

Seymour Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes 9/06/08

Present: Lyman McWain, Peggy and Bruce Barter, Allan Wooley, Linda Broadwater, Jim McWain, Ron Kolar, Ted Jewett, Tim Buzzell, Carol Pombar, and Jean McKenny

Old Business

The Board Meeting **Minutes** from 6/27/08 and 7/26/08 were approved. The Annual Meeting Minutes from 7/26/08 are posted on the website and will be approved at the Annual Meeting 2009. A concern was expressed about the "somewhat awkward" situation at the Annual Meeting when a person asked if he could nominate himself. After discussion it was suggested that the Newsletter and/or website prior to the Annual Meeting could request that anyone interested in serving on the SLA Board contact the Nominating Committee prior to the Annual Meeting.

Jan Selby, **Treasurer** was unable to be at the meeting but provided a two page handout of 2007 (actual) and 2008 (actual and projected) income and expenses. As the calendar year is not over and additional income (memberships, donations, interest, and map sales) as well as expenses (insurance, milfoil share to Morgan, and fall newsletter) are expected it was difficult to make a year to year comparison. Lyman asked for the treasurer's report to include a "side bar" noting the amount that passes through the Town of Morgan books for Milfoil inspections as well as the amount of the grant. The SLA has in some years funded ½ of the balance between the amount of the grant from the state and the actual cost of the inspections. As we do not know the grant amount until springtime and the costs are incurred from spring through fall inspections, it is difficult to budget in advance for the program. Lyman asked all committee chairs to come up with an amount that they think that they might spend for the remainder of this calendar year. Another observation made was that membership income (roughly \$6000 to \$6500) could be grossly inadequate to provide for the SLA share of inspections (guesstimated to be as high as \$13,000) if the grant were to be greatly reduced or eliminated. In addition, what portion of the cost would the town be willing to absorb if the grant was not there? In the absence of hard data various estimates of the projected cost of the program ranged from \$22,000 to \$26,000. Certainly, increasing membership could help with this deficit situation should it ever occur. The group is also able to restrain the total cost each year by deciding when to suspend inspections for the season. Some opinions were expressed that donations should be going into a contingency fund for use if the lake ever were to become infected as opposed to paying for current inspections. It was clearly

stated that the SLA is committed to the inspection program as water quality is “what we are about.”

For the **Swim Program** Update & Recommendations, Jan Selby provided a one page summary comparing 2007 and 2008 numbers for the program. These numbers show a decreased participation and increased costs. Carol Pombar reporting for the program stated that it was her first year with the program and she was uncertain what her role should be. She expressed her concerns about the quality of the program as provided this year. Questions were asked about whether or not the Red Cross evaluates the program. It appears that they do not and haven't requested any feedback as far as persons present at the meeting knew. Questions were raised as to how we let the Red Cross know if there is dissatisfaction. Evidently, a couple of years ago the SLA board discussed the viability of the program and decided to “give it a couple more years” before making a decisions about the program's future. The current situation is that the Charleston kids (about 1/2 of the normal enrollment) went to IROC for lessons instead of Lake Seymour. Both Charleston and Morgan Schools have swim programs now at IROC. Many of the kids in the program (maybe 2/3) were Grandkids of Seymour Lake people with some of the Grandparents coming from as far away as Newport. Various options were discussed including dropping the program, taking greater control of the program, or bussing kids to IROC. As it was felt that there is support for the program and it provides a service to SLA members it was decided that the situation needs more study before a decision is made. Lyman asked Carol to write a short summary letter about the program this year to the board so that we could go to the Red Cross and IROC to consider alternatives. This letter would be attached to our minutes.

The **Wayeeses Grant** Update/SLA Policy on Support report was given by Linda Broadwater. She stated that 9/24/08 is the deadline for submission of the grant. Several Wayeeses Road residents met on August 29th with Shawn Austin and Ben Copans. The purpose was to walk the site and to put together final numbers for the grant. Using rough numbers (no cents) the total grant request is \$9315. That total breaks out into a \$2328 match from local sources and \$6986 from the state Better Back Roads Grant. At a 20% level of local match the SLA share would be \$460. Linda explained that the original proposal had been “tweaked a little bit” and another culvert had been added. Linda agreed to provide a copy of the grant when written to the SLA. She stressed the importance of the grant noting that she had observed increased weed growth in last two years in the lake bottom. It appears to be a new kind of weed that she feels is holding in the sediment. It was mentioned that the local match can be both labor and “in kind” services in place of some of the actual dollar amounts needed. A question was

asked about to whom the SLA contribution amount would be paid. Some opinion was expressed that the SLA shouldn't pay a portion of in kind and only 20% of the actual dollar match. There was some disagreement about this with the opinion being expressed that it is the principle of supporting the grant request that is important and that the difference in dollars would not be a big amount. As no firm final figures were available, and the end of October in 2009 is projected for the actual work (if the grant is funded), and a vote was not needed at this time, it was decided to table the discussion for now. Lyman did want the record to show that the SLA reserves the right to reject support for any other grant proposals that might be written by other associations. Giving SLA support for one grant application should not set any precedent for others.

Ron Kolar reporting for the **Dam and Water Level** Committee stated that the water level was $7 \frac{3}{4}$ inches above the low pin two days ago. He also stated that we were "very close to having to do something different" with all of the recent rain. He feels that "we have been tested now" and agreed to write an article for the newsletter about the complexities of the water level as it relates to the dam and various shorelines.

Peggy Barter reporting for the **Water Quality** Committee stated that the new committee felt the need for "board backing" in general to create an action plan to support the various activities of the committee (Better Back Roads Grant, La Rosa Monitoring, VIP Inspections, etc.) Several members of the board assured her that the committee had board authorization to do the work. Discussion of Property Walks, La Rosa Program, VIP Trainings and Inspections, as well as MWA and other associations support and involvement took place. Peggy agreed to submit an electronic version of her report(s) to the board to avoid having the meeting minutes attempt to contain all of the information. Lyman asked for Jan to submit a similar report of the Milfoil and VIP Programs to the board. Some of these reports will be posted on the website and some will be printed in the next newsletter.

The **Budget Process & Recommendations** report was given by Lyman McWain. The discussion was rich with praise, cautions, concerns, legal clarifications and suggestions. A theme seemed to emerge that as the board takes on more initiatives it will become necessary for some committees to do work and just report to the board what work has been done. The workload of the organization has become too large for the board to be intimately involved in all actions. It is expected that a reorganization of the board will be proposed in the future. Another theme that seemed to emerge is the importance of using the website and the newsletter to disseminate information and promote communication.

The **Membership** Committee Update was given by Ted Jewett. He reported that at a first meeting assignments were made and a year round schedule was decided. Various members of the committee have taken responsibility for certain jobs. The committee views this as a three year project with a 2009 start. The plan is to “ramp up in summer with follow up after that.” A comparison to MWA membership numbers and dues was given. Suggestions for possible committee reorganization of the board were also made. Lyman asked for suggestions in writing so that all suggestions could be thoroughly considered in any reorganization of the committee structure of the board.

New Business

Under **Presidents Comments** Lyman stated that the next newsletter should provide a follow up with articles about summer activities and give recognition to people who have contributed so much this year to the success of the SLA.

In discussing the next **newsletter** a list of potential topics for was presented and persons were assigned to write various articles. It is expected that it will be a fall 2008 edition. In addition to the regular membership it will be sent to persons from the state of Vermont who were involved with the work of the organization this year. It was suggested that in a couple of areas (phosphate free products list and “What’s New On The Website”) the newsletter could just briefly mention them and refer anyone who might be interested to the website for more information.

Funding & Development Priorities & Needs were discussed. It is possible that the auction at the social outing has “run its course.” Other ideas for fundraising were brainstormed. A cookbook, calendar, logo and clothing, hats, t-shirts, bumper stickers, and pens, were all listed as ideas. Concerns were expressed that we might have to “sell a lot to help out much.” People giving large donations might be more productive. Discussions about possibly creating levels of giving for status type giving might help. It was decided to talk about it and not make any decisions at the meeting. Some consideration was given to the possibility of consolidating the annual meeting and the outing. It was suggested not to consolidate them but to cut the length of the annual meeting (possibly by utilizing the website and newsletter more fully) and then to have a good speaker at it as a draw. The dates of 7/25/09 for the Annual Meeting and 8/1/09 for the Social Outing were somewhat agreed upon. Ron asked that we hold on making those dates public until he could coordinate with his family for the date and location of the outing.

Under the heading of **Open Discussion** it was asked if a different format for map

attachments could be considered. As only the attachments would need to be changed in the future (not the map), would a little "booklet size" such as the last map had be possible? Discussion about how to have our priority of Water Quality receive even more attention took place. Activity around property management or the landscaping aspect of properties or garden club type of group was discussed. It was suggested that such a group could give rain garden classes and/or even possibly establish a demonstration rain garden somewhere. We might be able to have local landscapers give discounts for certain plantings. Maybe we could use the website to show exemplary sites. Maybe we could involve local teenagers in a project. Maybe there could be contests. Maybe we could attract and/or sponsor good speakers (the loon guy or others) on topics related to good management of our properties.

On that very upbeat and forward thinking note the meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2/14/09.