

Seymour Lake Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes May 27, 2022

Present: Rhonda Shippee, President; Bonnie McWain, V. President; Jean McKenny, Treasurer; Linda Buzzell, Secretary; Tim Buzzell, Bruce Barter, Bruce Remick, Tom Adams

Via Zoom: Erik Lessing, Bill Bilowus

Absent: Charles Woods, Frank Antonelli

Committees: Peggy Barter, Water Quality

1. Minutes - Board of Directors 4-21-22 Motion made to accept by Tom Adams, seconded by Tim Buzzell, accepted

2. Old Business:

Clarifying spending authorization - Bruce Barter made a motion that the spending guidelines approved at the January 7, 2022 meeting be modified to clarify what constitutes "pre-approved expenses" as follows:

President \$1,000

Treasurer \$500

Committee chair - \$500 providing their request is approved by the President

For a specific need, contact President and Treasurer by email to get prior approval for other than pre-approved expenditures which include:

1. the annual reimbursement to the Town of Morgan for the AIS inspection program
2. the cost of printing and mailing newsletters (typically in May and November each year)
3. the cost of printing and mailing membership renewal letters (typically in March each year)

Seconded by Tim Buzzell, no discussion, approved.

Wake Boats: proposed legislation introduced in the VT House of Representatives in the 2022 session to regulate wake boats didn't go anywhere at this time. The legislature didn't take action on this bill but it is expected to be reintroduced in the next session. A petition has also been filed by a citizens group requesting the state to amend the state rules to regulate water boats. The state has posted the petition on its website and has both invited public comments (by July 29th) and scheduled two public hearings (June 29 in Richmond and July 7th in Manchester). Both public hearings can also be attended virtually via Microsoft Teams. A copy of the petition and details on the public hearings can be found at the following link:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/rulemaking>

GMCC - Linda Buzzell indicated we will sponsor two campers this year: Maggie Baker and Jackson Fletcher, both 12, and both have family on the lake.

Speed signs - Bruce Remick - a speed study was initiated in Morgan on each side of the beach area. The Town has asked for 4 signs and Bruce feels we will get them.

3. Treasurer's Report - Jean McKenny - Our taxes have been filed. The income/expenses 2022 to date and year end for 2021 was provided. There was some discussion. A motion to accept made by Bonnie McWain, seconded by Tim Buzzell, approved.

4. Committee Reports

o Activities:

Boat Parade is July 3 at 2 pm, with a rain date of July 4 at 2 pm, clockwise

Annual Meeting - July 23 at 9 a.m. -Community House - discussion about putting out signs ahead of time.

Summer Social - July 30 - Camp Winape

o Smelt/fishing - Bill told us that Pete Emerson, our Fish and Wildlife connection, had a massive stroke and is in rehab. His associates brought the smelt egg bags from Willoughby, and Levi said he would help next year. A few fishermen have noted smelt in lake trout bellies. Project considered tentatively successful. We decided to send Pete an SLA shirt and a card.

o On Line Committee - Our web host "Host Papa" indicated we were "high usage" and wanted us to upgrade our program, committee felt it was a way to get us to spend more money. Switched to "Go Daddy" for \$100/yr rather than \$300. A member survey will go out to all SLA members this week. Paid \$100 to Survey Monkey to analyze data. We have had over 6,234 likes on our Facebook page in the last few months.

o Membership - Tom will try to have a meeting mid-June. Bruce provided his detailed report . Bruce said he had at least 100 new memberships/renewals not yet listed on this report.

o Boating/Boat Launch -

Dept. of Corrections is mowing this year.

Andy Barter is refurbishing the SLA kiosk

New Director of Fish and Wildlife (Chris Herrick) will meet with Rhonda, Chuck , Tim and Bill Bilowus soon at the boat launch.

Buoys to mark the channel will be replaced.

o Milfoil/VIP - \$14,000 grant from the State this year, slightly less than last year but our budget is higher. The State will give less next year so we need to plan ahead. Some discussion by Peggy on a statewide decal system that was proposed to raise more funding for the program but it did not go anywhere in this year's legislature.

o Maps - updated owner list of the website. Maps don't change. We have enough printed for now.

o Water Quality – See report below. Some discussion followed. Peggy said she is starting to reorganize the committee so she can transition out. Has sent letters to 6 people asking to meet and discuss taking over leadership.

5. FOVLAP update - Bruce Barter said they are looking at membership registration on line, which we are also interested in.

6. New Business - Fund Raising - a membership cost analysis /membership fees discussed - discussion tabled for another meeting

7. Next meeting July 9 at 9 a.m.

Water Quality Committee Report to SLA Directors 5/27/2022 submitted by Peggy Barter

Good news – There is one new committee member and the possibility of another. Please welcome new volunteer Tracey Becken when you meet her. I have been actively recruiting. Please encourage others to participate and send any potential committee member names to me.

Lake Wise

- Amy Picotte retired end of year 2021
- Alison Marchione has been hired to manage only two of the responsibilities which Amy managed. The two are Lake Wise and Watershed Lake Action Plans. Alison began work on May 23. Oliver Pierson has promised me that he will bring our unfinished business from 2021 to her attention ASAP.
- We have at least one lake shore owner who has requested help to improve his property to meet Lake Wise standards now that he has retired.
- I do not currently understand how promises for help with BMP installations last summer will work out. We will work on this.

Web Site – Rhonda, Erik and I have been working to update the content and are attempting to make it look more in touch in appearance with what folks are accustomed to seeing now. More links, less text, more videos and more visually engaging are our goals. We are working with Candy Moot, Online Committee Chair and Chuck Nichols who actually uploads material to the site.

Committee Plans for this summer – All but one member has agreed to meet on Friday, July 1 to re-organize and make plans for the coming year. Tentative agenda is:

- Committee reorganization
- Water quality content of SLA's web site renovation - ONGOING
- F&W Access rain garden weeding and mulching, signage, kiosk displays - ONGOING
- Lake Wise - ONGOING
- Shallow water habitat - its effects on water quality, potential for a survey on Seymour
- Basin Plan coordination

I anticipate our work will include:

- recruiting new committee members,
- Lake Wise,
- web site updating,
- participating more closely with Tactical Basin Planning,
- shallow water habitat connection to algae blooms and fishery,

- expanded connections to FOVLAP - especially attending the yearly Seminar and Annual Meeting,
- more closely working with Tim and OCNRCD
- attending and reporting on pertinent webinars.

Please consider the following: The Memphremagog Tactical Basin Planning Kick Off Meeting will be held virtually on June 6, 6:30-8pm. Programs and projects for which our lake shore owners could use funding are added to the plan when we express an interest. Examples are Lake Wise BMP installations such as lake shore stabilization and infiltration steps. I think private road erosion prevention is also included, but I need to confirm that. The DEC will be seeking local input on how we can improve these efforts over the next five years. Efforts include practices on farm, forest, and developed lands as well as efforts to restore streams, lakes and wetlands in the watershed. You can participate in the meeting using [this link](#) for Microsoft Teams.