

**Seymour Lake Association
Annual Meeting
July 25, 2015**

1. Called to order by Chuck Nichols, President, at 9:10 a.m. with about 50 people attending. He thanks volunteers for their help and introduced the Board of Directors. He thanked Alan Wooley for his years of help with the website. And then thanked Karen Abada, as chair, and Eric Lessing and Bruce Barter for work on establishing the new website (seymourlake.org) . Bruce Barter thanked Chuck for his help as well. Chuck announced that Bruce and Peggy Barter were given the 2015 "The Robert Arnold Lake Protection Award" at a conference in Burlington.

2. Secretary's Report: A motion to approve the notes from the 2014 Annual Meeting was moved by Bob Kern and seconded by Bruce Barter, approved.

3. Treasurer's Report: A copy of the report is attached to this report. A motion was made to approve the report, seconded and approved. A copy of the 2015 Review/Audit compiled by Doug Gilmer is attached to this report. A motion was made to approve, seconded, approved. Jean discussed the Kalman Samuels memorial bench, which will sit near the Morgan Town Office. She is working with the family on the design and wording.

4. Elections: Dave Anderson announced that three positions were open. Eric Lessing and Frank Antonelli agreed to remain on the Board. Susan Davis resigned her position. Alan Franklin agreed to fill this open position. A motion was made by Bruce Barter to accept all three, seconded by Tim Buzzell, approved. All officers were approved: Chuck Nichols, President, Lyman McWain, Vice President, Jean McKenney, Treasurer, Linda Buzzell, Secretary.

5. Committee Reports:

Milfoil: Beth Torpey took over the position from Janet Selby last year. She said the "VT Invasive Species Patrollers" is in place with 13 intercepts so far this year. She is trying to identify all private motor boat accesses on the lake and will post inspection signs. She asked that if friends or renters are using private boat accesses, we ask Her to come and inspect the boats. she feels it is essential that we be vigilant, even on kayaks. The "spiny water flea" is the newest invasive species to watch for, need to check fishing gear, has a profound effect on lake life. She said the Board is looking into a heated boat wash and it will be included in the 2016 grant request. Members can donate directly to the boat wash fund. It can be housed in a mobile building such as a double wide horse trailer because it needs to be moved in the winter. If anyone knows of such a vehicle, please let her know. The cost will be +/- \$8,000. We received up to \$16,190 from the State for 2015.

Boat Committee: Tim Buzzell asked Bonnie McWain to speak to the 2015 4th of July Boat Parade. She said we had good weather this year and were able to circle the entire lake with about 35 boats. There were many people on decorated docks watching, with large swans

included. There will be a video of the on the website soon. Tim thanked Bonnie and Cindy Ker for their help.

Activities: Frank Antonelli said the Annual Outing is August 1 from 6-8 p.m., hosted by Janet and Ron Kolar at Camp Winape. bring your own drinks and an appetizer to share. Please RSVP and bring a friend or non-member. Adults only

Loon Report: Woody Woods said there were only 5 loons on the lake this year according to the loon count, no chicks. The population has dropped steadily over the last 5 years which something is not working for them here. Eric Hanson, State loon specialist, is working with Woody. They suspect some of the problem is with people intruding in the lake's loon reserve area walking in from the woods, and in motor boats as well as kayaks; fireworks; and jet ski and tubing activities in the Winape area.

Maps: Ron Kolar said we have used Russell Graphics to update our map and alphabetical listings are available. \$25/each at the Morgan Store and Town Office as well as on the new website. Eric Lessing, whose mother made the original maps starting in the 1970's, found 65 maps from 1980 and offered them to anyone interested.

Membership: Bruce Barter presented the latest membership report, attached to this report. Ted Jewett said that he is resigning as chair of this committee and that we would need to fill this position. He also said its important that we find new groups to approach about joining SLA, i.e. ice fisherman.

Newsletter: Eric Lessing said it is sent to about 900 people twice a year, SLA members as well as everyone in Morgan. The newsletter is involved with the website as well and it is a tremendous source of information. Please send pictures and we would like to change the "featured photographer" often.

Water Quality: Peggy Barter said that the Town has a State Grant for "Better Back Roads". They will use the Grant first to study Morgan roads needing work and apply for another grant in 2016. The Grants are available to multi-use back road owners for grading and an eye to water quality. "Lake Wise" has evaluated 40 Seymour Lake properties; 15 have gotten an award; others either continued working on their property and applied again or stopped with ork already in place. Rhonda Shippey is a new committee member. Ted Jewett will be the next host for a "Septic Social". Peggy said that we have the opportunity to apply for a Grant to host an Americorp Volunteer as an intern September 2015 to August 31, 2016, shared with Northwoods. The focus would be ways to deal with invasive species, study the state of stream banks etc. strictly in the Seymour Lake watershed. Sharing with Northwoods would mean that our monetary contribution would be \$2,500 if we receive the Grant. The SLA Board has voted to go ahead with filing the Grant.

Dam/Lake Levels: Tim Buzzell said that under a State statute, the lake level is to be maintained between the high and low pin (about 14"). The managers, Vermont ANR, has not fulfilled the requirement since the new dam was built. On April 16, water levels at the pin was 6.5" above the high pin and has been as high as 12.5" above the high pin. It has not gone down below the high pin and is still above the high pin as of today. He has gotten many angry phone calls from lake owners regarding property damage. He recommends that people write Deb Markowitz, Secretary of VT ANR, including photos. Lyman McWain suggested writing about lake damage. shoreline loss, physical monetary damage to docks etc., out of pocket expenses to repair property damage from the high water, loss of use of the property because of high water

damage. Please copy SLA and ask for an answer to your request. Chuck Nichols addressed the lawsuit where we want to regulate the gate between the low and high pin in the fall to mitigate spring runoff. We went to court a year ago. The judge ruled we were in the wrong court and should be in Environmental Court. We disagree because he did not address the State Law which states that ANR will keep the lake levels within the high and low pin and we filed again on that basis. We still have not heard from the Court. He reiterated that ANR needs to hear about tree and shoreline loss due to the high water. There was much discussion about how to get this information out to lake owners.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.