



## PPCSLA Fall Update 11-23-25

### Reporting Shoreland Zoning Violations – Who Do You Contact?

Water quality issues in freshwater systems are most frequently related to activity that increases runoff from the land which transfers phosphorus from the soil into the water. In our lake and stream, such runoff is the primary source of phosphorus entering our system, and we all have seen the cyanobacteria blooms that result during the summer. The activities a landowner may undertake within 250 feet of the shore of any water body is governed by Maine's Shoreland Zoning Law. Each town is required, by the State of Maine, to apply the States Shoreland regulations, or to create and enforce their own Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.

From the DEP website: *"The Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act (MSZA) requires municipalities to adopt, administer, and enforce local ordinances that regulate land use activities in the shoreland zone. The shoreland zone is comprised of all land areas within 250 feet, horizontal distance, of the*

- ***normal high-water line of any great pond or river;***
- ***upland edge of a coastal wetland, including all areas affected by tidal action, and***
- ***upland edge of defined freshwater wetlands; and***
- ***all land areas within 75 feet, horizontal distance, of the normal high-water line of certain streams."***

NOTE: For work within 25 feet of a waterbody, you must first obtain Maine-DEP permits directly from the DEP. Your town's CEO does NOT issue these permits.

It is incumbent on each shoreland property owner to be aware of the shoreland zoning rules exist and to contact your town's Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) BEFORE doing any work in the shoreland zone. The State of Maine DEP website has lots of information about SLZ rules and maintains links to each town's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance (<https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/slz/>)

**If you see activity that may be in violation of your town's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, please report it by taking the following steps:**

1. **Contact your town's Code Enforcement Officer (CEO)** and report the address or approximate location of the presumptive violation and the nature of the activity. If you know the property owner's name, provide that, as well. If you can take pictures of the activity, so much the better. Note that you can report this ANONYMOUSLY – your identity may not be revealed without your permission. Town CEOs are trained for enforcement of SZ rules and are required to investigate and enforce.
2. **You may contact the PPCSLA via its president, Greg Anderson**, provide him the information set out in item 1, and he will anonymously report the possible violation to your town's CEO. Greg can be reached by email at: [anderson.gregoryj.me@gmail.com](mailto:anderson.gregoryj.me@gmail.com) or by phone at 207-577-7091 (no calls after 9 pm, please).
3. Lastly, if you can't reach any of the above, you can report the activity to the Cobbossee Watershed District by email: [cwd@fairpoint.net](mailto:cwd@fairpoint.net) They will contact the appropriate authority.

If you have any questions about this issue, please feel free to reach out to any of the folks mentioned above.



Pleasant Pond – Cobbosseecontee Stream Lake Association

### **Watershed Friends Year End Appeal**

Watershed Friends, the nonprofit organization that performs aquatic invasive species (AIS) surveys, identification and mitigation throughout the Cobbossee Watershed, is mailing out their year-end appeal letter just after Thanksgiving. The importance of the Friend's work in our watershed and our lake and stream cannot be overstated. Simply put, the Watershed Friends is our shield against expansion of AIS in Pleasant Pond and Cobbosseecontee Stream. Any other option, such as "going it alone", would be prohibitively expensive for lake association. The PPCSLA will shortly be negotiating for the AIS work needed for the 2026 season and we encourage you to support this very important work with a generous donation to the Watershed Friends. Let's all work together to eradicate AIS in the watershed.

### **UPDATES ON PPCSLA ACTIVITY**

The new volunteer PPCSLA Steering Committee has been busy this fall preparing the documentation needed to file for nonprofit status with the State of Maine. We are extremely grateful to Lindsay Dickerson, Esq., who very generously assisted our steering committee in the document preparation. We will file our Articles of Incorporation and our Bylaws with the Secretary of State's office just before Thanksgiving. Hopefully we will hear back soon about our approval (or not). Once approved, we can obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN) and then apply to the IRS for 501(c)(3) exemption. This latter application may take several months before a ruling – yay or nay – is issued. Keep your fingers crossed for success!

Other activities of the committee have focused on creating a Three-year Plan for development of the lake association, building a PPCSLA website, developing a bookkeeping and finance plan, and planning for a membership drive in 2026.

### **The PPCSLA needs your expertise!**

The steering committee needs assistance in two areas:

- (1) We have lost our presumptive Bookkeeper /Treasurer and so need a new committee member to fill this position. If you have bookkeeping and or finance skills and you could volunteer for PPCSLA we would welcome your help.
- (2) We would welcome the help of a volunteer to help build our website. We have a domain secured through Hostinger and are using Wordpress as the web creator tool. If you have experience with Wordpress and would lend us your talents we would be most appreciative.

If you are interested in either of these volunteer positions, please contact Greg Anderson at 207-577-7091 or [anderson.gregoryj.me@gmail.com](mailto:anderson.gregoryj.me@gmail.com) THANKS!