

Seymour Lake Association Board Meeting
Friday 7.13.12

Present: Lyman McWain, Ron Kolar, Jan Selby, Jean McKenny, Tim Buzzell, Peggy Barter, Allan Wooley, Ted Jewett, Linda Broadwater, Erik Lessing, Steve Massicotte, Bruce Barter, Susan Davis, Frank Antonelli, Susan Antonelli, Robbie Guyer

Unable to be present: Jim McWain

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 by President Lyman McWain.

The minutes of 5.12.12 were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Jan Selby. Two handouts were distributed. One was the Financial Report as of this date with comparisons to this date last year. The other was a SLA Budgets document comparing proposed and actual spending for 2010 to 2012. Jan paid our portion of the milfoil project to the town yesterday. She also transferred \$10,000 into a new CD since the last board meeting. Lyman briefly spoke about our goal to build up a reserve account for the future should we ever need it for a milfoil infestation. Jan shopped around for good interest rates for the new CD. The family of Kalman Samuels gave a memorial donation of \$1000 to honor Kal at the time of his death. Other memorial donations were made to honor Polly Caputo. The profit from the Ice Out contest continues to decline. It is shown in parentheses on the financial report. Jan handed the books over to Steve Massicotti for audit prior to the Annual Meeting. Lyman pointed out that the budget is missing the extra monies needed for food for the Outing.

The beach "issue" was considered. Allan Wooley reported that SLA and/or the Town of Morgan was asked to do something about the buoys marking a designated swimming area (not put up this season by the State Police). The Morgan Select Board researched this issue and sought legal advice. Allan reported that the lawyer's opinion is that the town does not own the beach so can't put out buoys. There are also other issues regarding the beach. Rubbish left at the beach is one issue. Robbie Guyer, also a Morgan Selectman, stated that the state "right of way" of the road contains much of the beach. More discussion also revealed that the town in the past has passed some ordinances that may or may not be constitutional. These ordinances include topics such as alcohol use, rubbish removal and a 10 pm curfew. Enforcement of these ordinances is also a potential problem as the town constables have not been to school for training as is required. The parking lot is the Fish and Game parking lot for overflow. The beach is a beach but is not really a "public" beach as it belongs, in one way or another, to (or is controlled by) the state. Robbie stated that only about 1 1/2 rods of the beach space are really public. It was mentioned that there are two things town can do. The town can promote "do not feed the ducks" and "clean up" the beach. Whether or not the Select Board and SLA should contribute to having someone clean up the beach was discussed. If Reed and Bud were to be involved in a clean up, it would need to be separate from their other duties. Their greater duties are paid for out of the milfoil grant. Robbie stated that his crew currently picks up garbage once a week prior to mowing and then he takes the trash to the dump on Saturday. It was stated that no one can put trash cans out because people moving out of weekly rentals and/or others just use them for their trash and they fill up quickly. One rubbish can was evidently even burned by vandals. Questions were raised about the cost and practicability of training constables and if there would be other ways to secure coverage. Opinions were stated about the town paying for ambulance and fire protection so possibly should pay for beach patrols as well. Reports of the Sheriff not patrolling after 4:30 pm were made. Suggestions for increasing the time paid for to the Sheriff's Department and then specifying the hours that they would

patrol were made. Persons driving to the meeting reported seeing what they believe is underage drinking at the beach today. All of the discussion indicates that there are problems at the beach. The question is who is responsible for dealing with these issues. All parties need to be concerned about possible legal problems. Lyman stated that the Executive Committee had discussed this issue earlier at its meeting and was recommending to the full board that SLA doesn't want to be involved directly with beach issues. It is a "town" (or state) problem. The town is a legal entity with payroll capabilities and the SLA is not and does not have the resources. SLA would be willing to favorably respond to and might financially support a Town proposal should the town put one forth. He asked for a motion that the board support the Executive Committee's recommendation. Suggestions were made to ask the Select Board to come back to us with a proposal. A motion was made by Ted and seconded by Peggy Barter that the SLA board will entertain possible funding of a proposal from the town (putting up signs, beach cleanup, etc.) The motion passed.

Ron Kolar reported for the Nominating Committee. The directors positions expiring at the annual meeting are those held by Jim McWain, and Erik Lessing. Kal Samuels position is vacant because of his death. The Nominating Committee requested that Erik Lessing stay on as a director and he has agreed to do so. Allan Wooley was elected in March as a Morgan Select Board member. Consequently, he is resigning his Director position on the SLA Board, but will continue to attend board meetings as an ex-officio select board member. Two years remain in Allan's term. Susan Davis will be nominated to be elected to a three year term. Frank Antonelli will be nominated to be elected for a three year term. Bruce Barter will be nominated to fill the remaining two years of Allan Wooley's position. The proposed new Directors introduced themselves and briefly talked about their interest in SLA. As usual, according to the by-laws, nominations from the floor will be entertained at the Annual Meeting.

Ron presented the Dam Committee report. He updated the committee's efforts with the state. Ron reported that the committee sent several letters to the state. He stated that SLA used to get a better response to communications prior to Jeff Queato's retirement. Since he retired we do not get good responses. We want to address flooding and the two pin issue. Last September a letter was sent to the state. The state did not respond to it. After that time an E-mail from the Agency of Natural Resources signed by Secretary Deb Markowitz was released stating that her agency was eager to work with others for the good of the state, and to minimize flooding. In response to that e-mail Lyman sent a December letter to her. That letter included Tim Buzzell's one page proposal for dam manipulation. Lyman did not get any response to this letter. This made the second SLA letter to the state without a response. Then another e-mail from Deb Markowitz and David Mears was released stating their wish to cooperate with others, and to minimize flooding. Deb Markowitz advised that David Mears would be handling this matter. Ron Kolar was able to reach a supportive agency Administrative Assistant, Linda Riddell, who said she would send our December Letter to David Mears." Bob Lewis got involved. Lyman sent a July 7th letter to Bob expressing our frustration with the process. Bob forwarded that letter to Linda Riddell an Administrative Assistant to David Mears asking why nobody has responded to SLA. David Mears said that Pete LaFlamme would be the contact person to meet with SLA. In response to a recent offer by the state to come here and meet with us Ron replied that we would go to them. Ron asked Tim if he wanted to add anything to the committee report. Tim said that most of what he would say would be technical. His recommendation is to draw down the lake in the fall so flooding conditions are not there in the winter. Citizens Utilities used to do this draw down. Tim mentioned Homer Selby's statement saying that if the outflow from the dam gets too high it is the cross section of the stream downstream not the capacity of the dam that is a "design flaw." Ron and Lyman stated that other lakes are having the same communication problem with the state, especially Willoughby. Lyman stated that he needs more detail from sources but Willoughby has been fighting

for 5 years with the state the same as we have. He has more information coming. However, it appears that Willoughby is dealing with different state people than we are which would seem very strange. It is evident that the Vermont Supreme Court ruling 60 years ago is being ignored by the state. Lyman will send copies of the two significant letters that have been sent to the state to all board members so that the board can understand what has transpired. Ron expressed that he is pleased with Peggy's efforts to keep SLA association prominent in the state. Ron is getting immediate responses from Amy Picotte. Thanks to Peggy we do have people in DEC who are responsive. Another example is Dana Cole. Lyman said that he has been told that there are differences of opinion between the "run of river" and "water quality" people at the state level. Linda Broadwater expressed thanks to the dam committee for persevering with this issue.

Ted Jewett and Bruce Barter gave the Membership Committee report. Bruce presented a current and very detailed report. Ted said that the "forgetful" letter will go out in October. The "never" letter will probably be sent at the end of November in the form of a survey to try to find out why these people are not joining the association. The names of the 51 "never" people will be review at the next membership meeting. Ted reported that \$481.95 has been spent by the committee to date. At the next meeting the committee will also update the membership package. Ted passed around one of the invitations (prepared by by Derby Port Press) for the Outing. Over 400 invitations will be sent out very soon.

Steve reported the results of his research regarding SLA board insurance. The current policy is a general liability policy. It is very old and was probably designed to cover the swim program. It does not contain any directors and officers insurance and even has a clause stating that it does not cover directors and officers for liability. Steve is attempting to find an agency to write a policy for us that would include directors and officers liability coverage. It is felt that the board needs this coverage and shouldn't wait for a full board meeting to secure it. Bruce believes that a Montpelier firm wrote a policy for the FOVLAP board for a cost of a little over \$500. A motion was made by Ted and seconded by Peggy to authorize Lyman to act to spend up to \$1000 to secure this coverage for the board as soon as Steve can find an agency to write it. The motion passed.

Lyman asked Peggy Barter to speak about the summer workshops program. Peggy reported that the workshops had been a Tracy Shaddy idea. This water quality idea then took off with 10 partners involved in workshops Attendance was good at the June 8th gathering Thirty have signed up for the workshop at Jewetts tomorrow at 1 pm. The third one will be at the beach on July 25th.and will explore what is living in the shallow waters at the edge of the lake. The fourth one is an invasive patrol workshop and will be held on August 15th. Ron and Peggy, if time permits tomorrow, may go through suggestions from Amy Picotte possible topics for writing articles for area newspapers. Erik Lessing will help with this. Bruce mentioned past e-mail blasts and has plans for another one. Lyman felt that it would be nice to include a picture of Allan and Ilene's house when promoting the Outing.

An Outing Committee held a meeting yesterday at Allan and Ilene's home where the outing will take place. They developed an action list for the Outing. It will be held on August 4th at 5:00 pm. Greeters will be Frank and Sue Antonelli, Lyman and Allan. Volunteer runners are needed to meet cars and accept food from car before the attendees park. Peggy volunteered to help with this. Persons bringing food will be reminded to put a tape with their name on it on the bottom of dishes so that they can be properly returned. A tent has been ordered. Lyman will work on developing a food order. A cooking team has been arranged for and a set up and clean up persons are still needed. Some members volunteered their trucks for transporting tables and chairs. Grills, music, invitations, garbage pails, and Tim's sign were arranged for. Peggy was encouraged to place any Water Quality messages on the registration/membership table manned by Ted and Jan. Ron will be in charge of introducing any

invited guests. This year it is planned to have the Outing be mostly a social event. Speeches will be kept to a minimum.

A draft agenda for the Annual Meeting was distributed. It was revised as necessary. Amy Picotte will speak at 9:00 am for 20 minutes about the Seymour Lake score card. Because of this the Water Quality Committee will not present a formal report at the meeting.

The next Board Meeting will be prior to the annual meeting at 8 am on July 28th. At that time the board members set up the chairs and tables for the meeting and bring breakfast type bakery goods for the SLA members attending the meeting to enjoy. Coffee and juice will be provided.

Erik Lessing reported for the Newsletter committee. He thanked all for their timely responses to his requests for articles. November 1 and May 1 newsletters are planned. A possible article for a future newsletter is an article about the Gildersleeve's property. It is the oldest on the lake.

Jan reported that the Milfoil grant money will be late. The state sent us Derby's grant instead of our own and then a "line item" technical problem in Montpelier will hold it up some more. The amount of the grant will not be changed, just the time that the money is received.

Lyman asked about whether or not the Wayeeses Road Association is planning another Better Back Roads grant. Linda Broadwater and Jean McKenny (Wayeeses Shore residents) reported that to the best of their knowledge the association is writing a grant this summer to submit this fall. Ben Copans has a list of needed corrections that will be considered for the grant and Dana Cole has agreed to act as the administrator for this grant. As Ben and Dana were seen recently talking with a property owner, it is assumed that this grant writing is in progress.

In response to a question about dredging the boat access Jan responded that she believes that may happen as early as this fall.

Jan requested information about who from the SLA will be attending the Annual Meeting of the FOVLAP organization as the SLA pays for its board members to attend. Peggy and Bruce will attend and possibly Lyman.

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Jean McKenny, SLA Secretary