

Seymour Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes 7/6/10

Present: Lyman McWain, Ted Jewett, Allan Wooley, Erik Lessing, Jean McKenny, Ron Kolar, Steve Massicotte, and Richard Miller

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm.

On a motion made by Erik Lessing and seconded by Ted Jewett the **Secretary's Report** was accepted.

Ron reported for the **Nominating Committee** that Tim Buzzell, Linda Broadwater and Peggy Barter are willing to run again for the SLA Board. Lyman expressed that he feels that the idea (discussed previously) of naming some former board members as senior members and assigning them specific tasks to do is a good idea. That might potentially open up some board member slots to younger people and it is felt that some younger involvement is important.

Lyman reported that he attended the **Federation of Lakes and Ponds in Vermont** meeting held at Lake Bomazeen on June 4th. The speaker was a professional fund raiser and provided an interesting presentation. He shared a "filtered" list of grant funds available that support water quality and the types of projects that the SLA is attempting to do. This information also included how much money, what types of projects each source funds. Documentation about how to write grants was also included. A "little blurb" on Seymour's inspection program was noted. Conversation about a potential rain garden at the access area took place. Lyman was encouraged with the feedback that he got from the state representatives saying that they thought it a good idea. Lyman feels that he has some great information for Peggy and the Water Quality Committee.

Ron shared some support materials that he has gathered to present to Steve Matson endorsing the need for **good property management**. Quite a bit of discussion took place about potential set back changes for new development. A sign up list at annual meeting to suggest that the town go forward with some zoning changes was considered. It was felt that Lyman would need to write out the SLA board's position and then ask the Zoning Board to endorse it. The issue was raised concerning if we would need to have an attorney write it up. Suggestions to Ron for attorney names were given. There are sixteen lake front lots not built on now. A list of those was examined. Concern was also raised that 200 ft properties could also be subdivided, so future development could involve more than the sixteen undeveloped lots. The issue of larger, non-lake front development was also discussed. Some sentiment was expressed that we should give positive recognition to owners who have made positive changes to their properties. The board recognizes that property rights are a "lightning rod" issue and wants to be very cautious with any suggestions. Ron Kolar will prepare a memo and send to the board for approval and then we may bring it to the annual meeting. Any proposed changes to setbacks would be for future construction only, and if a structure is torn down and rebuilt at a larger size. If a structure is rebuilt at the same footprint, it would be "grandfathered in". It is planned that Lyman will make a presentation at the annual meeting regarding the **state of the lake**. The board then considered having the membership vote on a proposal regarding the issue at the annual meeting. As many SLA members may not be residents of Morgan, and therefore do not vote at town meeting, this might give a voice to persons concerned about water quality. It is expected that the board will make a final decision as to how to proceed with this issue at the short board meeting at 8 am the morning of the annual meeting (July 24th).

Erik reported that the **Water Quality Committee** has prepared a two page brochure that outlines all of the efforts that go into monitoring and improving water quality in Seymour. It also recommends some steps that people can take to improve what has been a deterioration in water quality of the lake. It is planned to send that document out via e-mail in the very near future. The planned speaker for the annual meeting is Dayna Cole and Lyman will reconfirm the date with her.

Lyman reported that he had received a call from a person on Elliott Acres regarding **sewerage regulations and proposed changes**. Lyman will call the septic inspector, Steve Robillard to see what information he can get regarding this issue. He will report briefly what information he is able to get at the annual meeting.

Ron reported that he has been researching old documents regarding the gate and the dam. In the Spring of 2003 SLA, Vermont ANR and Citizens negotiated and signed a Stipulation and Revised Conditions. This document includes a statement that “the applicant (presently Great Bay Hydro) shall draft a Gate Management Guide, subject to Department Approval” He feels that this may provide a way to give SLA input into the Gate Management Guide regarding “pending extreme conditions storm” planning. This has been a topic of discussion at the board level for some time. Ron noted that the current **lake level** is about three inches higher than the 6 ½ inches above the low pin that he considers “ideal.” He will give a brief report at the annual meeting on the lake level. Ron advised he would be sending the previously prepared memos (that were distributed to the Lake Level and Dam Committee) on Gate management and the 1 ½ inch Boards to Brian Fitzgerald, who is finishing some of the items left over from Jeff Cueto who retired.

Steve reported that he is **auditing** (reviewing) the books of the association and will give a brief report at the annual meeting.

Lyman reported that he will be getting out a “save the date” post card for the **outing** very soon. It will be at the McWain/Colby properties again this year (without a tent) on the 31st of July. He will be e-mailing people to help with it. Discussion took place about the details of the plan for the outing.

Ted reported that the **membership** initiative had gotten off to a slower than expected start this season. The committee has improved the membership packet. They plan to meet in the fall to possibly expand membership goals. They are currently focusing on waterfront residents. Ted showed the board some beautiful bookmarks that the committee will use to promote membership. The bookmarks were created , designed and provided to Membership by Tracey Shadday who is a member of the Water Quality Committee. Both committees will be using the bookmarks.

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jean McKenny SLA Board Secretary