

Seymour Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes October 10, 2009

Present: Lyman McWain, Janet Selby, Jean McKenny, Ted Jewett, Jim McWain, Peggy Barter, Allan Wooley, Steve Massicotti, Kal Samuels, Tim Buzzell, Bruce Barter, and Richard Miller

The meeting was called to order by President Lyman at 9:00 AM.

Old Business:

On a motion made by Peggy and seconded by Ted the **minutes of the 6/27/09** board meeting were approved.

Ted reported as chairperson of the **Membership Committee**. The committee met on 10/9/10 with five members present. The "year to date" numbers reveal 291 total members with 87 new and 47 not renewing. The committee's focus for new memberships are lake front property owners. Last year 48.6% were members and this year 60.8% have joined. It would appear that the work of the committee has been effective in increasing these memberships. They view increasing membership as a three year project with the goal of 100% membership. The committee has spent \$646.56 to date. The committee recommended to the board that a letter be sent to the 47 members who did not renew this year. The committee also recommended that a letter be sent out in March of 2010 inviting membership for the 2010 year. Some discussion centered around possibly publishing the list of members in a February 2010 newsletter (broader mailing list than just members) and/or possibly on the website. The general consensus seemed to be to include the names in the newsletter but not on the website. The membership committee plans to use the same packet for prospective members in 2010 that it used this year and estimates that it will need 175 packets. Ted passed around an attractive bumper sticker (the design was donated by Derby Port Press). The sticker would indicate membership in SLA. The cost for a three color option is \$518 per thousand. Some discussion centered around if a "window" option might be possible and whether or not it would be more costly. On a motion by Peggy and a second by Kal the membership committee was authorized to pursue the plans for a bumper and/or window sticker program with a limit for spending in the \$700 range. The membership committee has consistently recommended that a separate activities committee be formed so that the membership committee can focus solely on membership. Lyman expressed support for having the executive committee list what the responsibilities of an activity committee might be. He also expressed that there may be a need for a fund raiser and that responsibility for that might fall to an activities committee. The "credit card option" for membership was discussed. On a motion made by Tim and seconded by Jim it was decided to table the credit card option at this time.

Jan gave the **treasurer's report**. The report covers the period of January 1, 2009 to October 10, 2009. The balance in checking is \$6,184.90 and the balance in the money market account is 40,117.89. The income to date is \$16,758.73 and the expenses are \$6,301.77. Anticipated expenses are \$7,350.50 for SLA share of the milfoil inspection program and \$200 for the Morgan Ski Program as well as one more newsletter this year (about \$1,000). Discussion about whether or not the SLA should refund money given for the swim program took place. The town gave \$500 and the Circle of Friends donated \$200. Changing the swim program from the public beach to IROC reduced the cost of the program. Jan's report contained a three year comparison of funds received from memberships and donations. Membership dollars are fairly steady over the three years with a slight increase this year reflecting the net membership increase. Donations are down sharply over the three year period. It is still unknown what the town is willing to contribute to the milfoil program. The customary process is to take the cost

of the program (21,600) and subtract the grant amount from the state (\$6899) for a difference of \$14,701. The SLA and the town have in the past few years split this expense. That would mean that SLA would contribute \$7350.50 and the town the same. This amount may be slightly higher than the town budgeted for this expense. Richard will speak with the selectmen at the next meeting about these financial matters (swim program and milfoil). Jan asked if she should still get signatures for a petition to the town to donate to the swim program at town meeting and was told that she should do so. It is anticipated that next year the number of children may increase and therefor the costs may be higher. No formal action was taken regarding the refunding of any donated amounts. The general consensus seemed to be that SLA should keep the donated funds. The final payment amount from SLA to the Wayeases project is yet to be determined. Richard has the paperwork from Linda but is waiting for final figures from Shawn Austin before being able to do the necessary calculations to determine the SLA share. A check of the last board meeting minutes clarified that the SLA had pledged a maximum of \$350 for the project. Discussion about where the money market funds are invested took place. On a motion made by Peggy and seconded by Allan it was decided to move the funds from a non-local (Smith Barney) to a local (Community National Bank) account. Jan requested the authority to send a bill to a person for merchandise purchased but not paid for. Jan also reminded everyone that she needs "time sheets" for hours contributed to the work of SLA. She needs documentation of any and all volunteer hours in order to prepare the next milfoil grant application.

New Business:

In the absence of Ron, Tim reported for the **Dam/Lake Level Committee**. Tim had recently met at the site with representatives from the state of Vermont and Great Bay Hydro. SLA would like to have the authority to request that Great Bay Hydro raise the main gate in anticipation of a large storm (to reduce the lake level prior to a storm) and also to remove the 1 ½ inch "flash boards" in the fall and put them back up in the spring, after run off, to possibly better control water levels. Ron has drafted a letter to the state stating these SLA wishes and has sent the draft letter to the Dam/Lake Level Committee for comment. The letter has not yet been sent to the state. Although there is no question that the SLA supports the inclusion of the gate in the dam, both of these issues generated a variety of opinions from board members. Concerns voiced included the effectiveness, practicality, and responsibility for these potential actions. During a variety of opinions being expressed other concerns surfaced including the gradual filling in of the access area at the boat launch. This also generated an opinion that maybe it is the runoff from Sucker Brook that is causing that fill and not the lake level. On a motion made by Tim and seconded by Allan it was decided to give Ron the authorization to send the letter. Jan expressed a reservation that maybe the May date in the letter was too specific a time and possibly needed to be worded differently to give SLA more flexibility.

Lyman also reported that Ron has been attending the **Morgan Zoning Board** meetings in an attempt to better understand the local zoning regulations as they relate to the lake. Ron reported that the current rules require a front setback of twenty feet and a rear setback of twenty-five feet. He also reports that many states have rules governing the percentage of a lot that a building "footprint" can use as well as regulations regarding how much of the vegetation that an owner can remove when developing a lot. Ron feels that a thirty foot front set back with a fifteen foot rear setback (including a Grandfather clause for existing buildings) would be more appropriate. He states that of the sixteen vacant lots on the lake now, six of them are 100' by 100', one is 100' by 200' and there are also some large parcels. Allan (also a member of the zoning board) reported that not anything is listed as "non-buildable" at the current time. He also stated that normally zoning changes happen every five years and Morgan has just adopted changes. Allan also stated that many states have stronger regulations than Vermont and if the state adopted stronger rules the towns would then be forced to make changes. Lyman stated that the SLA goal is to understand the regulations and to promote a position that would be favorable to the

lake. Allan recommended that the SLA put together a package of what we would suggest as appropriate zoning regulations suitable for proper water quality. Allan also felt that area legislators should be given the package of suggestions. Steve and Allan both spoke of the need for a committee (possibly consisting of Ron, Lyman, Steve and others) to work on this issue. In response to concerns that these issues are sometimes controversial Lyman stated that it is the SLA role to develop the "story line." We should put forth the science and the education to the town and/or the state so that they can take appropriate actions.

Lyman brought up the possibility of the **SLA applying for a grant** under the new state grant process with the application deadline being November 14, 2009. Peggy stated that she had just checked the website for it and that the website "had not been updated" and still had last year grant materials on it. That caused her to wonder if grants were going to be available this year. Lyman stated that if they are he would like to write a grant for developing a demonstration "rain garden" at the access area. He invited other ideas also. He feels that this grant money could provide some seed money for some serious land management demonstration projects.

A discussion of the upcoming **newsletter** took place. It will be limited to eight pages and there is plenty of material for it. Anne Moore is working on getting some ads for the newsletter and that will help to pay for newsletter mailings. New in this issue there will be a section devoted to answering questions that persons have about the lake. Some of the material for this section will come from a recent letter sent to the SLA by residents voicing several concern about the lake. Lyman has responded to that letter but feels that the newsletter might provide a forum for answering some of the questions that it raised as well as other concerns sometimes voiced about the lake. Some of the topics that might be addressed are fishing, jet skis, fireworks, development, and others that might be raised as issues. The column may be entitled "Concerns Heard Around the Lake." It was decided that the ice out form should be enclosed in every newsletter to maximize participation. Some discussion took place about posting signs or handing out materials at the access site to help boaters and jet ski operators be aware of regulations. Some discussion also centered around a survey done previously to try to determine how persons felt about some different issues related to the lake. Some felt that the survey gave the membership a feeling of "being listened to."

A very brief discussion took place regarding the SLA relationship with the Fish and Game Department and a possible decline in the quality of **fishing** on the lake this year. Peggy mentioned that there is a new lake resident with expertise in biology and possibly other related fields who may be "at UVM" and perhaps that person might be willing to provide expertise to SLA.

Lyman will be attending the **New England Federation of Lakes Conference** as the SLA representative.

The meeting **adjourned** at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean McKenny, Secretary SLA