



RAYMOND
WATERWAYS

Spring 2024

Quarterly newsletter



Fundraising Mailing

As we write this, board members and other volunteers are getting ready to stuff and label envelopes for our annual fundraising mailing. It should arrive to you shortly. Please consider a donation for the following reasons:

- The health of Raymond's waterways is the health of Raymond—for property values, for leisure activities, and for a beautiful landscape. Our lakes and ponds are what make Raymond special, and we work to keep them all healthy.
- We cooperate with various lake associations, the Town of Raymond, local businesses, and the State DEP to protect waterways wisely and efficiently.
- We oversee the Courtesy Boat Inspections at boat launches on Sebago, Panther, Crescent, and Thomas. The CBI program is the best way so far to prevent invasives from ruining our lakes and ponds.
- We offer free consultations to shoreline owners, to prevent erosion, the number 1 threat to lakes. We offer a non-obligatory, non-regulatory assessment of your property and suggestions for controlling erosion.
- We work to educate visitors and residents about how to keep our lakes healthy—it begins with you!

New Look

We have a new logo designed by Ian Maready, which we'll include in all of our publications. We're retiring the old one, and introducing this one. Hope you like it!

Also, even though our legal name is Raymond Waterways Protective Association, we are going to refer ourselves as Raymond Waterways in our mailings and publications. Seems simpler.

**To donate and to learn more go to
[Raymondwaterways.org](https://raymondwaterways.org)**

Web: raymondwaterways.org

Email: info@raymondwaterways.org

Mail: PO Box 1243,
Raymond, ME 04071

Avid Angler Joins Raymond Waterways Board!

Our newest volunteer board member is Angelo Conti, who grew up in New Jersey, where as a high schooler, he worked for the local watershed protection association. He began fly fishing then, eventually being named New Jersey's 2011 and 2012 Fly Fisherman of the Year

when he was only 17 and 18. He graduated from Maine's Unity College with a degree in fisheries management, a field in which he has worked in Maine ever since. He treasures our lakes and rivers and is committed to protecting them with Raymond Waterways. Welcome, Angelo!



Should Wealthy Shoreline Zoning Violators Be Able To Hurt a Town Financially and Environmentally?

Raymond's State Senator Tim Nangle has introduced a bill, LD 2101, "An Act to Strengthen Shoreland Zoning" in response to shoreland owners who flout state and local laws and regulations, knowing they can indulge in protracted litigation that can easily exhaust a town's coffers.

The proposed law seems to stem from a case of unauthorized alterations to a property owned by Donald Buteau on Sebago Lake in Raymond, in the fall of 2021. According to Christopher Wheelock, writing in the Auburn Sun Journal, "The shoreland in front of the homes at 18 Fernwood Road and 28 Whitetail Lane was transformed in two weeks from its natural landscape of towering trees, native vegetation and rocky shore to an open landscape of at least 400 linear feet of riprap — rock — lining the shore. The town and Maine DEP investigated and discovered no permits were filed for the work."

The Town of Raymond's Code Enforcement officers have since asked Maine courts to enforce the zoning laws and regulations, and have the site restored to its earlier, compliant state. There are allegations of broken town regulations, state laws, and federal laws with the site work.

Nangle's proposal would allow towns to put liens on properties whose owners have broken regulations and laws, and with their wealth, can afford endless litigation, which hurts a small town.

"All violations are hard to enforce, and can be frustrating," Chris Hanson, Assistant Code Enforcement Officer for Raymond, told the Sun. "People that have a lot of money, sometimes, create a violation and do so knowing that it's easier to ask for forgiveness than permission."

As Maine NBC News Center Reporter Caroline LeCour, in February, quoted Senator Nangle, "Our local water bodies are crucial

to the economy and environment of our smaller communities in the entire state. Protecting these resources is essential, but our municipalities face significant challenges in enforcing shoreland zoning laws."

According to the Windham Eagle, the bill received a strong, bipartisan vote of 11-2 from a legislature's committee, and will now go to the full Maine Senate and House for further votes.

"The minute it's passed, it's going to send a message that the towns and the state are serious about protecting our lakes, rivers, and streams," Hanson said, in the NBC report. "If Nangle's bill passes, towns could prevent homeowners from selling their properties in a lien until all fines are paid." As a supporter of the bill, Steve Lewis, told NBC: "The towns were very reluctant to enforce the shoreland ordinances because of what it would cost the town."

Thomas Pond Solar Farm News

Plans for a commercial solar farm on a hilly, wooded plot between Route 302 and Thomas Pond are causing concern among residents on the pond. The plan application submitted by Allen Solar Power in September 2023 indicates the solar farm will take up approximately 8.4 acres within a property of about 30 acres bordered by Route 302 and residential lots on Pulpit Hill Rd. and Twin Pines Rd.

The solar arrays will be located approximately 1000 feet from the lakeshore, and due to the hilly topography, stormwater runoff drains directly into the pond both along the surface and underground. Thomas Pond, in turn, drains into Lake Sebago, which supplies drinking water to Portland and other towns.

Thomas Pond residents and the Thomas Pond Improvement Association are questioning whether Allen Solar Power has adequately planned to ensure that the project

will not negatively affect water quality in the pond, during either the construction or the operation phases. Disturbing the existing vegetation (removing many trees) is expected to increase erosion. Residents are also concerned about the possibility that chemicals used to clean the solar panels and herbicides used to control vegetation will enter the lake.

Critics of the project have emphasized that they are not opposed to solar farms in Raymond, but only to the specifics of this project. "Clearcutting acres of dense, hilly, forest land close to the shoreline, next to our lakes and ponds, and on top of wetlands shouldn't be where solar is sited," said Jennifer Danzig, a resident of Pulpit Rock Rd. and a member of the Thomas Pond Improvement Association.

The issue has been taken up at a series of Select Board and Planning Board meetings, and the Town is revising its Land Use Ordinance to establish rules for solar farms specifically. So far, citizen input has resulted in some adjustments to Allen Solar's original proposal, including reducing the number of solar panels and increasing setbacks and buffers between the project and residential abutters.



Are You a Finance Person? Or Just a Great Volunteer Who Cares?

Our beloved treasurer, Marie Connolly, is retiring from her position in July, and we are very much in need of someone with a bookkeeping and financial background to join our board and oversee our finances. You should live in Raymond or nearby to pick up mail, but many of our board meetings are held on Zoom,

once or twice a month, for an hour and a half, and we use Excel, Upwork, Constant Contact, and QuickBooks. If you are elected to the board in July, Marie will familiarize you with our programs and databases. If you have used these programs and can help us, please contact us at info@raymondwaterways.org. We

would **love** to hear from you!

We are always looking for volunteers and board members from our lakes and ponds—especially if you are from Thomas Pond, Crescent Lake, Sebago, or Raymond Pond. Check out our web site for volunteer and board opportunities.

CBI Inspectors—Paid and Volunteer Needed This Summer!

Raymond Waterways is looking for paid and volunteer CBI—Courtesy Boat Inspectors—to make sure invasives don't come into our lakes on boats from other lakes. CBI staff and volunteers greet boaters at boat launch ramps, explain the voluntary inspection process, and conduct thorough examinations of boat exteriors, including trailer and vehicle wheel wells, trailer bunks, motors, propellers, and boat interiors, including live wells, fishing gear, etc. The inspector removes all plant material, bags them, and delivers the bags at the end of the shift to designated drop-off sites.

The inspector records required information on a phone app provided by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Inspectors must be at least 16-years old, like being outdoors, and have transportation to and from launch sites.

Shifts run 6 to 8 hours and are on weekends and holidays and occasionally on Thursdays and Fridays. Launch sites are at Sebago Lake, Crescent Lake, Panther Pond (Mill St.), and Thomas Pond. The pay rate is \$18/hour, but you can also volunteer, especially to cover

shifts when someone is ill, or when inspectors leave for the summer or

go to college. Contact us at info@raymondwaterways.org.



Handy Laundry Tip—Save Money and the Environment!

When you do laundry, do you throw in a nearly full cap of liquid detergent? It seems intuitive but *Consumer Reports*, *The New York Times*, and appliance and detergent manufacturers

advise that **only 2 Tablespoons** are needed in any wash load. Any more, and it collects on your clothes, dulling them and shortening their lives. And, always look for detergents and

other cleaning products without phosphorous, which encourages algae growth (for instance, don't use TSP anywhere near the shoreline.). Your pocketbook and lakes thank you!

New Water Measuring Instrument for Raymond Pond

RWPA Helps Raymond Pond Update Water Quality

By the early 2000s the folks on Raymond's lakes were organizing and taking on the task of monitoring water quality on their own ponds or lakes.

To support the monitoring efforts on all the lakes, Raymond Waterways did 3 things:

1. We acquired monitoring equipment and lent it to any lake group to borrow.
2. We allocated \$1,000 for each lake group to spend on new equipment or pay lab fees on a 50-50 basis.
3. One board member—former President Peggy Jensen—got trained and certified for all the monitoring tasks so she could step in if a team needed a substitute.

Right away, Thomas Pond tapped the fund for a new dissolved oxygen/temperature meter, so RWPA paid for half that piece of equipment, which is still in use.

At that time Raymond Pond had no volunteer monitors. So Woody Beach, RWPA board member from Raymond Pond, offered to ferry Peggy Jensen out to the deep hole on Raymond Pond to start the data flow again. They did this for 3 summers. Then Gail Cole and Dave Baker, Raymond Ponders, volunteered as monitors. They completed the training and took over taking regular Secchi disc readings, which quantify water clarity. But they did not have a dissolved oxygen meter to use on a regular basis.

Last year, when word got out that folks on Raymond Pond



needed to purchase a meter, a generous donor stepped up and contributed half the cost to match RWPA's contribution. This donor chose to remain anonymous. So now, Gail and Dave, joined by 2 more folks interested in helping with the monitoring tasks, Steve Caine and James Olsen, will get trained and certified so they can start collecting data on dissolved oxygen and temperature in Raymond Pond. Over time, this will reveal any trends that might need to be addressed.

The monitoring data collected for each lake can be found at lakesofmaine.org. The entire data set spans several feet in a huge spread sheet, so what is readily available is a short version or the most recent readings. The complete set is held by Linda Bacon, lake specialist, at DEP.

Our huge thanks to ALL the monitors on all our waters who volunteer their time and expertise to help us keep our waters clean and healthy.

Invasive Species Legislation: Please Support!

The Audubon Society of Maine just reported that the Maine legislature enacted LD 2141, a bill that will appropriate \$2 million to fight invasive species in Maine waterways. The bill will

now go to the Appropriations Table where it awaits final approval.

Another bill fighting invasive species, LD1342, is also up for a vote.

Maine residents: Please contact your state Representative and Senator to urge the passage and funding of these bills.

Send to info@raymondwaterways.org



About Raymond Waterways

Founded more than 50 years ago, the Raymond Waterways Protective Association is dedicated to protecting and improving the water quality of Raymond's lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams and fostering watershed stewardship.



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Mailing address: PO Box 1243, Raymond, ME 04071

Website: raymondwaterways.org

To donate and to learn more about the RWPA, go to Raymondwaterways.org