

Seymour Lake Association Board Meeting October 12, 2013

Present: Lyman McWain, Chuck Nichols, Jean McKenny, Frank Antonelli, Dave Anderson, Tim Buzzell, Susan Davis, Charles Woods, Allan Wooley, and Jan Selby. Also attending via conference call were Erik Lessing, Peggy Barter and Bruce Barter.

Unable to be present: Ted Jewett

Lyman called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

Extensive discussion took place with respect to the **unemployment insurance situation**. A question about the yearly exposure (costs to the town and SLA) was asked. It was reported that it is on the agenda for Monday night (October 14) at the Morgan Select Board Meeting. Chuck and Jan agreed to attend the select board meeting where Allan will also be present as a selectman. It is expected that the cost issue can be clarified at that time as well as some other questions. Those include 1. Is the town willing to pay the unemployment insurance expense if we pay half of it (for another year)? 2. Should we pursue a new path of recommending to the town that they hire others (possibly teachers or college students with available time in the summer) to be additional greeters? 3. Would the town be willing to “contract” with individuals (instead of employing them)? 4. Is the town willing to pursue asking the state to verify the eligibility of individuals currently employed to draw unemployment benefits? 5. As the greeters are hired (whether employees or contract persons) by the town does the town's liability insurance policy cover them? Partial answers were given to these questions as discussion proceeded. 1. In Quarter 1 we paid half of the entire amount due and that needs to be adjusted. That will be addressed on Monday night. The town will have to continue to pay unemployment insurance for a period of four years (lesser amount each year) even if no employees claim benefits. Employees working this summer are eligible for benefits this winter. 2. Susan Davis agreed to contact the school system to see if it would be possible to contact teachers (possibly science) as potential greeters. Jan reported that she believes “training” for greeters will be available locally so that any new greeters could be trained. 3. A contract would require more paperwork for the town. Ron provided a “generic” contract as an example. 5. The Vermont League of Cities and Town requires that the town carry liability insurance for the greeters for the milfoil grant to be approved. Chuck had prepared a handout outlining the facts of the unemployment situation. He distributed this to the board and it was very helpful in guiding the discussion. A **motion** was made by Tim and seconded by Dave **to have Chuck and Jan talk to Ron and solicit a contract, if viable, and see if he will look into and encourage Allan to arrange for the committee (Chuck, Jan and Ron) to speak to the select board and to provide feedback to the SLA board within ten days following the meeting of the SLA committee and the select board.** The motion carried. Jan pointed out that this issue needs to be resolved prior to February 1, 2014 so that she can write the new milfoil grant application.

Discussion took place about the **changes that have been made to the boat access ramp**. Evidently during the construction of the new ramp local people became concerned about the design of the ramp. Boats entering and leaving the lake using the new ramp were dragging on it. Concerns were expressed to Homer Selby. He called Mike Rakowski at the state to convey these concerns. This phone call was made prior to the paving being done at the site. The feeling was that a correction could be made at a lower cost before the paving was in place. Homer was assured by Mike that the engineers knew what they were doing. A week or so later after the paving had been completed Mike visited the site. He was there when a vehicle came in and dragged. His comment was the he guessed that they would have to grind it down or something. Local opinion is that it was not a good design and will need more than grinding it down to fix the problem. Opinion is that it will be necessary to cut the top of the ramp to

about 12 feet into the parking lot (now paved). The SLA board is concerned that if this fix is not made boaters will not use the access ramp for fear of getting stuck. If boaters launch at other sites around the lake it could make all of SLA's efforts using greeters to inspect boats a waste of time and money as it is not possible to have greeters at all potential access sites.

Lyman, Chuck, and Tim (from the **Dam/Lake Level Committee**) attended a meeting on Wednesday, October 9th in Montpelier. They met with Justin Johnson from the state. Lyman, Chuck and Tim all reported that they felt that it was a good meeting. Justin listened, took good notes, and, in general, appeared to understand SLA concerns. He promised to look into the matter and get back to the committee within two weeks. The board then discussed the possible actions that might be taken depending on Justin Johnson's response to the committee.

A brief discussion about the results of the **“high water” web survey** took place. Lyman expressed thanks to Sue, Bruce and Allan for the work that they did writing and sending the survey electronically to SLA members. The response rate was great for a survey (30%). Responses expressing a problem were 40% of the returns. It is felt that possibly the survey question regarding problems with septic systems might have been a “flawed” question as people are not going to admit a problem with their septic system even if they have one.

Future board meetings were set for **February 15, May 24, June 28, July 26** (a mini-meeting prior to the Annual Meeting) and **October 4**. The date set aside for the **Outing is August 2**. It is felt that possibly an “e-mail meeting” prior to February 1 (dealing with information that Jan needs to write the milfoil grant) could make the February 15 meeting unnecessary.

Various possibilities were discussed for a **memorial to Kal Samuels**. As he was supportive of boat inspections a memorial at the access site was discussed. If not possible at that site, perhaps the Community House site could be used. Possible items (a sound system) that might update the Community House purchased in his memory were also considered. Unknowns about the future of the school, Community House and Town Clerk's Office complicate any discussion. It was decided to look into the possibility of placing a granite bench (or benches) at the access site or the Community House as a memorial. Jean agreed to look into prices for a bench. Sue agreed to talk to Ben Partridge about a design for a memorial and Lyman agreed to call Stella to see how she felt about this type of a memorial.

Frank reported about the **Outing**. It appears that it was a success. In spite of that success, he asked the group if they had ideas for getting more people to come to it as the same people tend to attend each year. Ideas presented were to have everyone bring a friend, consider a different format, have name tags with a picture of the person's property or a map of their lake location on the tag, and/or to include a social time (entertainment) like the boat show one year at Kolar's.

Jean presented the **Treasurer's Report**. She gave a list of the activity that has taken place since the annual meeting when Jan gave her final report. On July 27, 2013 the check book balance was \$9116.99 and the balances in the CDs totaled \$63,390. Income since July 27 is \$1290 and expenses are \$2918.15. The checkbook balance is \$7488.84 on 10/12/13. The report was approved on a motion made by Dave and seconded by Charles.

Erik reminded the group of the deadline for the **Newsletter**. A question was asked about if it would be appropriate to put the results of the lake level survey into the newsletter. It was decided to prepare a summary of the survey to do so even if it had to wait for the May newsletter because of space. Bruce

indicated that 42 additional responses to the survey have been received. Erik will check with Sue for wording of any release about the survey results.

Allan reported that the **website** was hit by an infestation. Most of the web files were compromised. It was a really bad situation. He was able to get a list of infected files and cleaned them. Then a second infestation happened and SLA paid for the cleaning to be done that time by a cleaning service. A sign warning people not to go into the site was there for a time. The site is now up and will be monitored for a year by the company hired to do the second cleaning. He wondered if we should send out an e-mail blast stating that the problem is solved in case people were afraid to go to the site. Lyman asked Jean to check to see if the website people had cashed the check used to pay for the website as they were possibly billing him also.

The **water quality** report was given by Peggy. A summary of the Lakewise program to date and plans for next year was given. This past summer 21 evaluations were conducted and 10 passed completely. Five others were asked to make small changes in order to pass. In a few instances the property owner, in spite of wanting to comply with the guidelines of the program, was unable to do so due to situations beyond his/her control. Peggy reported that 10 properties are willing to be evaluated next summer and more are welcome. She stated that "signs are starting to go up and people are asking about this program." As a goal of the program is awareness of good lake practices this is a good sign.

A question was asked about SLA purchasing **loon signs**. Jean stated that she would do so as soon as an invoice was sent to her.

The opening for the **secretary's position** was discussed. Lyman agreed to contact a property owner who had volunteered to fill the vacancy to see if she was still interested.

Lyman urged anyone having **new ideas** regarding the SLA to forward them to Lyman.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean McKenny, Acting Secretary