

**Seymour Lake Association
Board Meeting Minutes February 13, 2010**

Present: Lyman McWain, Ron Kolar, Jan Selby, Jean McKenny, Ted Jewett, Tim Buzzell, Steve Massicotte, Peggy Barter, Alan Wooley, Linda Broadwater, Bruce Barter (committee member), Richard Miller (ex-officio as Senior Morgan Selectman), Robbie Guyer (Morgan Selectman) and Bob Lewis (VT House of Representatives and Guest Speaker)

Starting at 9:04 am and **prior to the beginning of the official meeting Bob Lewis** (a member of the Vermont House of Representatives) spoke with the board. He spoke about various proposed legislative items that might be of interest to Seymour Lake Association members. The topics covered by these pending bills included a riparian buffer bill and potable water and waste water systems bills. One of these includes language about "maximum daily load" (runoff) controls into bodies of water. That proposal includes that the state could dictate to towns how to design, grade and maintain public roads, and withhold state aid funds for one year for non-compliance. Another pending bill proposes restrictions on the building of permanent docks. Mention was also made of bills that could restrict the use of felt soles on the outside of boots and having the Agency of Natural Resources develop a list of "bad" chemicals that might be prohibited in Vermont. In response to a question from a board member, he summarized the situation in Vermont regarding the possibility of a "sticker" bill. This would impose a fee (approximately \$10) for non-motorized watercraft such as canoes. He stated that he believes, although a sticker bill is probably inevitable, that it will not happen at this time due to the state of the economy. This generated a discussion about how fees garnered from some areas of the state (areas that include bodies of water) are (or are not) equitably redistributed to those areas. Bob pointed out that, with the need for the state to make budget cuts, the money for nuisance vegetation (including milfoil) programs may not be available this year. He also stated that, unless spending is brought under control in Montpelier, taxpayers could see substantial rate increases. All of this information generated a lively discussion with the SLA Board. All seemed to agree that it would be important for these contacts and discussions to continue in the future.

Old Business:: (the official meeting began at 10:16 am)

On a motion made by Ron and seconded by Peggy the **Minutes of the SLA Board Meeting of 10/10/09** were approved.

The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Jan. She handed out a sheet that she had prepared for the accountant at the end of the year. She updated the information explaining that some dues and donations that were sent in in 2009 actually are 2010 monies. Jan's budget sheet stated that as of 2/13/10 the balance in the checking account is \$7,679.55 and the balance in the CD is \$38,072.47. Lyman updated the board with projected budget figures for 2010 that had been estimated at the executive committee meeting prior to the board meeting. Linda presented Jan with an accounting of the Wayeeses Better Back Roads Project. This included a bill for \$266 which was money that the SLA had pledged to the project. Lyman will update the budget document with the new 2010 projections and send it to board members electronically. A formal approval of the completed budget will be proposed at either the May 15th SLA board meeting or prior to that date through electronic means. On a motion made by Steve and seconded by Peggy, the treasurer's report was accepted.

New Business::

The **Nominating Committee** report was given by Ron. The three board members whose terms expire

in July were asked if they wished to continue on the board. Two current board members graciously offered to “step aside” if other potential board members need to be added. They were both encouraged to remain on the board. Anticipating a possible resignation of a different board member the name of a potential replacement was presented to the board. This groundwork is being done prior to the May and July meetings and formal decisions for the slate to be presented at the Annual Meeting will be made at a later date.

The **Seymour Dam** update report was given by Ron. Ron continues to discuss (with the state) water quality and license rules for the dam. Great Bay Hydro owns the dam so is also a party to decisions regarding the dam. GBH would have to be the party actually opening the gate if it were to ever be opened. Ron and some other board members feel that there should be, in writing, a procedure for “opening the gate.” It is felt that this could be done in an emergency situation, such as in anticipation of a pending major rainstorm. Some other opinion stated that opening the gate might not be a good idea and gave a variety of reasons for that opinion. One reason given in opposition to opening the gate is that GBH says that opening the gate would only drop the lake about 1” a day. This slow lowering of the lake would take several days to make much of a difference. There is some board opinion that feels that opening the gate might be needed in other situations, such as dam maintenance or working on the boat access. The state's opinion, at this time (there are some personnel changes happening at the state level), is that the gate should not be manipulated. Ron is going to continue to try to get “wording” into the agreement outlining a procedure (involving all three parties) for opening the gate (just in case that it is ever needed). A similar discussion (although it appears that more consensus exists about the topic) involved the question of whether or not the “flash boards” on the dam should be removed each fall and replaced in the spring. The object of doing this would be to prevent high lake levels during spring run off. Although opinions are not totally in agreement with doing this, there seems to be ample opinion to “try it” this year in order to determine what the effect would be. Lyman specifically asked that **the minutes of this meeting reflect board desire to try it this year**. Some opinion was expressed that we should just state that we are going to try it this year, and run it by both GBH and the State of Vermont. If neither of those two parties has any objections, the prevailing opinion seemed to be that there would not be any harm in trying it. Some of the foundation for thinking this way is that it was the SLA that asked for the flash boards in the first place.

The **Membership Committee** report was given by Ted. He asked Bruce to distribute and explain the chart that Bruce has prepared showing a summary of memberships by year as of 1/29/10. The chart clearly shows that all of the efforts being made to increase SLA memberships are working. The committee will have 175 “new member” packets ready for June and expects to work over the summer months again to gain members. The goal of the committee for obtaining 100% of the lake front property owners as members remains the same. On or about March 15th the letters to the membership “inviting” all to join for another year will be mailed out. The letters to the 80 (maybe more) members who have already joined (in response to the December Newsletter) will be different than the others. The invitations will include some enclosures. One of those will be the new SLA “bumper stickers.” Discussion about listing the members in the next newsletter took place. It seemed to be a group consensus to list them on a separate enclosure in the newsletter. By doing this the membership list would go only in the newsletter and not onto the website. The possibility of raising dues was discussed and seemed to be rejected. The possibility of cutting costs by trying to do more things electronically was discussed. It was decided to try a “trial balloon” e-mail to the members that we have e-mail addresses for. This e-mail would include the SLA agenda for the year, and information about the availability of “planting programs” for properties, and information about the swim program for this summer.

The **Swim Program** report was given by Jan. Carol Pombar is willing to take responsibility for the program this year. It will be held at IROC as it was last year and will be offered with scholarships for SLA members, etc. It will be for two weeks starting on Monday, July 5th. The only decision yet to be made is whether it will be held in the mornings or the afternoons.

The **Annual Outing** report was given by Ron. We do not yet have a place for the outing for next July 31st. The board will continue to try to find a location for 2010. Ron did present some ideas for smaller social events that might be held around the lake or by individual road associations. If these could also be used as fund raising events, they could help with donations for SLA.

The **Water Quality Committee** report was given by Peggy. She had prepared the La Rosa report and sent it to persons that she felt would like to preview it. She received some comments back from Ben Copans and answered a question at this meeting posed by Lyman. She will rewrite the report (in those areas receiving comments) to add clarity to it. The report will then be distributed. The water quality committee had met the previous day with Ben Copans, Kellie Merrell, and Dayna Cole in attendance. Some discussion about the proceedings at that meeting were shared with the board. Dana made available to the committee information about planting programs available. The SLA will distribute this information to members. Kellie reported to the committee about "scientific lake research" that has been done in the past 5-10 years. She talked about the total ecological system of bodies of water. She mentioned a CD that had been prepared by the extension service in Wisconsin for educational purposes that might be available for others to use. Lyman asked Peggy to contact Kellie to see when she could come back next summer to share information with SLA (maybe at the Annual Meeting or the Outing). Peggy will see if she can arrange for Kellie to return.

Information about IROC's request to the SLA for **Triathlon Support** was discussed. Peggy shared with the group what she understood the request to entail. The date for the event is August 7th. Seymour Lake boat owners might be needed to patrol and assist during the swim portion of the event. There might be a financial incentive for the SLA to participate. Lyman will call Phil White who is the person from IROC making the request to get more information.

The **Newsletter** report was given by Lyman. He was interested in how people felt about the new format and paper as a different printer had been used. Reaction to the newsletter from the board was very positive. The cost of the printing was about \$2000 which exceeded the quote given to him (\$1625). Because of this discrepancy, Lyman donated the difference. Other than a bit of a problem with some addresses (including Canadian addresses) Lyman stated that this was an easy way to print and distribute the newsletter.

Additional comments included a discussion of maybe building a demonstration "rain garden" at the access area (or some other public site). It was felt that if the state would allow it, a rain garden and some new signs at the access area would improve the appearance of the site. It was also felt that if a rain garden could be observed by the public, others might become interested in building them on their properties.

Future dates to note are...May 15th Board Meeting...July 24th Annual Meeting and mini Board Meeting...July 31st the Outing...September 4th Board Meeting

Lyman expressed thanks to everyone for participating and the meeting adjourned at 11:52 am.

Respectfully submitted by Jean McKenny, SLA Secretary