

Seymour Lake Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - January 7, 2022

VIA Zoom - 4 pm

Present: Rhonda Shippee, President; Bonnie McWain, V. President; Jean McKenny, Treasurer; Linda Buzzell, Secretary; Tim Buzzell, Bruce Barter, Tom Adams, Frank Antonelli, Bruce Remick, Sean Selby, Erik Lessing, Bill Bilowus

Absent: Woody Woods

Committees: Peggy Barter

Secretary's Minutes August 12, 2021 - Tim Buzzell made a motion to accept, Bruce Remick seconded, accepted.

Old Business: Rhonda commented that we have lost our auditor (Doug Gimler). She has asked Kathy Austin if she would consider taking over the role and Kathy is thinking about it and will let Rhonda know.

Treasurer's report - written report attached - Jean is waiting for more bank statements and information before submitting a final year-end report later this month.

Committee Reports:

Water Quality, Peggy Barter – We got 5 new Lake Wise properties this year. The program is changing and our region will be coordinated by a team of Patrick Herly (MWA), Sara Damsell (OCNRD) and Meg Carter (NWSC). A new companion program called “Stream Wise” is being developed. 2021 lay monitoring data is still not available. ANR will seek to change the septic restriction in the present A1 Rules through the legislature. We sent a letter of support to Secretary Moore for this. Echo Lake filed their application for reclassification in September and it has been determined complete and is now on the State website and going through legal and technical review. We want to be ready when they post for written comments. We reviewed Rhonda's draft comment letter to Julie Moore, Secretary, ANR, (attached) which will not go out until posted for comments, probably late January to February. Rhonda does not want to foster ill will with Echo as we have had a good working relationship in the past. However, as SLA and the Morgan Selectboard are in agreement not to file a petition until the septic restriction is changed or removed, we must object to our watershed be reclassified through Echo's petition. Echo Lake's phosphorous level is increasing, hence their urgency. If too high their application may no longer be eligible. There is concern on SLA's part about why Echo did not seek input or support from Seymour and Morgan since we are part of their watershed. **A motion to give approval to the draft letter with corrections was made by Sean Selby, seconded by Bonnie McWain, approved.** Discussion of timing and method to let members know what is happening. It was decided that we would use our website, newsletter in the spring, and an email blast. Morgan's Selectboard will address the issue at Town Meeting. Tim asked if the State was aware that we will submit a letter opposing Echo including our watershed. Rhonda and Peggy said definitely.

Activities - Frank Antonelli - keeping an eye on the COVID situation and will assess in the spring.

Smelt - Bill Bilowus - we have 8 members on the committee. We will be adding Judd's Brook to the program this year, which used to have smelt. We are asking for a 4th year from the State. The first year was not great; the second year had a warm spring and then cold. Bill approached Pete Emerson at the State who thinks it's a possibility. Hopefully, our third year will be better.

Membership - Tom Adams and Bruce Barter - Summary attached. Jean is keeping him up to date.

Boating/Boat Launch - Tim Buzzell - Chuck Nichols is staying on top of the State about dredging the boat launch. He has invited the new Commissioner of VT Fish and Wildlife, Chris Herrick, to visit in May and he welcomed the opportunity. Chuck is optimistic.

Milfoil/VIP - Rhonda indicated Beth Torpey has submitted the final report to the State. The total expenses for running the inspection program after the state grant of \$14,767 was \$14,031. We split this with the town so the cost to each of us was \$7,016. Beth will submit another grant to the State in February. Peggy brought up a decal program the State is considering for non-motorized boats as a source of income.

Maps - Rhonda reported that the parcel and property owner lists that accompany our map have been updated and are on the website. Hopefully we will have updated maps this year.

Online - The committee is meeting next Monday. Much work and updating completed on the website. They hope to do an e-mail blast monthly during the year and are always looking for suggested topics as well as any suggestions and feedback.

Newsletter - Erik Lessing - he is very happy with the last newsletter and working on a couple of ideas for May.

New Business

Traffic Lights: Bruce Remick has met with the Selectboard and State Police regarding the speed limits on Rt. 111. Because it is a state highway, they control the speed limits and doubtful they would lower it to 25 near the beach. However 4 (two sets) of radar flashing lights will be installed in the spring between the 35-50-35 mph area. The Town is taking care of it. The town is also increasing Sheriff coverage in the budget for this year.

Wake Boat issue - Much discussion about concerns of dangers and damage from high wakes and potential for AIS introduction into the lake but no decision to take any action.

Board spending guidelines: No change to 2008 vote: "President \$1,000; Treasurer \$500; Committee Chairpersons \$500 providing their request is approved by the President. For specific need, contact President and Treasurer by email to get prior approval for other than pre-approved expenditures."

Motion to adjourn at 5:45 pm made by Bonnie McWain. Approved