

## **Seymour Lake Association Board Meeting**

The Board met at the listers' office on **2/17/12**

**Present:** Lyman McWain, Ron Kolar, Jan Selby, Jean McKenny, Tim Buzzell, Steve Massicotte, Allan Wooley, and Ted Jewett

**Unable to be present:** Peggy Barter, Linda Broadwater, Jim McWain, and Erik Lessing

President Lyman McWain called the meeting to order at 3 PM.

The **minutes of the 8/20/11** SLA Board meeting were approved.

The **Treasurer's Report** (for 2011) had been sent out to the board prior to the meeting by Jan. She handed out an update which included the current balance in the check book of \$5,991.17. Jan noted that we continue to grow our balances unless we decide to spend on a big project. It was noted that the color brochures that the water quality committee wants to print will incur costs. Newsletter issues will cost also. Allen reported that he has posted the brochures on the website. Printing some for the membership committee to use was suggested. Of the two different brochures being considered the intent is to produce a few of Dana Cole's plant availability brochure but more of the other (water quality brochure). Dana's are only good for this season but the water quality could be used now and in the future. Steve indicated that he might be able to print some of Dana's. Jan reported that the tax prep fee has been paid. She also indicated that IROC swim lessons are a "go for next summer." Lyman asked about creating a budget based on the 2011 income and expenses. Statements that were made included no raises for this year for the boat access "greeters" as they got a raise last year. Although they work more hours and longer weeks than at some other lakes, if we go over \$12 per hour we have to justify it to the people approving (or disapproving) the grant. Lyman asked if the grass cutting near the beach proposed as a possible need by a selectman last year is now a dead issue. It was noted that the newsletter expenses might be higher this year than last. It is not anticipated that there will be a need for printing any maps. It was estimated that the water quality expenses will be less as the social marketing books purchased in 2011 were placed in that line item in the budget. It was suggested that we may need to do some marketing and that would increase costs. A question was asked as to whether or not the treasurer's report is posted on the SLA web site. The discussion concluded that it should not be, as without explanation it could be misinterpreted. All agreed that it is available at the Annual Meeting and for any SLA member wanting to see it but that posting it on the website would make it available to an audience beyond the SLA membership. Lyman will put out an e-mail to the board to see what board members think needs to be added or deleted from last years income and expenses in creating a budget for 2012. Jan stated that we received \$10,730 last year from the milfoil grant and we could lose some of that funding in 2012. A question was asked if the town could help make up some of the difference if we lose some grant funds. It was stated that the town has already completed its budget for next year. The town budget could be altered at town meeting but Jan stated that we won't know until May how much lower the grant might be. Following an inquiry, Jan stated that March 12<sup>th</sup> is the due date for grant. She explained that there is less need to submit in kind expenses now (when writing the grant) than in the past. Only time directly related to milfoil (not water quality) counts toward in kind. Allan's time for the website, Jan's time and the lake patrol peoples' time, as well as Erik's time involved with the Newsletter still count. It is those "assorted" hours that many of us accumulated in the past (benefiting the lake but not directly related to milfoil) that are not needed anymore. Following this discussion the treasurer's report was approved.

The board was informed about a letter that the **Dam Committee** sent to the state prior to Christmas. This letter reminded the state of the Supreme Court ruling and that the present management of the lake level is not within the law. The letter requested a face to face meeting with the state and said that we had a solution to the problem of noncompliance. After Deb Markowitz very publicly asked for suggestions from Vermont citizens the committee was even more concerned that it seemed that the SLA letter was being ignored. About two weeks ago SLA asked the state about the status of the December letter. SLA was told by Emma Schuman (from the Agency of Natural Resources) that the letter had been passed to DEC (the Department of Environmental

Conservation). She indicated that SLA should get a response soon. Based on past experiences SLA persons are not optimistic about a reply. After SLA gets a response (or not) SLA feels that it should ask again for a face to face meeting with the state. Ron feels that by our May board meeting, if we do not have a decision, we may need to engage someone to help us. At this time it was left that if we do not hear back from the state within two weeks, SLA will contact Emma Schuman again and ask for a face to face meeting. A perplexing question is that the Supreme Court ruling would seem to indicate that Great Bay Hydro is responsible for maintaining the lake level within certain stated limits. If GBH is the legally responsible party how can the state prohibit GBH from following the law?

An updated **Membership Committee** report had been sent out to all board members prior to the meeting. Ted passed around copies of various letters mentioned in the report for the board to see. Membership and donations continue to improve each year due to the excellent work of the committee. In 2011 membership of people around the lake passed the 70% mark (up from about 50% at the end of 2008). Ted stated that Irene Douglass has joined the membership committee. He listed some “negatives” that included 28 members who did not renew, the face to face canvas resulted in only 12 new members (maybe because the renewal letter is working), and that Woody Guyette and Richard Miller are not serving on the committee anymore. He stated that the committee needs manpower. They have not met in 2012 yet. They continue to try to reach the 100% goal for lake people and will report progress to the board and members. Ted wonders if a survey of “the never joining” asking why they are not joining would produce useful information. He also asked if board members had any ideas about what can be done to entice membership. Suggestions made included possibly giving a free map to new members or to forgive the dues for the remainder of the year for persons joining part way through the year. Ted feels that the committee will probably spend less than \$500 in 2012 (to date they have spent \$32.80). Lyman complimented Ted on the great job that the committee has done and stated that when membership is up donations are also up. Lyman also noted that Jan will speak at town meeting encouraging people to join. Some suggestion was made that possibly the newsletter should be sent twice a year to all community members. Ted said that he would like the first publication of the newsletter (the edition that usually goes out to the larger list) to include the “thank you list” of people and organizations who have made donations.

A **Water Quality** report had been sent to the board prior to the meeting. As Peggy was not able to be present Ron presented the report for her. He made available a four page report which included information about NEK Healthy Water Initiative Workshops, Spring WQ monitoring by DEC, Lay Monitoring report, DEC Basin 17 Plan released by ANR, Better Back Road Grant plans, Road Group Native Shoreland Restoration Presentations, Collaboration with Membership Committee, FOVLAP, Dayna's Program and a page of Erik's color charts about lake quality. According to Erik, Seymour is one of the five best lakes in the state. It is our trend that is bad. A discussion took place about the numbers and 2011 flooding events. Lyman mentioned a planned “e-mail blast” for Dayna's program. He is requesting that Peggy and Bruce coordinate that electronic message and Lyman will check with a printer regarding the possible printing of the color brochure(s). The VFOLAP has plans to introduce some legislation favorable to lakes this session but does not know if it will be considered or overshadowed with the legislature spending so much time dealing with the problems resulting from Irene. Lyman felt that we should ask Peggy for a summary of the Basin17 plan (our watershed). The Morgan section of the Basin 17 plan was examined (*\*see the addendum below*). It stated that the Morgan Town Plan was developed in 2004 and that it included “some” goals for lakes and wetlands but none for rivers. The comments on the MTP by the reviewers preparing the document are as follows. **A goal in the Morgan town plan is to “reduce or eliminate the pollution of Lake Seymour and other surface waters by regulating shoreland development, septic systems, logging operations, boating, surface run-off, and/or ice fishing operations.” The plan also states that “major wetlands in the community should be recognized and protected from filling and development.”**

The **Zoning** report was given by Allan Wooley and Steve Massicotte. The zoning proposal to increase the front setback to 30 feet and the rear to 15 feet (supported by SLA) has had a footnote added to it. The exact text of the footnote to Lakeshore set back 204.01 “LS” is **Footnote 3. Pre-existing lots (developed or undeveloped) with 100' or less of lake frontage in the Lakeshore district shall have the option of observing the current statutory setbacks or the previous Lakeshore district setbacks (i.e. 20' from the front/lake side and 25' to**

**the rear). Pre-existing lots 100' wide or less, not directly on the lake but in the Lakeshore district shall have the same option.** As this footnote appears to make the proposed changes to zoning setbacks somewhat meaningless ( many lots would be exempt) the board had many questions. Would a special meeting be needed to pass the changes? Could the selectmen just approve the changes? Why would the zoning board want to add footnote #3? Allan said that the proposed change (adding footnote #3) has not been warned yet and has not been presented to the select board yet. Some opinion was presented that the town officers may have a concern about enforcement. Discussion included whether some “decks” around the lake are illegal and how zoning regulation violations can result in fines in Vermont and not necessarily insist on the removal of the structures..

**Tracy Shadday** who serves on both the Development/Education and the Water Quality committees presented “**social marketing**” to the board. She assessed the current understand of the board (all had been provided a book to read). She provided handouts to help the board to understand what social marketing is and is not. She told the board about her background and how she came to be involved in social marketing. Her well prepared presentation helped the board members present to more fully understand social marketing. Much discussion took place during the presentation with many thoughts and ideas being shared. It is expected that the discussion will continue as the board attempts to find existing opportunities to begin to do some social marketing through existing activities (newsletter, workshops, and meetings).

Various ideas to honor **Kal Samuels** for his contributions to SLA were discussed. It is planned that the next Newsletter should include an article about his contributions as a memorial tribute. Lyman will ask Richard Miller if he would be willing to write the article. Opinions were also stated that it would be nice to recognize something in his name. Ideas for a dedication are welcome. Different ways that Kal had contributed to SLA were listed by various board members present.

A brief discussion took place about **people who might be willing to serve on the SLA board and/or committees.** The board agreed that it is important to use the committee structure to find board members. Board committee chairs are asked to contact Ron about any of their committee members that might be willing or interested in serving on the board (director or officer). It was also stressed that there is a need for more members of the community to join the committees.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean McKenny, Secretary

Addendum:

). The VFOLAP has plans to introduce some legislation favorable to lakes this session but does not know if it will be considered or overshadowed with the legislature spending so much time dealing with the problems resulting from Irene. Lyman felt that we should ask Peggy for a summary of the Basin 17 plan (our watershed). The Morgan section of the Basin 17 plan was examined.

Jean,

I have some comments about the part of the minutes which I've copied above.

It is not correct to say that FOVLAP plans to introduce legislation, because it is the legislators who write and introduce bills. FOVLAP does support such legislation. I now have more information about

this subject than was available at the time of the BOD Meeting, but I should share that in another message.

The last statement in the portion of the minutes copied above, also is slightly inaccurate. The document that Ron discussed with the BOD (named the Morgan section in the minutes) is actually one chart in the 50 page Appendix to the Basin Plan. The chart lists the Town Plans for all communities in the watershed. The quote in the minutes is from the Morgan section of that chart.

I may be putting too fine a point on these subjects, but feel I should fill you and the BOD in and then let those who attended the meeting decide on the wording.

On another section of the minutes, I am surprised to read that we do not have a location for the outing. I thought Allan and Ilene offered last fall to host the outing at their home....am I missing something?

Thank you, Peggy