

Seymour Lake Association Board Meeting

The SLA Board met at the Listers' Office on **5/12/12**.

Present: Ron Kolar, Jan Selby, Jean McKenny, Tim Buzzell, Ted Jewett, Peggy Barter, Steve Massicotte, and Allan Wooley

Unable to be Present: Lyman McWain, Erik Lessing, Jim McWain and Linda Broadwater

Vice President Ron Kolar called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

The **minutes of the 2/17/12** SLA Board meeting were approved.

The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Jan Selby. She distributed copies of a financial report that she had prepared. It listed balances in the check book and two CDs. It also listed anticipated expenses and income received to date. She also drew a comparison to this time last year and the end of last year for donations and membership income. Both of these categories are ahead of last year. Lyman McWain had also submitted a proposed budget electronically. It was also distributed and comparisons of the two documents were made. A motion to move \$10,000 from the checking account to a CD was made, seconded and approved. The treasurer's report was also approved.

Tim Buzzell reported that the **Boat Parade** will take place this summer at 11:00 am on Sunday, July 8th.

The **Dam / Lake Level** report was presented by Ron Kolar. He distributed copies of extensive correspondence that the SLA has had with various state agencies (as well as Great Bay Hydro) over the past few years. SLA is attempting to get the State of Vermont to allow Great Bay Hydro to comply with a Vermont Supreme Court ruling mandating that the lake level be contained within certain bounds. The state agencies seem to be passing our request from person to person and agency to agency. These agencies are willing to discuss erosion problems and water quality issues. It appears that the state does not want to address the real issue of compliance with a supreme court decision. A recent e-mail from the state suggested that "... it's probably best to wait until we (the state) can complete further analysis of data collected since Jeff Cueto's work in 2009. Without further analysis, we (the state) really don't have any additional facts to bring into the discussion. We'll add that analysis to our projects list, but at this point I (a spokesperson for Vermont Agency of Natural Resources) can't predict when we might get to it." It is very puzzling to the SLA Board that Agencies of the State of Vermont are choosing to prohibit GBH from complying with a Vermont Supreme Court ruling. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize Ron and Lyman to seek out legal advice regarding this matter and initiate legal action if necessary.**

The **Membership Committee** report was given by Ted Jewett. June 22nd will be the next meeting of the committee. He stated that this year we are off to our "best start ever." He feels that the invitation to join letter and the thank you list published in the newsletter have had a positive influence on memberships and donations. The committee retains the goal of 100% "shoreline" membership and wants to expand membership gaining more members in the "watershed" area. This will require expanding the committee membership. Some discussion took place about how SLA could do more for the area perhaps by activities related to fishing, the public beach, or maybe an ice party for winter residents. That brought up the need for an Activities Committee to be built into the board structure. Some discussion about forming an Activities Committee followed and various people who might be

interest in serving on such a committee will be contacted. Two follow-up membership invitation letters are planned for the fall. One will be sent to previous members who may have forgotten to join. The other will be sent to people who have never joined and will include a brief survey asking questions designed to ascertain why they have chosen not to join. Ted felt that \$600 in the budget would be adequate to cover all membership activities for next year. He complimented Bruce Barter for the extensive and accurate statistical information that he compiles for the committee and the board.

Jan Selby reported for the **Milfoil Committee**. The Greeters run the inspection program from Memorial Day to the end of October. The milfoil grant awarded to Morgan this year was \$ 10,030. This is down \$700 from last year. The lower amount will change the amounts paid by SLA and the Town of Morgan. Jan explained that after the grant is subtracted from the expenses SLA and Morgan split the rest of the expenses with one exception. SLA pays for about \$350 more of the expenses than the town as SLA picks up the costs of uniforms, etc.

The **Nominating Committee** report was given by Ron Kolar. The committee will present names at the Annual Meeting on July 28th to the membership to fill vacant director positions. The board suggested various names of people who might be willing to serve in this capacity. In general the board looks to persons who have served on committees as potential directors. The SLA board is always interested in knowing who might be willing to serve as a committee or board member.

The **Water Quality** report was given by Peggy Barter. She had previously prepared a written report that was distributed. The report headings were workshops (four planned for this summer), SLA presentations to road groups, new property owners and SLA packets, better back roads grants, help needed from SLA members, and what do you think(?). Peggy expressed that the committee is always interested in input regarding jobs that they might do for the association. Posters and brochures are being distributed with information about the four summer workshops. Information is also available on the website www.seymourlake.org.

The **Website Committee** report was given by Allan Wooley. He had sent a written report of his activities related to the website and it was distributed. The website includes two surveys. One inquires about desired hours for the Morgan Recycle/Transfer Station and the other inquires about usage of the website. Jan Selby asked that the minutes reflect how helpful to her Allan Wooley was this year. For the first time the Milfoil Grant had to be submitted electronically. Allan's help was invaluable to Jan in going through this process for the first time.

The **Zoning** report was given by Allan Wooley and Steve Massicotte. Allan followed up this oral report with an electronic submission to the board clarifying some of the more confusing portions of the proposed zoning rules. In this written document footnote #5 states that pre-existing lots (developed or undeveloped) with 100' or less of lake frontage (or not directly on the lake) shall have the option of observing the current (proposed) setback (30') or the previous setback (20'). This would appear to be an effort to “grandfather” existing lots but apply the 30' foot setback to newer developments. Other areas being discussed for inclusion in the proposed zoning rules for Morgan are a “flood plain map” issue and a “wind tower” issue.

It was brought to the attention of the board that the Vermont State Police are not planning on installing the **four buoys that mark off the swimming area at the public beach** this summer. Fearing that not having a clear swimming area marked could pose a hazard to swimmers, the board asked the SLA secretary to communicate our concerns to the Vermont State Police and request that a swimming area be marked as in past summers.

A question was asked about our **insurance coverage** and whether or not the policy contains liability insurance for the board of directors. Steve Massicotti volunteered to look into this matter for the board.

A question was asked about whether or not a speaker had been selected for the **Annual Meeting**. The meeting will be held on **Saturday, July 28th** (always the 4th Saturday in July) at 9:00 in the morning.

The **dredging of the access area** was discussed. An April 9th communication from the state indicated that it had “top of the list” priority and their plan is to move the access away from Sucker Brook as it is silt and sediment from the brook that makes the dredging necessary. Unfortunately, the state indicated that the work would probably be done in the summer of 2013 (or possibly late this summer). A concern was expressed that recently people using the ramp to launch a personal watercraft had a difficult time because of the sediment and that, if the lake level goes down any more, people may not be able to launch boats there. A further concern was raised that if the access area is not usable people may launch boats from other locations and not be inspected for milfoil and other invasive problems. Ron stated that the lake is 12” above the low pin at this time.

The SLA board wishes to **express its appreciation to Erik Lessing, Editor** for the fine job that he did producing the recent newsletter.

The **Outing** is planned for 5 pm on **Saturday, August 4th**. A few details still need to be worked out and various board members volunteered to work on those. As soon as plans are finalized members will be notified.

The **Vermont Lake Seminar** will be held on Friday, June 1st. Lyman McWain and Bruce and Peggy Barter will attend to represent Seymour Lake.

Ron Kolar pointed out recent articles in the Chronicle and wondered if we could use the printed press to further some of our goals. Peggy Barter volunteered to work on seeing if we could do an **article on shoreline protection**. It would also be nice if the SLA Calendar of events could be published in print media.

Jan Selby noted that the **Swim Program** is planned for the weeks of July 9th and 16th. It is believed that the lessons will be in the mornings.

Tim Buzzell volunteered to contact Dave Anderson prior to the planned **IROC swim** held early in the morning on August 4th. SLA members have provided assistance to this event in the past.

The possibility of giving some form of **recognition** to association members (or property owners) who have demonstrated a strong commitment to shoreline protection was discussed. This recognition could be for “restoration” projects or simply for maintaining good water quality practices in the watershed.

The next board meeting is planned for **Friday, July 13th**. The time is 3 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean McKenny, SLA Secretary