

Seymour Lake Association Board Meeting Minutes

Feb 14, 2009 (Morgan Lister's Office 9:00 am)

Present:

Board and Committee Members: Lyman McWain, Jan Selby, Jean McKenny, Ron Kolar, Ted Jewett, Tim Buzzell, Peggy Barter, Steve Massicotte, and Bruce Barter

Selectmen: Richard Miller (Ex-Officio Board Member) and Robert Guyer

Community Guests: Ken Jenness

Old Business

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by the President, Lyman McWain. He reviewed **dates** of future board meetings and events for the coming year. Board meetings are scheduled for May 16, June 27, July 25 (brief meeting prior to the Annual Meeting), and September 12. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 25 and the Annual Outing for August 1

A motion was made (Jan Selby) and seconded (Ron Kolar) to accept the **Secretary's Report** of the SLA Board Meeting held on September 6, 2008. The motion passed unanimously.

The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Janet Selby. She stated that the balance in the checking account is \$871.06 and the balance in the money market account is \$35,040.29. Janet distributed a report showing the income, expenses, balances, and milfoil financial transactions for the years of 2007 and 2008. This document also showed a proposed budget for 2009. Much discussion about the proposed expenditures in various categories took place. A probable change in the donation line from zero to \$200 was discussed. The change would result if an agreement with the Morgan School to involve students in water quality activities could be arranged. In return, the SLA would donate to the school ski program. If this change is made the proposed net income less expenses line would change from \$7000 to \$6800. A motion was made (Ron Kolar) and seconded (Ted Jewett) to give preliminary approval to the proposed budget. A final budget will be presented at the May 16 board meeting when, hopefully, the SLA would know the amounts of the milfoil grant from the state of Vermont resulting in a more complete document. The motion passed unanimously. As the SLA is deeply committed to the milfoil program, it is important for the organization to know the income related to that program in order to budget wisely. The topics that were briefly discussed as having a possible impact on the budget included memberships, donations, advertisements, mailing costs, workmen compensation rates, possible tent rental for the outing, and the swim program.

New Business

Ron Kolar reported for the **Nominating Committee** reviewing future open board positions. Three board member terms expire in 2009. They are Kal Samuels, Jim McWain, and Erik Lessing. Ron has talked with several people who might be willing to serve on the board and/or on committees. Other names were given to Ron by people present at the meeting. These board positions will be filled at the annual meeting.

The **Swim Program** discussion continued. Carol Pombar wrote a letter to Lyman as requested at the 9/6/08 board meeting. The letter is attached to these minutes. Last summer 34 children participated at a cost of \$2185.60. Much of the cost is incurred by the need to have a sheriff present due to the lesson site's proximity to the road. The board was reminded that both Charleston and Morgan Schools have swim programs at IROC. Some strong feelings were expressed that the SLA should not continue to sponsor the program in the lake. Dropping the program is a very difficult thing for the board to do as it has a strong tradition in the area. Busing interested students to IROC was presented as a possible alternative. That possibility raised some solutions (Holland school children and the Grandchildren of summer lake residents could participate in swim lessons) and raised some concerns (insurance coverage, costs at IROC, and how to bus the students). A motion was made (Ron Kolar) and seconded (Peggy Barter) to give Jan Selby authorization to speak with the Red Cross conveying concerns about the program last year. Jan is also authorized to speak with IROC and the schools regarding busing and student participation. Jan will investigate the options and present alternative proposals to the board at the May meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The report on **Vermont Agriculture Department** was given by Ron Kolar. Ron has been in contact with Susan Alexander, a consultant to the State. Her job is to work with farmers encouraging best management practices. She reports that the Mike Farrow Farm at Sucker Brook has made improvements. The Town of Morgan regraded the Valley Road and performed ditching, reducing the potential for large runoff to travel to the farm's manure pit over and into the brook. It was also reported that the Jim Jordan farm has been very cooperative also with reducing pesticides near the lake. The efforts of these two farms to help keep the lake pristine is greatly appreciated. A discussion ensued about the frequency of monitoring streams, how runoff times might affect samples, and how samples are able to identify potential sources of problems. The intensity of the discussion made it evident that protecting the lake is a high priority for the board members.

Ted Jewett reported for the **Membership/Outings** Committee. The committee has eight members and a three year plan with the goal of achieving 100% membership in the SLA of area owners. The committee has met three times and the next meeting is scheduled for April 16 at the Jewett's home. This year lake front property owners who are not members will be the target population. Face to face contact with packets designed to show how the association is working to protect the lake is planned. The lake has been divided into sections with various committee members and other willing volunteers helping make the contacts. The Membership/Outings committee made two recommendations to the board at the 9/6/08 meeting. One was to establish a separate "activities" committee so that membership can be the sole focus of the committee. The other is to start a program of "invoicing" previous members of the association for membership. Currently, people join the association when they get the newsletter(s) (containing an invitation to join), or when they attend the annual meeting or whenever they think about it. The membership year is considered to coincide with the calendar year. It is felt that some people forget to join and it is known that some people even join twice in the same year. Invoicing is being considered. The

details need to be worked out. Coordination is very important as members now join at various times. Lyman and Ron agreed to try an invoicing program starting with 63 members that appear to not have joined in 2008 but were members in 2007. Bruce Barter will provide the names to them so that this can be done.

The **Wayeeses Grant** update was given by Lyman. He received a letter from Linda Broadwater stating that the Better Back Roads Grant had been approved by the state. The approved amount is \$7,000. A total of 49 grants were approved around the state totaling \$103,000. The Wayeeses Grant requires a local match of 25% and the SLA had pledged 20% of the required match to support the grant. An amount of \$350 is reserved in the preliminary budget for that purpose. The SLA Board wants to express its appreciation to Linda Broadwater for all of the hard work and time that she has spent writing and planning for this grant.

The **Outing Committee** report was given by Lyman. This year it is not going to work out to hold the outing at the Camp Winape location as has been done for the past two summers. Several members of the board have been actively attempting to find another location and persons to act as committee chairs for the outing. The committee chairs are very close to being named. The board members and people at the meeting also suggested several possible locations. It is expected that within two weeks active planning will start to take place. Ted Jewett handed over to Lyman his notes from previously planning the outing to make the work of the new chairpersons easier. Some discussion ensued about possible speakers for the Annual Meeting and for the Outing. Several names were considered by the board. It is felt that it is important to provide a speaker who is very engaging and at the same time knowledgeable about water quality.

Peggy Barter presented the report for the **Water Quality** Committee. She provided a handout containing a list of the members of the committee and the responsibilities of each. It also contained a 2008 LaRosa Summary and information about planned projects for 2009. She provided additional verbal information as she went through the document with the board. She indicated that the committee needs help from more people in a planned attempt to identify “seasonal streams.” These are streams that are active at the time of snow melt. Lyman stated to Peggy that the board needed to know if the WQ committee was recommending specific activities and requested that the WQ committee keep the board posted about the list of things planned. He feels that the SLA should begin an educational program for land management and the WQ committee should describe the planned program. The WQ committee had previously discussed developing a “welcome packet” of materials for new lake shore residents as an activity. Peggy pointed out that Erik Lessing sits on both the WQ and the membership committees and is key in coordinating educational activities. The membership committee is developing a packet of materials. Discussion continued attempting to clarify what is being done and what is perceived as being needed. Lyman stated the the SLA wants a “market type” program out this year to “educate land owners.” It was emphasized that “lakeside property management” should be the focus.

Lyman concluded the meeting with a **request** to all board members. He said not to publish “any narrative” until the board approves it. A press release is in the process of being written with all

board members having an opportunity to electronically contribute to it. Lyman expressed concern that sometimes the person reading a document may interpret the information being presented in a way that the writer did not intend. The group writing of the press release is considered better than having one individual attempt to convey information. This discussion led to confusion about what the board can and cannot edit. Water Quality (Lay Monitoring and LaRosa) Reports contain data that all agreed cannot be altered. Sometimes these reports contain a summary portion and some confusion seemed to center around that portion of the reports and whether or not summaries could be altered by the board. No resolution was arrived at except to have board members agree that sharing these reports with the board prior to releasing them would be a courteous thing to do. If the board member had knowledge of what was in the report prior to it being released, then the board member would be better prepared if someone did misinterpret information. In keeping with the theme of full disclosure, a question was asked about whether or not minutes of Executive Board Meetings were kept and shared with the full board.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully Submitted by Jean McKenny, Secretary

Attachment (e-mail from Carol Pombar to Lyman McWain on 9/22/08)

Lyman,

Here are some of my thoughts on the swim program.

Teaching at a lake is weather dependent. The 1st week the weather cooperated & the water was great. During the 2nd week, there were waves & colder temperatures presented challenges.

The instructors were friendly & positive but not as motivated as in past years. There was no real leadership. Two examples of poor leadership: They had to be asked to put the buoys (which marked the lesson area) out before lessons rather than during them. During the small 2nd session, rather than working with individual students, a couple of instructors just stood in the water & watched the others teach. Part of the problem was that they arrived in Morgan from their morning program 2 hours before the Morgan lessons began & were sometimes tired of being together & had lost focus.

Instruction was generally good in the highest levels but in the mid levels, instead of working on skills & drills, they resorted to games which did not emphasize skills. At the lowest level, they did focus on getting students comfortable in the water.

I don't think your idea of using "local talent" for teaching is a good one for safety reasons. It might be a liability issue for the Association.

The cost for 2 weeks of lessons at IROC would be \$45 for the 1st child in the family & \$40 for each additional child. We need to contact them by early spring to get on their schedule for the summer.