

Seymour Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes June 27, 2009

Present: Lyman McWain, Ron Kolar, Jan Selby, Jean McKenny, Linda Broadwater, Tim Buzzell, Kal Samuels, Steve Massicotte, Allan Wooley, Peggy Barter, Ted Jewett, Bruce Barter and Richard Miller

The meeting was called to order by President Lyman at 9:00 AM.

Old Business

On a motion made by Ron and seconded by Peggy the **secretary's report** given by Jean of the 5/16/09 board meeting was approved.

Jan, in giving the **treasurer's report**, handed out a two year comparison of financial information. The current balance in the checking account is \$5,535.19 and in the money market account is \$40,107.18. In addition to the balances the comparison included information about memberships and donations. Lyman asked Jan to prepare a listing of donation amounts (not including names) for informational purposes. Lyman views that it might be necessary to hold a significant fund raiser. Suggestions for fund raising included Ron Frascoia donating a guided fishing excursion on Lake Seymour as an auction item. An auction (possibly a silent auction) might be held at the outing. Other items that could be donated included clothing items with the Lake Seymour logo (Lyman), and venison backstrap (Richard). Lyman stated that we need to know if the amount of money that we need from the town for milfoil inspections will be approved by the select board. Richard stated that he will know on July 13th if it meets with the town's approval. Jan expressed that she had had some paperwork requirements involving insurance forms and W-9s that had required her attention. On a motion made by Ron and seconded by Allan the treasurer's report was approved.

Lyman wanted to explain a **possible confusion** about the children of Morgan being involved with the SLA and the \$200 set aside in the budget. Allan was asked about his proposal to involve Morgan students in water quality testing. Allan stated that he had proposed that involvement if La Rosa was not funded. As La Rosa has been funded, he felt that his proposal was no longer germane. Ron said that he is willing to take any interested students with him when he does sampling. Peggy also expressed the same willingness. Peggy also mentioned a summer program for Morgan students that the school provides. It will involve some of the state water quality staff but is not connected to the programs provided by SLA. A **motion** was made by Allan and seconded by Steve **to clarify that the \$200 budget item was set aside for the Morgan ski program** (mentioned by Rob Guyer at the 2.14.09 meeting and given final budget approval by the board at the 5.16.09 meeting). It was felt that it was also important to ask Rob Guyer if any of the Morgan students are interested in the SLA water quality program. If the association can help the students and the students can learn about the importance of maintaining the quality that exists in the lake all could benefit. The motion was approved.

New Business

Ron Kolar reported for **the nominating committee** that the three board members whose terms are expiring this year would all like to continue serving on the board. Ron offered to get in touch with two people who had expressed interest in serving on the board to relay this information. Ron also reported that the committee had developed a "script" for the nominating process at the annual meeting so that it would run smoothly. The board feels that it is very important to involve interested people in the work

of the organization. Serving on committees is a good way to get involved and see what serving on the board involves. Volunteers are always welcome. A motion to authorize the nominating committee to bring the proposed names to the annual meeting was made by Tim and seconded by Ted. The motion carried.

A **membership committee** update was given by Ted. The membership drive people plan to be very thorough making contacts in July with follow-up recruitment in late July and August. Following these activities they will meet to regroup and see what still needs to be done. The membership packets are ready and it is felt that “face to face contact” is very important when asking people to join. Lyman complimented Ted on the committee's work saying that he thought that this is the most thorough membership effort that the association has ever made. Various ways to possibly help recruit members were discussed. Those included a table for membership at the outing and the annual meeting as well as “bumper stickers” with a SLA member statement being made available as well as how to best use the website for membership purposes. “Invoicing” members to continue membership was thoroughly discussed. The membership committee has made this as a recommendation to the board. The board is in agreement that this would be beneficial to membership. On a motion made by Ron and seconded by Jan it was moved that the SLA start “invoicing” for membership in the year 2010 and the the membership committee be given the discretion to set up a procedure to do this. The motion carried. Ted stated his willingness to make a short statement at the annual meeting explaining this to the membership. Ted also reminded the board of the other recommendation that the membership committee has made to the board that a separate “activities” committee should be formed and that “activities” responsibilities should be removed from the membership committee. No action has been taken on this recommendation.

The **Milfoil Grant** report was given by Jan. She has invoiced the state for one half of the money granted. There are meetings planned for the VIPs and the milfoil searchers as well as any others wanting to attend. Volunteers are always needed. A plant survey will be included this year as a part of the milfoil program and the people need training for this. Jan passed out sheets for recording time spent on milfoil activities. It is important for volunteers to record time to establish a match for the grant.

The **Wayeeses Grant** (Better Back Roads) report was given by Linda. The work funded by the grant is scheduled to be done sometime in mid to late July. The work is dependent upon Shawn Austin's schedule. Linda asked about the actual amount of money that SLA has pledged to the project. The answer was that the SLA pledged a maximum of \$350 to the project.

Two **other projects** were briefly discussed. Although not sponsored by the SLA there are two other projects that are believed to be in progress. One is being referred to as the “gully” project and is work being done in the area of Sugar Bush Road near Wayeeses Road. It is not funded by Better Back Roads but possibly by some Orleans County Conservation Funds. The other is at Seymour East. One small grant (\$900) has been approved by Better Back Roads to do road work there. Another grant, still in progress, is for planning. The persons reporting these activities are not certain about what work is being done. The information presented is strictly from “word of mouth.” The SLA feels that it is important for it to be aware of other efforts that are being done to protect the lake and encourages all parties to communicate with the SLA.

The Water Quality committee recently became aware of an **up to \$6000 grant** program. They voted to pass this information onto Lyman as they feel that he has a comprehensive view of the needs of the lake. Peggy and Lyman agreed to meet at a later date to discuss the possibilities for such a grant.

The **swim program** update was given by Jan. To date 15 kids are signed up. As a result it is expected that the cost of running the program may be lower this year. Using IROC for lessons avoids the expense of hiring a sheriff for two weeks. Jan expressed some concern that the Circle of Friends (\$200) and the Town of Morgan (\$500) had committed funds to support the swim program. Discussion ensued about what to do with those funds. Ron felt that the Circle of Friends money should be returned to them as the costs of the program might be lower this year. Lyman felt that we should not be going to the town multiple times for multiple causes. We do ask that the town support the milfoil program and maybe that is enough. It was decided to table this discussion until we find out what the actual costs of the swim program are this year. Ron complimented Jan for the work that she has done to organize the swim program at IROC.

Lyman reviewed the plans for the **outing on August 1** at the McWain/Colby properties. Various details such as parking, grills, manpower, fund raising, honoring SLA workers, honored guests, and special exhibits were all discussed.

The **Water Quality** report was given by Peggy. She had sent an electronic report to all board members prior to the meeting. As the work of the committee is very extensive, the electronic report helps to inform the board as to the committee's activities. Peggy also handed out two documents. One was the LaRosa Partnership Summary Report and the other was a State of the Lakes report entitled Paying Attention to Seymour Lake. Items verbally mentioned were: a meeting with Steve Matson (Zoning Officer) this morning; July 29th the SLA will host the Memphremagog Watershed meeting at the Community house with the topic being invasive species; and the La Rosa grant has gotten permission to do sampling on "rainy days" in addition to the regular sampling schedule. Peggy also updated the board about the state of the lake data. Lyman asked Peggy to make a chart for the annual meeting of this data to help the membership understand the trends in the lake (particularly phosphorus). Extensive discussion took place about the state of the lake.

When Lyman asked for **additional comments**, Ron reported that he had received a letter from Jeff Cueto of Vermont ANR requesting a meeting to discuss how the new Seymour Dam is handling the discharge of water. Homer and Ron will meet with Vt ANR, and Great Bay Hydro. Tim expressed his willingness to be involved and join Ron in this matter. With regard to the governmental relations/agriculture/forestry role that Ron is involved in, they are working through the zoning board and Ron is planning on attending the next meeting of the zoning board.

Dates for future meeting were reviewed. This information is available on the SLA website. Due to time constraints it was decided to plan the annual meeting with electronic communication.

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean McKenny, Secretary SLA