

Seymour Lake Association

Annual Meeting Minutes July 23, 2022 - Community Meeting House

Officers: Rhonda Shippee, President; Bonnie McWain, Vice President; Jean McKenny, Treasurer; Linda Buzzell, Secretary

Board of Directors: Bruce Barter (not present), Bill Bilowus, Bruce Remick (not present), Tim Buzzell, Sean Selby, Erik Lessing, Frank Antonelli, Tom Adams, Charles (Woody) Woods

1. **Rhonda Shippee** - call to order 9:05 a.m. Fifty members present and signed in.
2. **Secretary's Report** - only change is to correct spelling of Jean McKenny's name. Motion made to accept by Ted Jewett, seconded by Chris Blais, approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Jean McKenny reported 2021 income of \$36,059.73 (\$9,080 in memberships; \$26,185 in donations; \$350 map sales and \$444.73 interest). She did note that donations were higher this year due to two large one-time donations. Total expenses were \$15,431.43 primarily for the boat inspection program and the newsletter. Income over expenses was \$20,628.30. She noted that if any member wanted further details regarding SLA's financials they could obtain it by contacting her directly. She mentioned that Marie Tule has volunteered to audit our reports. After some discussion, Ted Jewett suggested we consider higher yielding investments rather than CD's. Jean advised we will discuss it at our next board meeting in August. A motion was made by Tom Adams and seconded by Sean Selby to accept the report, approved.
4. **Elections - Tim Buzzell, Bonnie McWain and Sean Selby are the nominating committee.** Erik Lessing, Sean Selby and Frank Antonelli are up for reelection. Erik and Sean have agreed to stay on but Frank is retiring. Tim put forth Denis Fortin to take Frank's place. Denis introduced himself and gave his background. Erik moved to close nominations and moved to accept the slate; Tom Adams seconded, approved. Frank was thanked for his 12 years of service to the board. The officers - Rhonda Shippee, Bonnie McWain, Jean McKenny and Linda Buzzell agreed to stay on. A motion was made by Woody Woods and seconded by Homer Selby to accept the slate of officers for one year, approved.
5. **Committees**

Activities: Frank Antonelli - this year's Annual Social will be July 30 at Camp Winape 6-8 p.m. Many thanks to the Kolar Family for again hosting the event.

Boating - Tim Buzzell and Bonnie McWain - Bonnie said the boat parade was a great success with 46 boats and 196 properties represented on docks.

Tim, Rhonda, Chuck Nichols, Bill Bilowus and Beth Torpey met with Chris Herrick, the new Commissioner of VT Fish & Wildlife at the boat access in regards to issues with siltation at the launch. He listened and promised to consider our ideas. As requested, SLA sent him a follow-up letter outlining the problems and our recommendations. We are awaiting his response.

Fish/Smelt Project - Bill Bilowus - We have been trying to restore the smelt population in Seymour for the last 3 years. A committee has helped set burlaps from other lakes with smelt eggs in brooks coming in to Seymour in the spring. Very successful in Maine and we hope the smelt will come back to spawn next spring, very optimistic. The state has agreed to continue the program next year.

Loons - Charles (Woody) Woods - He discussed the July 16th Loon Count on Seymour. 18 loons, all adult, no chicks. The good news is there are more loons, the bad news is they really don't like each other and often kill off chicks. He presented a written report that was presented to the Secretary.

Maps - Chuck Nichols - He reviewed the size maps available and the new property owner list on the website. All maps are \$10

Membership - Tom Adams - He thanked the committee for all the hard work they do soliciting memberships. Only about 70% of lake front owners are members - he stressed that it only costs \$10/individual and \$30/family for all that SLA does for the good of the lake.

Aquatic Invasive Species - Beth Torpey - We are in our 22nd year. Solid staff this year. Zebra mussels are in Memphremagog. Better to prevent than try and get rid of any of the invasive species!! Fishing shack is getting older, and life may be limited if we have to keep dragging it to its winter location. Intercepts have gone down because other lakes have stepped up their greeter programs. Also talked about invasives coming in the ballasts of wake boats. Average is 23 gallons in their ballasts, but can be up to 80 gallons. A seven times greater likelihood of invasive species entering our lakes with wake boats. Greeters are now trying to keep track of how many wake boats there are, although they're hard to differentiate from traditional boats.

VIP - David Wieselmann - Thanked Erik Lessing for all his work on the kayak lift and everyone who has helped him over the years. There are presently 14 patrollers. No new invasives reported. These volunteers allow us to find anything and deal with it immediately.

A(1) Reclassification/Water Quality - Rhonda Shippee stood in for Chair Peggy Barter - A report was presented and a hard copy is attached.

On Line Committee - Candy Moot - Thanked her committee members and described this first year's projects: a total revamp and update of the SLA website, significantly enhanced Facebook presence (with average monthly reach of 3,000 people and average monthly engagements of 1,000 people), and also at least monthly email blasts. Also reviewed the results of the SurveyMonkey survey, where highlights were 1.) members' strong support of SLA; 2.) members' focus on water quality and overall eco system as what's most important and 3.) enthusiasm for more electronic options, like paying on-line and having a secure, on-line directory. Suggestions from the members present included we also should be on Instagram and could we find a way to sell SLA merchandise on-line.

Newsletter - Erik Lessing - Erik is retiring as newsletter chair and said he needs to be replaced. Standing ovation for his 12 years of service.

6. New Business - Linda Buzzell gave an update on our scholarships for the Green Mountain Conservation Camps. This year we are sponsoring Jackson Fletcher and Maggie Baker.

MOTION made to adjourn at 10:50 a.m. by Janet Selby, seconded by Matt Boyden, approved.

Attachment: Water Quality Report

July 24, 2022 Seymour Lake Water Quality Committee Report – FINAL

What an eventful year it has been!

STATE OF THE LAKE: The best news is that our phosphorus levels remain stable at just over 8 ppb, but are still not as low as in the 1990's when the level was just above 6 ppb. Join me in thanking every lake shore owner who is giving back to the lake by adding a protective buffer consisting of natural vegetation on the lake shore. Be sure to give positive recognition to any improved agricultural practices you observe in Seymour's watershed, as well as to Town officials and residents who continue to maintain town roads with attention to protecting the lake's water quality.

LAKE WISE: Lake Wise, which is largely responsible for our improved water quality, has undergone significant changes in the past year with the retirement of Amy Picotte. DEC's Lakes and Ponds Division has hired Alison Marchione to lead their Lake Wise and Lake Watershed Action Plan programs. Alison and her assistant Matt have been working diligently to complete ~~help us recover from~~ unfinished assessment reports from last summer. The new staff needed to revisit some properties to provide appropriate feedback to the folks who participated last summer. I am confident that going forward they will provide us with professional services that will please our lake shore owners. Please contact a Lake Wise volunteer regarding whether Lake Wise is meeting your expectations this spring and summer. SLA volunteers who are working on this program are: Dan Barry, Tracey Becken, Trish Clark, Neal Van Wyck and Ron Kolar.

COMMITTEE: We are working to re-organize this committee to better serve the expanded needs of SLA and to allow Peggy to retire as Chair within the next year. We have formed several sub-groups as follows:

- Lake Wise: see above
- Web Site: Tracey Becken, Erik Lessing, Peggy Barter
- Lake Reclassification: Bill Kilpatrick, Rhonda Shippee, Peggy Barter
- Terrestrial Invasive Plants: Gerry Cahill, Tracey Becken, Andy Barter
- Lake Wise Best Management Practices (BMP) Installations at the Access: Andy Barter, Rhonda Shippee, Gerry Cahill and additional volunteers Tom Adams, Heather Webster and Kathy Remick
- Lake Chemistry/Ecology: Neal Van Wyck.

New committee members Kit Walker and Rob Hofmann are merging into these groups.

We need more volunteers: *PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE SOME OF YOUR TIME. WE NEED MORE HELP WITH ALMOST ALL OUR EFFORTS, INCLUDING RECORD KEEPING, WEB SITE CONTENT, WEB SITE CHECKERS FOR CULLING OUTDATED CONTENT, LAKE WISE AND MORE.*

Lay Monitor Tom Emery, Invasive Aquatic Species Manager Beth Torpey and VIP Coordinator David Wieselmann report elsewhere.

GRANTS FOR LAKE SHORE OWNERS: Lake Wise assessments result in recommendations for better protecting Seymour Lake's water quality. The recommendations are given as Best Management Practices. There is significant money available for funding these grants. However the funding method has changed. Presently we are communicating with our Watershed coordinator Ben Copans, Memphremagog Watershed Association, Northwoods Stewardship Center and Orleans County Natural Resources as they develop the new process. GOOD NEWS: If you have had a Lake Wise evaluation in recent years and need BMPs installed, my understanding is that the new funding is expected to cover evaluated properties from the beginning of the program.

A(1) LAKE RECLASSIFICATION: We understand that ANR has decided that no further action on the existing petitions will be done until the Legislature resolves the outdated septic restriction. Also, if that is not resolved after one full year, then the public comment period on the submitted petitions, including Echo Lake's, will begin. Oliver Pierson informed us that he and the DEC Commissioner are now working together with Legislators to plan a solution to the outdated septic restriction. This is a new approach.

FURTHER NOTES:

- Lake Wise assessments continue with the return of quality work by DEC staff. We have appointments open on July 25 at 2pm and July 27 at noon and 2pm.
- We have reached out to Steve Gratton, President and Lake Wise Leader of Echo Lake Protective Association, indicating our interest in working collaboratively in common areas, given that, ultimately, we will need to support each other to maintain the excellent water quality of both lakes.
- Please take note of the map shown at SLA's Annual Meeting which Carol and Dan Barry prepared to give us a good impression of how widespread adoption of Lake Wise practices is on our lake. Check out what your neighbors on the lake are doing to protect

our water quality. Ask for a Lake Wise assessment not only for the award sign, but more importantly to find out a few things you can do to help even if your property is not yet at award status.

- Another topic we are working to address is wake boat use to avoid introducing milfoil, zebra mussels and other invasives into Seymour's water. This is a hot topic across the state. We've noted that so far our Seymour wake boat owners are considerate of other uses of the lake and operate their boats in water over 20 feet deep and 100 feet away from shore to avoid degrading water quality.

PERMITS: Help us protect the lake by always checking to learn if you need a permit for any work on your shore. The Shoreland Protection Act was adopted to protect the lake. Following the law shows respect for your neighbors who work to keep Seymour algae bloom free!