

Seymour Lake Association
Annual Meeting Minutes July 26, 2008

Prior to the start of the Annual Meeting the SLA Board held a brief meeting. The board voted to pledge to contribute 20% of the required 25% local match for the Wayeeses Shores Association Better Back Roads Grant. The board also voted to contribute \$500 to the Community House for the planned painting and roof replacement of the facility. Information about both of those votes and discussion are available in the minutes of that board meeting.

The Annual Meeting was called to order by the President, Ron Kolar at 9:02 AM. He extended a welcome to all. He reminded those in attendance that food was available. As president, Ron stated that the Seymour Lake Association is in great shape. It is lead by hard working and dedicated officers. He expressed thanks to Peggy Bolduc for a great job as secretary. He also thanked Peter Poulin for his service as a director. He stated that the board is energized, that the finances are in good shape, with a carry over. He also mentioned that the newsletter contains a great deal of information about the association. He then mentioned some of the challenges that we are facing, especially water quality and membership. Ron commented on the beneficial partnerships that exist between the Town of Morgan, the SLA and the State of Vermont. As a future project there is some indication that members would like to offer some scholarships. Maybe a bike ride fund raiser (in pilot this year) could be used to raise money for this endeavor. He mentioned that the new maps are available for sale. He reported that the August 19th SLA outing was wonderful and expressed his thanks to the many who helped with it. The mini-auction at the outing raised \$3950 for the SLA. Ron has sent letters of thanks to the officials who attended (Governor Douglas, Secretary Crombie and Commissioner Pelosi) and received letters from people who were very pleased with the outing. In particular, Ron received a note back from Secretary Crombie that was very complimentary about the SLA's work to protect Lake Seymour. At this social function the SLA presented one of the new lake maps (framed) to Governor Douglas.

Jean McKenny (standing in for Peggy Bolduc, Secretary) stated that the minutes of last year's annual meeting are available on the website and a copy was available at this meeting. To save time, only a brief summary of the minutes was read. The minutes were approved.

Janet Selby, Treasurer gave a summary of the SLA finances. These numbers included the balance in checking \$5,762.97, balance in money market fund \$30,654.56. Income from January 1, 2008 to date is \$15,076. Expenses for the same period are \$4350.64. Anticipated expenses are \$5626. The treasurer's report was approved.

New Business

Jim McWain reporting for the nominating committee called attention to the handout containing nominations for officers, directors, committee chairs and committee members. He expressed thanks to Ron for his service the past year as president and for agreeing to stay on as vice-president. When Jim asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor, a member in attendance asked if he could nominate himself. Jim asked his name and assured him that there are always openings and that if he wished to serve, the opportunity would present itself in the future. Ron Kolar moved and Kal Samuels seconded a motion that the secretary cast one ballot for the persons nominated on the handout. The motion carried.

Lyman McWain, newly elected President called for new issues from the floor.

As there did not appear to be any he made some statements. He attended the Lake Morey Conference this year and stated that our reputation in VT is high. The Governor coming to the social outing on the 19th was good for the SLA. He has as a goal to increase membership this year (the 50% current estimate is not good enough). He feels that it is not the money that members bring in, but the information that they receive through membership, that is important. He believes that education is important. He stated that people will do the right thing if they know what it is. Lyman mentioned the SLA website www.seymourlake.org and stated that it contains useful information for

members. He mentioned the Spring Testing, the La Rosa and the Lay Monitoring programs as all being important to help us keep Lake Seymour in good condition for our Grandchildren. Other SLA initiatives mentioned were boating safety and the social outing. Lyman stated that we always need more people to help out and encouraged members to “get your friends to join.” He stated that the SLA is an open organization. As there did not seem to be any new issues he was about to conclude this portion of the agenda when a member asked about floatplanes and how they can be monitored as they do not land at the boat access but into the lake? Janet Selby stated that issue would be addressed as a part of the milfoil report later in the agenda.

Committee Reports

Bruce Barter presented membership data. He stated that there were 217 membership forms received as of 7/24/08. Forty-seven of those were single, 21 were double, and 149 were family memberships. Assuming 1 person as a single, two people as a double and three people as a family, this would total 536 members. These numbers are still not up to last year’s numbers and it is assumed that more will come in later. Donations (sent in with membership forms) have increased from 41 in 2007 to 100 so far in 2008. Forty-three of 2008 members were not members in 2007. Estimates of 36% of properties participating in memberships were given. Various suggestions were made regarding ways to increase memberships. Ted Jewett stated that a membership committee meeting would be held within two weeks and encouraged people to send suggestions to the committee. A list of members by road was compiled by Bruce and is now available to help when soliciting new members.

The Dam/Lake Level report was given by Ron Kolar. He stated that the lake level is generally about 8” above the low pin. The state thinks that level is acceptable. He also stated that with all of the excessive rain lately the lake is above the high pin right now but will go down.

The Swim Program report was given by Carol Pombar. Carol said that 34 children participated. They were taught by six instructors. Lessons were given in the afternoon this year. That change resulted in “no reluctant kids” because of warmer water in the afternoon. Lyman mentioned the swim program and the Wyeesees Shores/LSA Better Back Roads potential grant as examples of how working together with town is beneficial for all concerned. He gave credit to Richard Miller, Select Board Member, for much of this cooperation between the SLA and the Town of Morgan.

Janet Selby gave the Milfoil Programs & Inspection report. She showed the members a viewing tube (available at the access) that can be borrowed and is used to attain better views in the lake. She stated that she had “good” news and “great” news. The “good” is that the state increased the milfoil grant to over \$15,000. It had been seriously reduced the previous year (more lakes competing for funds) and this represented a return to previous higher funding levels. The “great” news is that there is no milfoil reported in the lake. She feels that all that work to “prevent” milfoil has paid off and possibly the state realizes that it is better to use a prevention strategy than to spend money to try to clean up a lake when prevention doesn’t work. The access is patrolled from Memorial Day weekend through late October at the end of fishing season. She gave much credit to the people who do the monitoring including a student volunteer. There was definite milfoil found on 6 of 797 boats checked this year. Three volunteers attended the VIP (volunteer invasive patrol) program training. Volunteers are still needed to check the Eastern side of lake. Volunteers can borrow a kayak, if needed, to help monitor. Janet reported about the floatplanes landing. They were inspected by Reed (employee at the access) because they landed at the right spot. She thought that probably milfoil would dry and drop off planes as they fly prior to landing so floatplanes might not present as big a problem as boats. The three planes that landed at the sand beach were an unusual occurrence. However, one plane constantly comes to the lake and doesn’t land near the access. The association will speak to Mr. Presby, the owner of the frequent plane, to be certain that he is aware of milfoil concerns. A volunteer present offered to contact Seaplanes Magazine (or organization) to be certain that they are aware of the potential problem. The VIP program was explained by Lyman. He feels that the SLA should have a fund balance reserve. His goal is to have \$75,000 available if needed for divers, etc. if any milfoil was ever found in the lake. He stated that it might be possible to have a “minute man” committee to come up with additional funds if necessary. Lyman stated that

many horror stories exist about other lakes and the inspections and cleanup costs. Suggestions were made for signs on private roads to encourage inspections. A question was raised about whether or not insurance could be purchased for emergency funds needed for cleanup if an invasion should occur. Thanks to Reed and Bud (the SLA inspectors) were expressed. They were cited as being “very good at what they do.” Applause was given for these two people and the fine work that they do. It was stated that information was available free at the table in the back of the room. Members present were encouraged to sign up for the door prize. Also, members were encouraged to purchase a raffle ticket for the quilt or chair being given by the Circle of Friends. That group donates \$200 to the swim project each year. In response to questions a description was given of what milfoil looks like.

The Boating Safety report was given by Erik Lessing. Erik reported that this year the committee more actively distributed the handbook of boating safety. The booklet has an insert in it for joining the SLA. The booklet is available here today and also at both stores in Morgan and Morgan Center.

The Fishing Committee report was given by Homer Selby. As he has only been fishing three times this year, he bowed to the expertise of Ron Frascoia who “knows all the fish in the lake on a first name basis.” Ron has had good luck this year. Other persons confirm that the fishing has been good. It was reported that the Brown Trout are coming back. Statistics for fishing were in the last newsletter. A rumor about a Swedish Brown has been circulating. Homer doesn’t think that this rumor is valid.

The Audit Committee report was given by Jean McKenny. She examined the books from July 14, 2007 to December 31, 2007 and found them to be correct. The new auditor will examine the books in the future for each calendar year as the LSA Association fiscal year has been changed to coincide with the calendar year.

The Water Quality Programs report was given by Peggy Barter. She stated that 30-50 people have contributed to the effort. She showed a power point presentation on the topic that was assembled by her husband, Bruce. It is hoped that this presentation will be available on the SLA website. Peggy expressed thanks to Tom Emery as well as the people who have opened their homes for the monitoring effort. She spoke about the “pointing fingers syndrome” and said that we are beginning to learn how to not do this. She mentioned the many activities that have gone into attempting to keep our lake clean. Those included a boat tour last August, a February presentation by four state water quality representatives as well as shore walks and attendance at other meetings such as the Memphremagog Watershed meetings. Specifics were given about how culverts can be lined with rocks, how roads and driveways can be improved, as well as information about the Better Back Roads program. Some improvements can be low cost such as using phosphate free products. A list of these products will be posted on the website. She gave a summary by stating that testing trends since 2003 show that the lake clarity is poorer and that phosphorus levels are increasing. That means that we need to remain vigilant. Lyman explains connection between clarity and phosphorus. Ron explains the Jordan farm’s connection. The state has stringent requirements placed on farms and forest operations. A representative from Jordan farms at the meeting spoke to the members. She asked SLA members to “please not write anonymously to the farm.” She asked people to please “knock on our door and come talk to us.” Ron responded by commending the Jordan farm and said that the state says that “they are doing a great job.”

In response to a request for any additional new business, Carol Pombar reported on the official loon count. Eight loon were counted last weekend. The eagle (or osprey) was not seen but the counters have heard rumors about them. Questions were asked about whether, or not, there are any nesting loon on the lake? The response was that they were told on Friday that one was seen on the nest the day before but no chicks have been seen yet at that Winape site. Mention was made of the possibility of having a presenter come to do a loon presentation to the SLA. More information about the eagle having been seen with a fish was given by others present at the meeting.

Old Business

The Ice Contest Results & Awards report was given by Janet Selby. She reported that twenty-seven people had chosen the right date so it came down to minutes to decide the winners. Eric Kolar and Jim Pratt tied for first by being 36 minutes off the correct time.

Lyman spoke about the special relationships that the SLA has with other groups including the State of Vermont. He then introduced Kellie Merrill from the VT Department of Environmental Conservation. Kellie gave a very informative presentation about the past and current condition of Seymour Lake. She concluded her presentation by giving some suggestions about how we can prevent a lowering of the quality of the lake in the future. It is hoped that excerpts from her presentation can be available on the website.

Lyman summarized by saying that we all have an obligation to make certain that we properly develop around the lake. He thanked everyone that helped to setup and participated in the meeting. Adjournment was at 11:13 AM.