

Seymour Lake Association
Annual Meeting
July 26, 2014

Called to order by Chuck Nichols, Vice President, at 9:05 a.m. with about 60 people attending.

Secretary's Report: Motion made to accept by Jim McWain, seconded by Ted Jewett.
Accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Jean McKenny, Treasurer; Attached in file. Motion to accept by Ted Jewett, seconded by Dave Anderson; Accepted.

Nominating Committee with Dave Anderson as Chairman: met several times to discuss two tasks

1. Bruce Barter, Charles Woods and Ted Jewett's terms expired
All agreed to serve another three year term
Motion to accept by Jim McWain, seconded by Tim Buzzell, accepted.
2. Officers recommended
Chuck Nichols, President
Lyman McWain, V. President (resigning as President due to personal time constraints)
Linda Buzzell, Secretary
Jean McKenney, Treasurer

Moved by Dave and seconded by Bruce Barter. Approved

Question: How does V. President affect Lyman's time as President? President does the bulk of the administrative work.

Boating Committee: Tim Buzzell asked Bonnie McWain, who co-chaired with Cindy Kern and Collin Kwasnik, to discuss the Boat Parade. It was held a day late due to high wind, July 6th. She apologized for the shortness of the parade but even with slower speeds, the smaller boats had a very hard time with the high chop. We had about 25 boats with the theme "Show Your Patriotic Colors". Send pictures to Tim Buzzell for the website and the newsletter. Next year we will make a better plan for date change or cancellations due to weather.

Tim also asked Dave Anderson to address the **boat access**. Dave has talked to the Fish & Game Facilities person for boating access. The Contractor did not follow the design plans and there was little supervision. Dave asked if they would be fixing the access transition problem in August and was told that sounded correct. Landscaping around the outhouses will also begin in August.

Activities Committee: Frank Antonelli asked that anyone with ideas for activities contact him. This year's annual get together will be a Social held jointly with Echo Lake and hosted by the Kolars at Camp Winape. Bring an appetizer for 8-10 people, BYOB. Question: Why no children invited? A tradition started many years ago for adult socialization. Peggy Barter suggested maybe someone could organize an alternative to include children.

Loon Committee: Charles Woods said that 2 eggs were laid but over 3 weeks the nest was abandoned and re-occupied and the eggs did not hatch. The problem was possibly parents with less experience around people. Also possible the kayaks are getting too close. There were 11 loons in the 2013 count and 7 in 2014. Dennis Fortin has suggested a nest box on the north side of the lake near the Jenness camp to involve more people on the lake in the process. Loons are very territorial and this might help the problem. There was much discussion regarding this issue.

Maps: Ron Kolar said the Board asked him to look into updating the map and contacted the Listers when their update is done. He hopes to complete this project by early 2015. A little trivia: Erik Lessing's mother did the first one by hand and Jim McWain's sister, Nancy Gilmond, kept it up. Alan Wooley said the maps are on the Town's website.

Membership: Bruce Barter said there are 348 memberships this year as compared to 341 at this time in 2013. 69.6% of lake front owners have at least one member as compared to 68.5% at this time in 2013). 75 members are not lake front owners. Bruce said he was very sensitive to sending too many emails to members and asked their opinion which was that they would actually like more on specific topics. When questioned about addressing the remaining 30% who are not members, **Ted Jewett** said the committee was discussing several other methods: 1) soliciting ice fishermen; 2) soliciting vendors such as property managers, fuel people, real estate agents etc.; 3) asking renters. Newsletter is available at 6 locations locally. There was much discussion about other options.

Milfoil: Chuck Nichols said that Janet Selby has been responsible for this committee for years and has finally decided to resign and turn it over to someone else. We owe her a debt of gratitude for all the work she has done on our behalf. Please thank her when you see her. Our By Laws say that a Board member must be the Milfoil Chair so Chuck took it on. However, Beth Torpey has agreed to administer the program. She wrote the original Milfoil Grant and is a former President of SLA. The good news is that the 2014 Grant from the State is \$14,260 as opposed to \$7800 in 2013. The committee will try to work on volunteer hours to work more effectively. There was other discussion on algae and leeches in the lake, both part of the natural lake ecology.

Newsletter: Erik Lessing said the newsletter is sent to all SLA members, the Town of Morgan Grand List, and about 30 others. He thanked everyone for their subscriptions and will continue to send it out twice a year. He thanks Bruce Barter for help with distribution and all contributors.

Website: Allan Wooley and Bruce Barter Allan says the website is being used and has had 30,581 hits since inception. He relies on everyone to send articles to him. He indicated there are 2 issues they are exploring 1) Would like to revamp the website and needs volunteers to help and learn to take over the website should Allan decide to resign and 2) SLA is looking to combine all technical aspects of the website, newsletter, emails etc.

Water Quality – Peggy Barter thanked all the volunteers in the water quality program. The Ice Out contest has not happened for awhile. The Selby volunteered to set it up but we need volunteers to sign up to run the contest. Peggy's report is attached to the end of this report.

Dam/Lake Level: Tim Buzzell gave a brief but complete history of the Seymour Lake Dam and the problems we have had with the high spring lake levels since the new dam was built in 2004 causing flooding, erosion and potential for problems with septic systems in low lying areas. SLA has spent 6 years negotiating and meeting with the State here and in Montpelier to try to mitigate these problems only to be denied over and over. Finally the Board decided in a unanimous decision in March to take their complaint to Court. There has been a general misunderstanding that Tim wanted to make clear we are only asking for gate operation for **spring** runoff, to open the gate in late fall or early winter to keep reasonable lake levels during runoff and ice out to prevent property damage and maintain lake water quality. We have **no** appetite for summer regulation and it is not part of the lawsuit.

At this point the State has filed to have the case dismissed and our attorney, Dave Kelley, has just filed a response. There was much discussion regarding the suit including the possible need for expert witnesses and volunteer witnesses from the lake to testify to damage to their property during ice out. Questions about how the case will be financed were answered by Tim and Chuck Nichols – through personal donations, we have enough to fund the attorney who is charging a flat fee and his out of pocket expenses. There is a potential for additional monies to hire experts but this would come from donations as well. Any monies remaining would go to our Milfoil Program.

Old Business: Charles Woods discussed three new invasive species to look for in the lake and how to deal with them. This information will be put on the website.

New Business:

1. **Dave Anderson** will be working on our By Laws.
2. We will be addressing dredging of the boat access.

Chuck closed the meeting at 11 a.m.

2014 SEYMOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS - Submitted by Peggy Barter

1. **VTDEC Lake Wise Program** –

- voluntary for lakeshore owners; free evaluation of site, technical assistance to apply lake friendly practices; model properties receive a small attractive sign
- Seymour so far has had 38 properties evaluated by Lake Wise. 11 received model designation last summer. Many are making changes in order to qualify for the award or at least make some of the suggested changes to protect the lake. One or two have chosen to make no adjustments.
- Reasons some properties have not qualified are: excessive lawn, lack of path to the lake and erosion causing runoff into the lake.
- Most properties score easily qualify on their septic system and having a well defined driveway and parking area.
- I am making Lake Wise appointments through August. Please sign up on clip board if you are interested.

2. **NorthWoods Lakeshore Buffering Program** –

- This summer for next spring planting contact Meghann Carter – Conservation Science Specialist at meghann@northwoodscenter.org 802-723-6551 x113
- NorthWoods meets with lake shore owner to design plan for buffer restoration, orders plants, does the planting in May when the plants arrive; owner pays 20% of the cost of the plants
- NorthWoods provides the creation of the design, does the planting and 80% of the cost of the plants

3. **Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) programs which support Lake Wise**

Buffers for Blue Lakes - SLA had about 12 properties which participated over the past two years with five more signed up for this summer. FOVLAP provides 4 well established blueberry bushes, planting directions, some planting help, and soil amendment material and a workshop.

FOVLAP supplies \$50 of the cost and the lake shore owner pays \$50. FOVLAP also asks SLA to sponsor a lake shore ecology workshop for which they supply the speaker (this is included in the costs listed above).

Jan Selby is hosting the associated workshop on the importance of water's edge to wildlife and water quality on (we're waiting for confirmation on the date from the presenter). FOVLAP provides this program to 8 associations.

Ecosystem Restoration Program Grant - SLA has five properties signed up to participate this summer. FOVLAP provides the lake shore owner with a landscape

design, installation & materials for a path or infiltration steps to the lake and plants the needed plants.

FOVLAP supplies \$1,000 of plant material, infiltration step supplies and the labor costs; the lake shore owner pays \$250. FOVLAP provides this program to 5 lake associations.

4. **Memphremagog Watershed Workshop – Friday, August 8 at Eastside Restaurant**
9:30am – 3:00pm; followed by Septic Social 3:30 pm – 5:00pm

Lake association representatives, members, and guests are invited to participate in all or part of this full day event. The morning's keynote speaker is Susan Warren, Program Manager of the VT DEC's Lakes & Ponds Management & Protection Program. Susan's presentation will focus on the permitting process required by the new Shoreland Protection Law. **Lunch, provided by MWA, is from noon to 1:00 PM. RSVP for lunch by contacting Perry Thomas at waterqualitynek@gmail.com or (802) 279-5865. Please leave contact information and the number attending.**

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Public hearing on changes to Vermont's Water Quality Standards hosted by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Relax with watershed friends and reflect on wastewater management at a Septic Social on the shore of Lake Memphremagog. Maps will be provided at the Watershed Workshop.