested areas below the North Pond Dam.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the impacts of the North Pond water level regime on the water quality, uses and overall health of downstream waters, including Great Pond and Long Pond.

Respectfully submitted,

Bert Languet, President

From: sunbeam1522@roadrunner.com
To: [Briggs, Caise](#)
Subject: Bruce Winegardner comments
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 1:59:23 PM

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WATER HEIGHT NORTHPOND SMITHFIELD MAINE

To whom it may concern. I am a property owner Bruce Winegardner on North Pond with two seasonal camp rentals. I have no beach to stand on to put my dock in the water is actually up behind the platform for my stairs the erosion that it has done on the root's to my trees and the bank where my stairs go down is substantial. My seasonal campers have complained about the green water and it is really turning them off that not so that I may lose some customers and they have mentioned the high water.

From: Melissa Leach
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: Concerns About Lowering Lake Level on North Pond
Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 5:18:51 PM

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Dear Ms. Briggs,

I hope you are doing well. I am writing as a dedicated member of our community and a frequent user of North Pond to express concerns over the proposal to lower its water levels. I believe this change would not only undermine the lake's recreational appeal but also have negative environmental and economic repercussions.

Recreational Impact: Lowering the water level would likely interfere with a range of outdoor activities that many of us hold dear. North Pond is a place where families come together for boat rides, swimming, and even simply enjoying the natural scenery. I have many fond memories of summer days spent by the water, and I worry that a shallower lake will render boating, fishing, and swimming either unsafe or inaccessible. This alteration would diminish a vital community resource that helps bond families and foster cherished traditions.

Environmental Concerns: Any significant alteration to water levels can have profound effects on the lake's delicate ecosystem. Stable water conditions are essential to maintaining the health of aquatic life, including fish, plants, and other wildlife. Past summers have shown us the disruptive effects of algae blooms, which not only threaten the ecological balance but also render the lake unusable for recreational purposes. A lowered water level could exacerbate these conditions, risking long-term damage to North Pond's natural habitat.

Economic Considerations: The vibrancy of North Pond supports businesses, one being Pine Tree Camp that gives an opportunity for children and adults who have disabilities to enjoy the lake and all it has to offer. Their camp experience relies heavily on the use of the lake. A decrease in recreational activities could diminish their enjoyment at camp. Thereby impacting businesses that depend on a lively, engaged community. While there may be other perspectives advocating for this change, it is clear that the collective toll on our community far outweighs any perceived benefits.

I fully recognize the need for thoughtful water resource management. However, I believe there must be alternative solutions that safeguard both environmental sustainability and the rich traditions that make North Pond so special. Together, we can preserve this cherished lake for ourselves, for our children, and for the generations yet to come.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these concerns. I trust in your understanding and support to protect what we hold dear.

Sincerely,

Melissa Leach (The Busy Bee Camps, LLC)

113 & 117 Meadow Lane, Smithfield, ME

From: [Kellie Bolduc](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: Concerns regarding lowering the north pond water level
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 3:28:31 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEP Contact,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to lower the water level of North Pond. I believe this change would have a number of negative impacts on both the lake environment and the people who live and recreate there.

Here are several concerns I'd like to highlight:

- **Lake Depth & Access:** Lowering the water level would make it very difficult to launch and retrieve boats, especially at the public boat launch.
- **Dock Access:** Many docks would become unusable, leaving property owners without access to the water.
- **Water Supply for Camps:** Many camps rely on drawing water from the lake, and a lower water level could disrupt that ability.
- **Increased Shoreline Erosion:** The newly exposed shoreline would likely erode quickly, damaging the lake's edge and requiring costly environmental management.
- **Blocked Access to Little North:** The connecting channel would be too shallow for boats, cutting off access between the ponds.
- **Wildlife & Loons:** The proposed change would disrupt wildlife habitat, especially for loons that have been nesting in the same areas for over 40 years.

These are just a few of the concerns I and many others in the community share. I urge the DEP to consider the long-term environmental and recreational consequences before making any decisions. The health of North Pond is important to so many people — and it deserves our careful stewardship.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kellie Rysz

North Pond Resident

From: [Molly Saunders](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: Concerns Regarding North Pond Dam Plan and Potential Algal Blooms
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 1:10:38 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Claire and others it may concern,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing as a concerned resident regarding the proposed changes to the North Pond dam—specifically the plan to lower and open the dam in the coming months.

While I understand and appreciate the need for proactive water management, I am concerned that opening the dam while water temperatures rise could unintentionally encourage algae growth earlier in the summer than in recent years. As you know, the summer heat often creates the perfect conditions for algal blooms, and lowering the water could exacerbate this issue by exposing more nutrient-rich sediments to sunlight.

Additionally, the pond's depth is already quite low, and further lowering it may impact recreational use. Many residents already have to be cautious with their boats significantly to reach navigable water to safely be used. Any additional drop in water level could limit access even further and diminish the pond's usability during the summer months. This could require docks the need to extend even farther into the pond, potentially taking up more of the open water and making it difficult for boats to safely navigate around one another.

Algae overgrowth not only compromises water quality and ecosystem health, but also impacts the community's ability to safely enjoy the pond for part of the summer.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to preserve and protect North Pond. I truly value the work you do and hope this feedback can contribute constructively to your planning process.

Warm regards,

Molly Bolduc

From: [Michael Bolduc](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: Concerns Regarding Water Levels at North Pond
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 8:37:35 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEP,

I am writing to express my deepest concerns regarding lowering the water levels at North Pond.

The water levels are necessary to maintain due to existing concerns surrounding the shallow waters at North Pond. Having grown up on North Pond, I know this lake incredibly well, and the water levels are already shallow. The lake cannot afford to decrease water levels if it is to maintain recreational use for fishing and boating purposes. Already, there are rocks in the lake that are cause for concern, and with a decrease in water levels, it would be very dangerous to boaters. Additionally, lower water levels risk eliminating the access into Little North as it would not be easily passable, if it were passable at all. The boat launch on Bog Stream would likely not be passable by any large boats as it is already shallow and narrow as it stands now.

As a year-round resident, my family and I are active users of the lake for recreational purposes. Every summer, our family gets together at our family camp to enjoy the lake and all it has to offer. If the water levels lowered, the family camp wouldn't be able to continue getting water from the lake. As is it, the pipe is long, and we fight with issues surrounding the existing shallow waters.

Our family camp is situated near the dam, and we often walked down (the walking path) to look at the wildlife. Over the course of the 20+ years I've been visiting the dam, there has never been an instance that I've witnessed where the water was not flowing. Even when both beams are shut, there is always some type of water flow. If there was no dam, I'm concerned it will be dried out. If the only incoming water is reduced to East Pond, and their dam is shut, the contributories (like the bog stream) that flow into the lake are not enough to compensate for the amount that is flowing out.

I am concerned about the natural habitats of the animals that live around the lake and rely on the lake's resources for survival. Most importantly, loons. As their nests are typically located on the water's edge, it is of utmost importance that we maintain a steady water height. The dam has played a crucial role in doing so thus far. Without the dam, the water levels would be changing too severely for the loons to have safe nesting grounds. If there is

too much water at any given time, the nests are in danger of being washed out. Similarly, if there is not a high enough water level, their nests will end up positioned too far away from the water and in a dry environment. Water quality is another concern; North Pond has been fighting water quality issues and less water would contribute to worse conditions, which would not be good for the wildlife.

Over the past few years, home and camp owners around the lake have already started implementing LakeSmart. The properties that my family owns are all LakeSmart because that is what best serves the lake, the wildlife, and the community. I personally have spent a lot of time and effort in making our lots LakeSmart, and I truly believe that the Maine Lakes Environmental Association has proven that we can prevent erosion and preserve the lake's natural buffers by participating in the LakeSmart program. To combat erosion, it is incredibly important to maintain water levels. Erosion thrives on rapid water fluctuations, and I do not want to see the lake I love battling with more erosion issues due to the dam being permanently opened.

Lastly, with decreased water levels, the value of homes and camps on North Pond are likely to decrease. Shallow water is not compatible with boating and fishing, which will negatively impact the market value of homes and camps along the lake.

For the reasons listed above, and more, I strongly disagree with permanently opening the dam on North Pond. As mentioned, maintaining the water levels on the lake are crucial for continuing recreational use, preserving wildlife habitats, maintaining our current water source, maintaining market values of homes and camps, and preventing further erosion issues.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,
Michael Bolduc

From: [Ryan Bolduc](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: Dam water level concerns
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 11:47:56 AM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I wanted to voice my concerns about leaving the dam open and lowering the water level on North Pond.

I spent every summer living on the lake in my 34 years of life. I remember years when we had very low rainfall and needed to keep the dam closed to even have a chance to use our boats or rafts. As we are already a very shallow lake, I don't see how lowering the water levels could be beneficial in any way.

Being apart of the north pond community, I understand that the major reason for people wanting the dam to be open is to lower the risk of the algae blooms we have been experiencing in the last few years. These algae blooms are caused by higher water temperatures, which will only become worse with less water in the lake.

Please understand that keeping the dam open and lowering the water levels will only harm our community in both the short and long run.

Thank you for taking your time to read all these emails, I'm sure you have gotten quite a few.

Ryan Bolduc

April 15, 2025

Claire Briggs
Hydropower Specialist
Bureau of Land Resources
State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection
State House Station 17
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Subject: DEP File # L-30629-36-A-N (North Pond Dam)

Dear Ms. Briggs:

Our family has owned seasonal properties on North Pond in Smithfield since 1962. Through the years, we have witnessed the negative effects of the absence or improper management of the dam located on Great Meadow Stream. Prior to the installation of the currently approved dam, when the prior dam was removed by acts of vandalism, the water levels were so low that boating and swimming were nearly impossible. Since the installation of the dam, the water level has been maintained to allow for public access for boating, swimming and fishing. Also, a resurgence of the loon and other waterfowl population is evident. I will address each of the eight criteria (A – H) that the DEP will use to evaluate the water level of North Pond with the assistance of the Great Meadow Stream dam:

A) The water levels necessary to maintain the public rights of access to and use of the water for navigation, fishing, fowling, recreation and other lawful public uses;

The water level maintained by the current dam operation allows for safe access and navigation by the public and all lake front property owners. In prior years when the dam was not installed or had been left open, the water levels were so low that boat access at the public boat landing was nearly impossible and limited only to very small boats. In addition, with water levels so low, boats that were moored offshore were sitting on the bottom of the lake causing major usage and damage issues. The proper management of the dam to control water levels is critical to the public usage and the enjoyment of North Pond.

- B) *The water levels necessary to protect the safety of the littoral or riparian proprietors and the public;*

The proper management of the dam, including a fall draw down of the water level, adequately protects excessive erosion of the shoreline. In addition, numerous property owners have installed erosion control measures (such as rip rap, plantings and buffers) all based on the current dam-controlled water levels. Many properties have also received Lake Smart or Loon Smart certifications evidencing their stewardship and investment in the lake.

- C) *The water levels and minimum flow requirements necessary for the maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat and water quality;*

Utilizing the dam to maintain proper water levels enhances the fall spawning of fish and the nesting of loons and other aquatic birds. If the water is too low, important fish spawning areas will be lost, and loons will not be able to access their nests which could lead to a reduction in the loon population. Over the past 30+ years, we have witnessed a dramatic increase in the loon and other aquatic bird populations, due in part to a proper dam-maintained water level.

- D) *The water levels necessary to prevent the excessive erosion of shorelines;*

The North Pond Association has been proactive in adjusting the dam to allow for additional flowage during periods of heavy rain to assist in preventing shoreline erosion. And, as previously mentioned, with the assistance of the Seven Lakes Alliance (and with DEP permits), many property owners have taken steps (like the installation of rip rap) to further reduce shoreline erosion. Such measures were taken based on the dam-controlled water levels.

- E) *The water levels necessary to accommodate precipitation and run off of waters;*

Responded to in "D" above.

- F) *The water levels necessary to maintain public and private water supplies;*

Many property owners on North Pond are seasonal and rely on the lake to provide water supplies. The dam-controlled levels allow for property owners to source water from the lake. Without the dam, the lake would be too low for property owners to source water

either by pumps or buckets. It is imperative that the water level remains appropriate to be able to source water from North Pond.

- G) *The water levels and flows necessary for any ongoing use of the dam to generate or to enhance the downstream generation of hydroelectric or hydromechanical power, and;*

Hydroelectric power generation is not being performed on this stream.

- H) *The water levels necessary to provide flows from any dam on the body of water to maintain public access and use, fish propagation and fish passage facilities, fish and wildlife habitat and water quality downstream of the body of water;*

Great Pond is the recipient of the North Pond water flowage via Great Meadow Stream. In addition to this stream, Great Pond has many other water sources. The dam on Great Meadow Stream allows for water flowage even when fully engaged. Fish passage is evident in the spring and at other times of the year when not experiencing severe drought conditions. Further, regarding water quality downstream, due to the current poor quality of the water in North Pond, I have been told by residents of Great Pond that they prefer not to have a heavy flow from Great Meadow Stream into Great Pond.

We hope that this letter supports just how important the Great Meadow Stream dam is to the general public and property owners on North Pond. The loss of the dam or a major reduction in water level would be catastrophic to the recreational users and property owners, and we respectfully request that continued proper use of the dam be allowed for this and future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bolduc Roy & David Roy (The Busy Bee Camps, LLC)
113 & 117 Meadow Lane, Smithfield, ME (& 19 Clearview Ave., Waterville, ME)

Let's Protect North Pond—Keep the Dam Closed

North Pond is more than just a body of water—it's where we fish, swim, kayak, and make memories with family and friends. It's home to wildlife, part of our local identity, and a shared responsibility. That's why opening the dam, though well-intentioned, is the wrong move.

Lowering the lake won't solve the algae problem.

The idea of flushing the lake to clear it up sounds simple—but it won't work. The dam can't release enough water to make a real difference. And worse, exposing more of the lakebed to sunlight can actually make algae blooms worse.

It will damage our shoreline and our homes.

When water levels drop too quickly, the lake's edges erode. Docks shift, wells can run dry, and what was once a peaceful shoreline becomes unstable. These aren't just inconveniences—they're expensive and sometimes impossible to fix.

It puts our whole watershed at risk.

What leaves North Pond doesn't disappear—it flows into Great Meadow Stream and Great Pond. Releasing nutrient-rich water downstream can spread the very problems we're trying to solve.

There are better ways forward.

Proven solutions already exist—and they don't require risking the lake. We can:

- Control runoff with vegetative buffers, rain gardens, and erosion control on roads and driveways.
- Reduce nutrient loading by managing septic systems, minimizing lawn fertilizers, and working with local farms.
- Explore in-lake treatments, like aeration or phosphorus-binding techniques, with expert guidance.
- Strengthen community efforts through education, shoreline stewardship, and better coordination among property owners.

North Pond is worth protecting the right way. Let's focus on thoughtful, lasting solutions—and keep the dam closed.

From: [Donna Bolduc](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: North Pond Smithfield Dam
Date: Monday, April 21, 2025 1:45:58 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear D.E.P.,

The first time I visited North Pond was in 1987. Newly engaged, my fiancé and now husband could not wait to show me where he and his family spend all their summers. It was a perfect Maine camp on a gorgeous lake. I was told my father-in-law chose this lake because it was the shallowest of the Belgarde Lake chain and the perfect place to raise ten children. As the summer progressed, I recall vividly playing frisbee in the lake with the water level at my ankles. We were not even close to shore. I knew it was shallow, but this was crazy. I was told they removed the old hand made dam and was getting ready for the new one to be installed. The next summer the water level was back to normal for North Pond, still shallow but nothing like that first summer.

I am so concerned with the tampering of the North Pond dam. I saw firsthand what changes the dam could do to this shallow lake. I am now a full-time resident of North Pond and after raising my three children here, I hope to still have a wonderful lake for my future grandchildren. Please keep in mind the water depths of our lake and what would happen if the water flow is tampered with.

Sincerely,
Donna Rysz Bolduc

Hello

My name is Gary Bulmer, and I am a resident of Smithfield Maine. I am a full-time resident of North Pond and have been since 1978 when my wife and I purchased the Sunbeam Roller Rink. I was on the board of directors for the NPA for a couple of years. I am also the person who started a Facebook group called Friends of North Pond Smithfield. This group was started as a venue for other property owners on North Pond to vent their frustrations over lack of information from the NPA or lack of responses from the lake associations. This is the group now known as petitioners and Timothy P Downing is our spokesperson.

As I have stated, my wife and I purchased the Roller Rink in 1978 and for personal reasons, as I had grown up in the rink, as an active participant and just loved the facility. My wife had listened to Vivian Ireland (whom we had acquired the property from) tell of all the hours she had spent sunbathing on the beach behind the rink. Nancy wanted this for her and our two sons and for the first few years, which was the case. We had a beach all the time except during spring floods. The dam was built and the NPA, along with Bill Groves as dam keeper and Mike Zarcone, managed the lake level so there was not a noticeable change. A new NPA board of director's and new dam keeper and the water level was changed dramatically and erosion of the banks behind the roller-skating rink was severe. We originally had about twenty feet of land back there and now fifteen feet from the water level. I applied for a permit with DEP to build a wall behind the roller rink to stop the erosion and was denied. I hired an environmental engineer to talk with DEP on a permit and was denied again. I hired 7LA to rip rap the bank and build stairs down the hill.

The depth of water behind my property is very shallow and I have eighty-four feet of docking currently but the difference is we've lost our beach.

The retail value of my property has been affected drastically by shore erosion and green water, 3 to 6 weeks per summer, from poor management of our dam.

What else can I do," Enough is Enough", fix the damn problem! I am pissed at everyone involved in this situation, including myself, for allowing it to continue as long as it has. Shame on all of us.

North Pond water levels 2025

My grandfather had a camp on the east side of North Pond when I was a young boy in the 1960's. We now live in a year round home on the east side of North Pond. The east side has a very gradual bottom and before the dam the bottom was visible in an ugly mud and refused to allow swimming , boating and water to use in the camp for utilities. Thirty-eight years now since the dam was installed and the levels are more accommodating for all activities. We have Ducks, Loons ,Geese and fish alive and well all around our shoreline. The depth at our dock is only 3 feet deep but allows our grandkids to swim and fish and all of us to boat. We utilize a boat lift for our pontoon boat. If the water levels dropped even one foot we would lose the use of our lift and possibly the pontoon boat.

My mother is 94. She loves her pontoon boat and is only able, with the help of a walker , to access the boat, on the lift. This is her joy. This gets her through the long Maine winter, longing to take her pontoon boat out and dropping a line to fish.

I remember before the damn there were times we couldn't swim ,fish or boat, and years of swimmers itch. Any of those issues and non-use of the water have not happened since the damn was installed. I think the damn has been utilized very well, because of the success mentioned here.

The value of this and many, many other properties would drop immensely with a reduction in water levels. The quality of life would change with a drop in the water level. I urge DEP and any others to take all of this into account when considering any change in the levels of North Pond from the level it has been at for over thirty a five years.

From: [Susan LaBrecque](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: Lowering the Dam on NorthPond
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 10:37:44 AM

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Good Morning Claire

I have been in the loop on what some think will help in the algae blooms. I am not on board and fear the lowering of the dam will make it worse.

I have been a north pond summer resident since I was a child 40+ years.

As you know our lake is extremely shallow lake. Lowering the dam will decrease the water in general. The lower water level could intern increase the blooms. It will be much easier for the sunlight to hit the phosphorus on the bottom which will cause it to bloom.

Not to mention the shore line and more erosion into the lake. After all the hard work and money, a lot of camps have complied and become lake smart. This will for sure not be the case.

I 100% don't support this idea. I am honestly not sure why they think it would help.

I thank you for taking the time to read this

Sincerely
Susan Moran

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Ms. Briggs-

I write to you as a concerned fourth generation recreator of North Pond in Smithfield, ME. My great grandparents used to vacation on the pond in the early 1900's, which lead to my Grand Parents purchasing waterfront property in 1960 for them and their 10 children to use as their summer home. The waterfront property that they purchased in the 60's is still in our family today, and my father purchased the abutting property in 2019, I have an uncle that purchased abutting property, and a second cousin that purchased property on our road, all based on the memories that they shared at my grandparents' home as they grew up. Now, these properties are enjoyed by the children, their families, and now, the next generation of great-great-grandchildren on every weekend between Memorial Day and Labor Day, creating a destination to reminisce old memories, and the creation of new memories for all.

I have spent summers on the lake since I was born 34 years ago. Most, if not all of my fondest memories come from my time on the lake, and spending time with my family. Outsiders often can't believe the bond our extended family has created, and it is predicated on my grandparents' foresight to purchase property on North Pond many decades ago and create a destination where all were welcome.

In my lifetime, the lake has seen very little change. The water at the end of our dock has always stayed within a range that was driven by the time of year, whether we were having a drought year, or an excess rainfall- the level of the lake has never fluctuated because of a dam, a committee's or a group of people's agenda, it has remained as consistent as possible based on what has always been considered to be "full" lake. Admittedly, I can only comment on a period of time so far back, but it is my understanding that the lake has been unchanged since at least the late 80's when the prior dam was replaced with the version that we have today- it is crazy to think the lake level was "OK" for over 30 years, but now, is causing "problems" to a group of individuals. I like to live my life by the motto, "see something, say something", and I can tell you if I thought something was wrongfully changed and was causing a problem, I wouldn't wait decades to bring it up, which I feel speaks to the invalidity of their concerns.

Although North Pond holds a special place in the hearts of me and my family, it would be naïve to say the lake is thriving and sought after. Largely, this is because of the depth of the lake – it is the shallowest of the lakes on the Belgrade chain which commonly makes it referred to as second tier. However, even being looked at second to almost all other lakes on the Belgrade chain, the lake is widely known for its wildlife - fish, loons and bald eagles are the three that come to mind. On a quiet morning, loons can be heard around the lake. This is

largely driven by the steady water level which allows the loons to nest here year after year. Our loon count is always consistent, which, if the lake level was changing, so would the loon count as their nests would be washed out. In addition, the water temp of our lake in late summer is so warm that it hardly becomes refreshing- I can't imagine the impact a shallower lake would have on the lake temp causing complications on wildlife that call the lake their home.

On a personal level, my family uses the lake water for our camp; we wash dishes, shower, and flush our toilet from water pulled from the lake. If the lake level was to decrease, this would no longer be possible, and the use of our cottages would change significantly for the worse. If I measure 60' in front of our camp, the water is under 3' deep- removing or altering the dam would not only inhibit the use of our property, but it will also further decrease the usage of the lake as a whole. In addition, the lake only contains one boat launch, and the boat launch requires use of a bog stream to access the body of the lake. In the deepest season of the year, never mind mid-summer, or a low rainfall year, this stream's depth reads a max of ~3' on the depth finder. Without a dam, or even allowing the dam to be altered, would cause this stream to be ~2' deep in some portions, which is not sufficient to launch a boat, and navigate it safely. Without the dam, it is my belief that the use of powerboats on the pond would be over. Not only would this be detrimental to the enjoyment of the lake, but it would also significantly decrease property values, which are already at a steep discount to other lakes- because of its depth.

When I think about removing or altering the dam, the final point I would like to leave you with is safety. As a lifelong boater, when I think about a shallow lake, I think about the many challenges this would present when it comes to watercraft usage, which in turn creates an overall safety issue. I am not sure how familiar you are with the lake, but there is a large pond, which has a small pond connected to it. The smaller pond, "little" North Pond, has one entrance, which is less than 3' deep at all times. If the dam were to be removed, or altered, it would become too low to pass, and rocks, that no one has had to consider in 30+ years could "rise" to the surface. Having been a responsible boater my whole life, the thought of altering a waterway that has been unchanged for decades presents safety issues I can't even fathom.

In conclusion, we urge that you please consider all impacts when evaluating the altering of the dam on North Pond, as the impacts will be detrimental to the use, value, and overall safety of enjoying the lake. I have tried to remind myself that through this process everyone should have a voice, but if there were 58 signatures, and well over 300 property owners on the lake, the vast majority feel there is an issue with the dam- if isn't broke, don't fix it - Our wildlife are thriving, and people can be seen enjoying the lake every weekend!

We sincerely appreciate your time,

A concerned fourth Generation North Pond recreator,

Matt Bolduc

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Bolduc", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

From: sunbeam1922@roadrunner.com
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Cc: sunbeam1922@roadrunner.com
Subject: Nancy's Comments
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 10:16:05 AM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Claire Briggs

Hello Claire:

My name is Nancy Bulmer, and I live on North Pond in Smithfield with my husband Gary Bulmer, the manager of Friends of North Pond Smithfield on Facebook.

We have lived on North Pond in Smithfield since 1978, before there was a dam and after the dam was installed; plus, after another beam was installed by the North Pond Association. There has been significant damage to our bank behind the roller rink and we now have no beach. My children used to play on the beach, and I could sit and watch them with plenty of space to maneuver. My youngest child was 2 at the time we moved here and my oldest was 5. There was no problem using the beach when others controlled the dam. Now with the extra beam installed our grandchildren have not been able to play on the beach, whereas there is no beach now and the bank has even eroded. This is very discouraging.

Our property is now less desirable whereas the value I am sure has diminished with no beach to offer. We feel the placement of stones (with paper placed under the stones) by 7 Lakes Alliance has caused more damage than if left alone if the water had not been so high. The stones have been pushed up the bank by high water and ice and the paper is appearing in many places, which is very unsightly. We are not now able to access the water without causing the possibility of falling and injuring ourselves trying to get over the stones. We are not getting any younger and possible physical damage could be very debilitating to us.

It is very discouraging owning property that previously had a beach "approximately 10 feet" and now has no beach due to high water levels. Please hear our cries.

Respectfully,

Nancy Bulmer

From: bmharnden@aol.com
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: North Pond (Smithfield) Water Level Petition
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 9:18:14 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Claire:

My name is Ben Harnden. I have been a camp owner on North Pond in Smithfield since 2018. I have grave concerns about the possibility of the North Pond Association (NPA) losing control of the management of the lake level of North Pond as proposed in a petition that has been submitted.

The North Pond Association has done an excellent job in maintaining the water level during the time I have owned my camp, taking into account large variations in the amount of rain that we have received at various times over that period. With large fluctuations in rain, someone needs to be readily available to adjust the outflow when needed. NOA has done a very good job of being available and is very responsive. They have also used resources available from biologists at 7 Lakes Alliance to determine best practices for keeping the lake and wildlife around it as healthy as possible.

All of the 7 Belgrade Lakes are connected. It is critical that the levels and outflows of the various lakes be coordinated and special situations accounted for, like the 100+ year flood that occurred in 2023 when Great Pond (downstream of North Pond) backed up water to the point where the level of North Pond could not be lowered right away. Another example is when Great Pond was repairing their dam and excess water could not be let out of North Pond in October as was normally done. Outflows must be adjusted to deal with whatever conditions arise.

I have great concerns about any proposal to lower the North Pond level or to require any constant outflow of water. When we had a significant drought a few years ago, levels dropped, which caused more hazardous rocks to be exposed, limited recreational activities and made access to the water very difficult at my camp. If this were to continue (due to a permanently lower level or mandated outflows causing a lowered level), these hazards would return, I would have to extend my dock at great expense and the value of my property would be significantly reduced.

In summary, I would very much like the management of the level of North Pond to remain with the North Pond Association, made up of lake property owners. I am strongly against any other entity assuming control of the level, particularly one composed of the petitioners which are committed to lowering the lake level.

Best Regards,

Ben Harnden
18 Fitzgerald Lane
Smithfield, Maine

From: [Stripe A Lot](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: North Pond Dam Removal
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 12:59:56 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Claire, how are you? My name is Peter Bolduc and I live at 20 Crossroad on North Pond in Smithfield. I realize that everyone has an opinion regarding the removal or allowing the water to flow freely with any restrictions at the North pond outlet but that would be detrimental to North Pond in every way but not in a good way . I'm not a scientist but I would like think I have some common sense regarding the quality of the lake since I have been here most of my life seeing the best of the lake and at its worst. Unfortunately after decades of run off , faulty septic systems , erosion ect North Pond and other lakes have had their share of problems as well but being only 18 feet deep North Pond is struggling as you already know. I understand some people are claiming that 50 years ago we didn't have any water quality issues when there was no dam in place but times have changed and having constant flow will solve our problem and I would be on board with that but I think it will only make things much worse with more algae blooms the shallower the lake gets. Also I understand erosion is a big part of this issue and no one what's that but my view is we need a happy medium regarding the level of the lake , not to high to prevent erosion but not to low that would definitely cause more algae blooms and create hardship for many lake owner to enjoy the lake for all recreational use.. I only want what's best for the lake as we all do but follow the science regardless what was 50 years ago. If DEP removes the dam and pull the plug with no restrictions it will be the death North Pond since the level would be so low it would become a petri dish and we will have algae blooms from June until Nov and recreational use will be almost nonexistent unless you have a kayak and swimming will be a thing of the past. Let's do what's best for North Pond and follow the science regardless what was 50 years ago, unfortunately times have changed and not for the better and were all trying to do what's best for North Pond that's what we all want for future generations to enjoy as I have my entire life. Thank You . Sincerely Peter Bolduc 692-4312

From: [James LaBrecque](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: North Pond Dam Removal
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 4:47:54 PM

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Good Afternoon,

I was raised on this lake having grown up in Winslow, ME. I have been there for over fort-five years and throughout most of that time we had a dam on the outlet stream located at the end of our camp road.

There are personal reasons why I want to keep the dam:

- boat launching
- use of our docks
- submersion of underwater hazards
- access to Little Pond

That said, there are also ecological concerns:

- shallower depths will result in faster warming and could lead to more algal growth
 - as a professional organic chemist this concerns me
- there is no evidence tied to the impact to fish and mollusks, mammals and birds.

We simply need more data before we make such a drastic change. This is not the time to "try it out." Please keep our dam on Meadow Stream.

Thank you,

Jim LaBrecque

From: [C Winfield Swarr](#)
To: [Paye, Laura](#)
Subject: North Pond Water Levels and Dam Management
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 3:09:55 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Laura Paye

Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection

17 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Regulation of Water Levels and Minimum Flows for North Pond

Dear MS. Paye,

I have owned a camp in Rome on North Pond for 40 years. Since the North Pond Association has taken over the management of the dam on North Pond, water levels have remained consistent relative to seasonal changes and unpredictable weather. Prior to that point, that was not the case. I believe that the North Pond Association has sought guidance from the State environmental folks and to date has received nothing.

The petition from Timothy Downing contains numerous factual errors that should be corrected. These errors have been pointed out in the testimony of Catherine Meilke President of the North Pond Association.

C Winfield Swarr

cswarr@gmail.com

203-895-5832

From: CLYDE9200@roadrunner.com
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: North Pond water levels and flowage
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 10:16:24 AM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms. Claire Briggs,

I was unable to be present at the hearing on April 14 regarding the North Pond water levels and flowage. I thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts online.

I have lived year-round on the east side of North Pond for over 65 years both as boy and man. I have observed several changes to the lake during that time. I have little knowledge about the operation or protocols of dam management on this lake or other lakes in the Belgrade chain. However, I am very observant about changes around the North Pond and especially changes to my water frontage happening over many years.

When my parents purchased the property in 1957, we always had 8-10 feet of beach in front of our camp during warmer months of the year. We often put lawn chairs on the beach to relax in the sun. We could pull our boats up on the beach leaving them overnight instead of using the mooring if we wished, and we could walk on the beach to Sunset Camps, the store, or to the roller rink. The beach offered a buffer to the shoreline. Sometime in the 1970's or 1980's the powers that be thought it might be a good idea to raise the lake level two or more feet. Since then, I have observed that the large reed bank at the northerly end of the lake has slowly diminished by about three quarters of its original size. The entrance to Little Pond used to be relatively narrow with vegetation on both sides. Now it is wide with no vegetation left. Keeping the water level artificially high with reduced flowage must also be a contributing factor in the numerous algae blooms the lake has had over several years.

Since we have no more beach to act as a buffer to our shoreline, considerable damage has been done every year. The lake level stays high sometimes into November before the dam is opened to drain down the lake before freezing. This means that the ice freezes higher up on the shoreline, and as the winter progresses the ice bulldozes up our bank displacing our rip rap. When the ice starts melting in the spring, displaced rip rap falls into the lake.

But that has been only half of the problem for our shorefront. We get very strong northwest winds. I have an anemometer that regularly records wind in the 20-35 mph range, often with higher gusts. Our shorefront is all steep banks perpendicular to the shore. In the spring and fall the northwest wind pounds the banks with considerable force. That coupled with displaced rip rap and high-water causes considerable erosion. We often see brown, silty water 25 feet or more in front of our house when high winds are battering the shoreline. Tree roots are undercut, and some areas are carved concave.

For many years part of my summer and fall chores is to roll rip rap back into place in an attempt to save my shorefront from more damage. I am in my late 70's now and am just about ready to give up that chore. It seems to be a futile effort.

The dam should be wide open no later than October 15. The lower the water level is before freezing up, the less damage it can do. And in the spring, immediately when the ice goes out, or even before, the dam should be wide open to draw the lake down before significant damage can be done.

Sincerely,

John Clyde

From: [maggie brock](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: North Pond Water Levels
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 8:35:40 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DEP,

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the matter of lowering the water levels on North Pond. As a historically shallow lake, with the deepest depths around only 20 feet, North Pond cannot afford to lower the water levels any more. The consequences of lowering the water levels far outweigh any possible advantages.

Lowering the water levels will not only limit the availability for recreational lake use, including activities such as boating, fishing, and swimming, but it will also create an environment where invasive plant growth (such as curly-leaf pondweed) will flourish. The increased presence of these invasive plants will negatively impact the native species by gradually reducing their oxygen sources and disrupting their natural habitats. Without the native fish, North Pond will be at risk of losing wildlife that relies on the lake for survival (such as birds and foxes) as their food sources will be eliminated, forcing them to move to other areas. As a result, fishing as a recreational activity will also be lost.

Issues surrounding water supply to homes and camps surrounding the lake will increase if the water levels decrease. As many camps and homes rely on a well to provide water, lowered water levels would pose a concern that there will not be enough water to support the volume of wells on the lake.

Lastly, many camp and home owners have already taken the steps necessary to become LakeSmart and prevent erosion. This, paired with the natural buffers surrounding the lake, has proven to be efficient in combating erosion. Lowering the water levels would be of no benefit in terms of minimizing erosion impact due to the existing efforts that have already been implemented.

Overall, I am against lowering the lake level at North Pond. As a frequent For the purpose of preserving natural animal habitats, continuing recreational use of the lake, and maintaining water supply, I am against lowering the North Pond water levels.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maggie Brock

From: [Jeff Greenleaf](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: North Pond Water Quality
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 11:56:16 AM
Attachments: [IMG_4913.mp4](#)

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning Claire,

My wife and I own property at 17 Mike's Lane in Smithfield on North Pond. We use this residence mostly for our own enjoyment but we do rent on occasion through AirBnB to help offset expenses. Our concern for the past 7 years that we've owned has been the water quality in North Pond and the lack of flow control at the dam flowing in from East Pond. I'm no biologist and I know there is an existing algae problem in the lake but I have owned a swimming pool and when you shut the pump off to the pool and no water is circulating it doesn't take long for the pool to turn green. We have seen the dam be shut for several weeks at a time w no flow even after a heavy rain and the water quality deteriorate. Then within hours of the dam being opened, the water clears. We would like your help in considering a minimal flow rate as well as a better monitoring system to allow for more frequent adjustments as weather permits.

We love to enjoy and share our property with others but it is difficult to rent and enjoy when the water looks like raw sewage.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Sincerely Jeff and Christy Greenleaf

From: [Amy Tucci LaBrecque](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Cc: [Jim LaBrecque](#)
Subject: North Pond
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 4:28:40 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

I am writing to voice a concern about the possibility that the level of North Pond (located in Smithfield, Rome and Mercer) may be lowered, and why we believe that the potential harmful impacts of this would greatly outweigh any perceivable benefit. I write as a member of an extended family that owns several properties in the Smithfield area of the lake.

As you likely know, North Pond at its greatest depth is already very shallow. Lowering the level any further would have great impacts on not only recreation (ability to get boats in, ability to properly utilize docks, ability to draw water to your camp, etc), but the environmental impacts could be grave, as it would very likely promote additional erosion to the shoreline and have a negative effect on the nesting of the lake's most treasured inhabitants - its loons.

Thank you for your consideration to this important issue. North Pond is extremely important to our entire family, and we want to see it thrive, not suffer.

Regards,
Amy LaBrecque

From: [Hans Rasmussen](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: North Pond
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 1:02:40 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing in support of the establishment of a water level standard and flow requirement for North Pond and Great Meadow Stream. I have witnessed approximately three feet erosion along my lake access in the past three years on the eastern shore of the pond. The embankment is three to four feet high and has been a major source of soil/phosphorus introduction to the pond. Another result of the erosion has been the removal of three trees from the waters of the lake. Three more are ready to topple into the lake within the next year. The property loss is unrecoverable, and riprap is expensive, a lower maximum water level is a very low-cost solution to this situation.

These results were predicted in the 1987 DEP Findings of Fact permitting the construction of this dam. Item 11 clearly states that high water levels increase erosion and lower water quality. Conclusion D of the same document referenced a minimum water flow and item 5 of the conditions of approval required a permanent hole in the bottom flashboard, which was not done.

A return to historic water levels and adherence to the 1987 permit should be a minimal requirement.

Please stop the erosion.

Hans Rasmussen

From: [Chris Hasson](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: North Pond
Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 5:44:35 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening Claire,

We're contacting you about the water levels and flow in North Pond and how they have impacted us. Briefly, my wife and her family started renting at Sunset Camps in the '70's. Lynne and I started bringing our kids (with my in-laws and their families) up there in the early '90's. When a developer put the camps up for sale, we took a leap of faith and bought one on the hill in 2015. Needless to say we have a history on that beautiful pond.

The water levels and flow have dramatically affected our property. I'd estimate that the beach has shrunk 4'-6'.

We rent our camp just enough to cover the taxes/HOA's and make some improvements. Since the water levels/flow became an issue 6 or 8 years ago, we've lost approximately \$10,000 in rentals. That hurts.

It also hurts when, for the one week a year, we are all together as a family we can't access the water.

To make the financial commitment on this beautiful spot and not be able to take advantage of the water is aggravating and very, very disappointing for all of us.

I'm hoping something will be done to restore water levels to the levels of years ago.

Thanks very much for your work on this.

Have a great summer.

Chris and Lynne Hasson
33 Dyke Farm Rd South Portland, ME 04106

9 Ellie's Lane
Smithfield, ME 04978

From: [Patricia Ramsey](#)
To: [Paye, Laura](#)
Cc: [Katie Meikle](#); [Kelly Marshall](#); [Eric Brown](#); [Catherine Drummond](#); [Leavitt, Sheila](#)
Subject: NPA should continue to own and supervise the Great Meadow Stream Dam
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 2:15:41 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Laura Paye, Maine Dept. of Environmental

FR: Patricia Ramsey and Fred Moseley, home owners on North Pond

RE: *Water Level Hearing-North Pond*, Monday, April 14, 2025

NPA should continue to own and supervise the Great Meadow Stream Dam

We are Fred Moseley and Patricia Ramsey. We own a camp on North Pond and have lived there every summer since 1983. We strongly urge that North Pond Association continue to own, monitor, and control the Great Meadow Stream Dam.

Before the North Pond Association installed the Great Meadow Dam in 1985, the water level in the lake varied considerably and disrupted our lives and caused erosion. At one point, there was a dispute about the water level. As tensions rose, one party bulldozed a lot of dirt into the stream to slow the flow, and water levels rose. Then the opponent blew up that dam, and the water quickly drained from the pond. As the water receded, many families – including ours – could no longer draw water from the lake for household needs. We tried to add extensions to our in-take pipes, but it was expensive and did not always work. Furthermore, many of us had to walk long distances in the mud and rocks to get to swimmable water, and our docks were basically on dry land.

After this summer of acrimony and low water, we were very pleased when NPA was formed and, with the approval of Maine DEP, NPA members installed a dam and began to systematically monitor the water levels and to adjust the dam (e.g., after a period of heavy rain) to maintain a relatively consistent water level. While the water levels usually drop during the summer, the dam keeps plenty of water in the lake for household use and swimming and boating.

We are deeply grateful to the NPA “dam keepers” who, for 40 years, have spent hundreds of

hours (often in cold, wet weather or blistering heat) monitoring the water level, adjusting the height of the dam, clearing debris, and, sadly, repairing damage when people have vandalized the dam. From years of reading the “Dam Reports” we understand and appreciate how much expertise, collaboration, and just plain hard work it takes to manage the water levels and to ensure that all of us have access to a swimmable lake and water for our homes.

Under the ownership and supervision of NPA, the Great Meadow Stream dam has worked well for 40 years. We urge you continue the current arrangement in which NPA is responsible for maintaining the dam, monitoring the water levels, and adjusting the dam height as needed. They are doing a great job and should continue to be in charge.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you very much for reading this testimony.

Patricia Ramsey (pramsey@mtholyoke.edu)

Fred Moseley (fmoseley@mtholyoke.edu)

30 Hummingbird Ridge

Rome, ME 04963



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Patricia Burdick
213 Lake View Drive
Smithfield ME 04978

Laura Paye
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333

Dear Ms Paye:

Please accept these written comments as support for North Pond Association (NPA) in the forthcoming public hearing on North Pond water levels. I am a professional librarian, formerly a research engineer. I value science based information and public education strategies that will together make our communities better lake stewards. I find NPA to have been a steady advocate for North Pond through watershed collaboration and community outreach since my move to Smithfield over 25 years ago.

Soon after purchasing my shorefront property, I joined NPA as a dues paying member and volunteer. Since then, I have attended annual NPA meetings, received NPA newsletters, discussed environmental issues with NPA board members and consulted data-based resources on the NPA website. I continue to be very impressed with the thoughtful, professional and transparent approach taken by the organization to explain and confront complex environmental issues impacting North Pond – including maintenance and operation of the Great Meadow Stream dam. NPA's active participation in 7 Lakes Alliance has allowed our Smithfield community to learn from and contribute to the broader advocacy for Belgrade Lakes watershed mitigation and management. I am extremely grateful to NPA board members and volunteers for their dedicated attention over many years.

I completed my Master Gardener certification through University of Maine Extension in 2011. I wished to apply that newly acquired knowledge to upgrade my shorefront property as a lake steward. NPA board members were immediately responsive to my requests for guidance and I became a LakeSmart candidate, achieving my LakeSmart award in 2018. The NPA board fundamentally understands the many challenges facing those of us with shorefront property who aspire to steward the lake within resources we have available. I am continually impressed with the patience and knowledge NPA utilizes when advising courses of action that are realistic yet based in best practices.

I have read the petition submitted by some of my neighbors who appear to want to establish local water level management practices by undermining NPA and its longstanding service to our lake and community. In closing, I'd like to say I hope the petitioners come to see that environmental protection at any level requires cooperation and collaboration, not divisiveness. NPA is the professional, dedicated and transparent North Pond steward we need, especially in the challenging times we are now facing.

Sincerely,

Patricia Burdick

From: [Robbie Emery](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: North Pond water problems
Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 1:48:28 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Claire,

My name is Robbie Emery. I am from Madison ,Me but My wife and I have two camps on North Pond in Mercer. 182 Pond Rd is one address and the other is 5 Island view drive, the properties are side by side. I am writing this email with huge concerns about the management of the lake water quality and the height of the water.

First off , May 1 2023 we had a bad rain storm that flooded the lake . This flood took out 4' of shore line in front of my camp . It also completely washed out a peninsula of land right beside the camp. This is land that obviously is gone forever. That one storm took out shore line trees, and vegetative shoreline.

This all happened because north pond and east pond don't communicate . East pond opened there dam and north pond didn't. We camp owners all paid the consequences. I was told I couldn't get my shoreline back but I could pay to have it rip rapped , which I did. I can't afford to lose anymore. This same storm water went under my camp and collapsed the ground because of the water saturation. That's my problem as well.

We all here the water is green because of runoff in the lake be the biggest cause and yet we go and pull a move like this. My property value has gone down because of both the water being green and the erosion that has gone on as of late, but my property taxes keep going up.

North pond is not a private pond, it's a public pond which the state has say over. I think its time the state started taking care of there duties and maintaining these issues . It also should be kicking in moneys to help with the alum treatment to get this lake back to useable again.

Please let me know if you need more info. I would be glad to talk with you on these issues.

Thank you.

Robbie Emery
Vice President
RTD Enterprises
[196 Old Point Avenue](#)
[Madison, ME 04950](#)
Phone: [207-696-3964](#)

Fax: [207-696-0815](tel:207-696-0815)

Cell: [207-431-4673](tel:207-431-4673)

Web Site: www.rtdenterprises.com



From: [Shawn Tuttle](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: North Pond Water Level
Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 8:20:47 AM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

My name is Shawn Tuttle and my wife and I live on Meadow Lane on the Smithfield side of North Pond. We bought our camp in 2014 and built a year round house in 2019. The water level varies depending on the lake depending where you are located. I was part of the dam committee for a few years. The water level seemed pretty good a few years ago as we raised and lowered the upper beam depending on runoff. North pond primarily relies on rain in the summer months to maintain an acceptable water level to enjoy the lake for watersport and boating activities. I believe it is critical to NOT keep the lake as low as it has been the last year. I have a 60 foot dock that goes in the exact same spot every spring. This past fall the water level was lowered to a point where people struggled to get their watercraft in and out of the water. I am very supportive to keep the water level higher than it has been recently so we can all enjoy the lake. A little water flow may be good for the lake but definitely not to the point that it was at the end of last summer/fall. If the water level stays at that level I will not be able to access the water as it is very gradual and shallow. If there is anything at all that I can help with or any information that I can provide please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you.

Shawn Tuttle
(207) 215 -5295

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [Lisa Leach](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: Subject: DEP File # L-30629-36-A-N (North Pond Dam)
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 7:33:16 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Briggs,

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the proposal to lower the water level at North Pond in Smithfield, Maine. My family has owned property since 1962. As someone who is part of this community, I deeply value the well-being of the residents and the environment, therefore I ask you to consider the potential negative effects it may have on property owners and the broader community. Lowering the lake's water level could lead to significant repercussions.

Altering the water levels could disrupt the habitats for aquatic and other wildlife. These changes might have long-term consequences for the natural beauty of the lake. North Pond offers recreational activities such as swimming, boating, and fishing and lowering the water levels would compromise these activities.

The North Pond Association has taken measures to protect shoreline erosion by adjusting the dam during heavy rains. In addition, many property owners have installed buffers such as plants and rip rap to help reduce erosion, all according to the current water levels controlled by the dam.

Many of the property owners rely on their water supply coming from the lake. If the dam is removed or lowered, then the water level would be too low for their water pumps to work properly. In some cases, the property does not meet the requirements for a drilled well or the cost is prohibitable. This could lower property values.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bolduc Leach and David Leach (The Busy Bee Camps, LLC)

113 & 117 Meadow Lane, Smithfield, ME (& 170 Eight Rod Road, Waterville, ME)

From: [Donna Bolduc](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: North Pond Smithfield Dam
Date: Monday, April 21, 2025 1:27:23 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioner,

Thank you for reviewing my concerns.

I have been on North Pond my entire life of almost 65 years. That entire time, a dam of some capacity has been on Meadow Stream. In the late 1980's, the rock/wood dam was removed in preparation for the steel-beam dam installation we have today. During that time, the lake was nothing but a large, smelly, mud puddle. We were unable to draw water for our domestic water pumps, so our camp was unusable. At the end of our long 48' dock, the water was just over our ankles and well below the knee. Boats could not get to the dock and could not even sit at the moorings as the bottom of the boat and engine were resting at the bottom. People's boat lifts were unusable. The public boat landing did not have enough water to pull and launch larger boats. The passage to Small Pond did not allow most boats to pass through. Our lake is extremely shallow. Lowering the water level will hinder recreational boat use, including sail boats with a keel. Boats will not be able to pull up to a dock at all. Smithfield, Rome and Mercer is known to have an abundance of large rocks, including in the lake of North Pond. When the water is lowered, entire sections of the lake will be off limits to boating because of the hazardous rocks now above water. Lowering the lake will affect waterfowl nesting areas of our Mallards, Geese, Cormorants and Loons.

I recently built a year-round home down the road from our 2 family camps. All three of these properties are Lake Smart. I truly believe in the science of water shed and erosion control. Our shorelines are now protected with rip rap, planting, French drains and flower gardens which protect the lake. As Stewart Cole from 7 Lakes Alliance pointed out recently, lowering the lake will present new erosion problems as a new high-water mark will be lower. This will leave entire areas of unprotected shoreline that will allow run off and phosphorus into the lake. All we have done to protect the lake will now need to be redone.

I also feel the need to address evidence presented by the petitioners. The lake map presented shows depth all along the shoreline of the lake. These depths are not the actual depths next to the shore. For reference, my camp road is the access to the

Meadow Stream dam. At my house, I need to walk out a football field to get water up to my waist. I already struggle with swimming and getting a boat to the dock. Lowering the lake will affect everyone on my camp road and many other properties. The map also shows 2 red lines that show a small passage to Little Pond. Petitioners claim that it occurred from the dam. As a young child, around 1972, my friend and neighbor would go through the "secret passage" to Little Pond. We could go through with our canoe and sometimes with our small fishing boat. My point is, it has always been there.

I also need to refute the dam mismanagement and high-water damage. On December 19, 2023, and December 20, 2023, our area of the State received over 7 inches of rain. Every river, stream, lake and pond were overflowing and full. The damage the petitioners show pictures of and complained about, happened then. Remember, the dam had been completely open in October, and the lake was at its lowest possible level before the rainstorm. Lowering the water level during the summer months would not have prevented high lake levels. The heavy snow melt and "winter tropical storm" caused the damage.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Thomas J. Bolduc

From: Robert Bolduc
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: Water Dept North Pond
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 12:50:27 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms Briggs,

I apologize for not being able to attend last Monday's meetings due to a prior commitment. However, as a property owner, along with having experienced the positive effect of the dam on the pond, I feel it necessary to make the following comments:

- * It has allowed access to North Pond via the public landing.
- * It has given boat owners the ability to remove their boats off their respective lifts.
- * It has decreased the impact of submerged rocks due to water depth.
- * I have experienced the effects on the shore line when the dam is open, causing me to question the money spent to comply with the Lake Smart Project.

I could go on, but I believe these comments/concerns identify my support for utilizing the dam as we have been.

Sincerely,
Robert A. Bolduc
Meadow Lane
Smithfield, ME

From: [Jerry Bolduc](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: Water depth on North Pond
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 3:10:32 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Briggs,

Let me start by saying that I am opposed to reducing the water level on North pond.

My parents bought their first lot on North Pond, known as 113 Meadow Lane, in 1960 and built a camp in 1962. In 1975 they purchased their second camp, which is next door, known as 117 Meadow Lane. Both of these camps are still in our family. In 2017 my brother and sister in law purchased their real estate located at 123 Meadow Lane and built their year round home there in 2022. I purchased my camp in 2019 which is located at 103 Meadow Lane. All of these properties are lake front. All of our properties are lake smart or working to be lake smart. Our family is very active with the North Pond Association, we want the lake to thrive. In simple terms, North Pond is our family's happy place; the Bolduc family has a vested interest in North Pond.

The existing dam has been there for almost forty years and the water level of the lake has been relatively consistent since that time (this was stated at the April 14th hearing). People/families have purchased, renovated and or worked to get their properties lake smart etc based upon the current water level.

Lowering the water level would cause some major issues. The public boat ramp would be drastically affected making it difficult, if not impossible, to get bigger boats in and out of the lake. The passageway between North Pond and Little Pond would be greatly impacted. Some of the larger boats would probably not be able to utilize it. That is the only access for larger boats. Boating safety would be of concern. The rocks and old trees that are currently not an issue to be hit would come into play if the water were lowered. The lower the water the faster the water will heat up. This would impact other lake issues that are currently being worked on. People who depend on the lake for their camp water could have a shortage. In 1987 when the old dam was taken out to build the existing dam the water level was so low you had to walk out over a hundred yards to get the water up to waist level.

At the April 14th hearing it was stated that the people who bought condos at Sunset Camps were questioning the water level. Sunset Camps were rental cabins prior to the conversion to condos around 2020. As previously stated, the water level has been pretty consistent since 1988. I believe their issue is water quality not water quantity.

I would also like to point out that there has been a lot of research done and money spent for other existing water issues with North Pond. Changing the water level will impact what has been accomplished to date.

Lowering the water level will make the lake less desirable and impact property values.

Thank you for taking the time to understand my concerns.

Jerry Bolduc
103 Meadow Lane
Smithfield

From: [Deborah Tuttle](#)
To: [Briggs, Claire](#)
Subject: Water level
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 3:05:28 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the drastically low water level on North Pond in Smithfield. My husband and myself purchased a camp in 2014, which we have now converted to our full time home. Both dams have been left up since last fall, and the water is the lowest that we have ever seen it. It affects our recreation around the lake including even kayaking and paddle boarding as well as local wildlife in their natural habitat. Docks are essentially sitting in 1-2 feet of water, it's almost impossible to fish as you have to go out 100-200 feet off from the shore to be even able to cast, and I have concerns about the ability of the town economy as the town is made up of a lot of waterfront properties whose property values are decreasing as a result of the low water low levels.

It seems more feasible if there needs to be water flow for there to be atleast one beam down.

I appreciate your time on hearing from me regarding this matter.

Deb Tuttle
143 Meadow lane
Smithfield, Me 04978
207-441-1803
Sent from my iPhone