

Seymour Lake Association
Water Quality Committee Meeting Notes

July 1, 2022

Present: Peggy Barter (chairperson), Eric Lessing, Ron Kolar, Dan Barry, Neal Van Wyck, Gerry Cahill, Tracey Becken, Andy Barter, Bill Kilpatrick, by Zoom – Beth Torpey, Kit Walker and Rob Hofmann. Rhonda Shippee and Trish Clark were absent due to family medical needs. Tracey recorded the meeting. Neal and Peggy took notes.

After the introductions of new members of the committee the following topics were discussed, and decisions/recommendations/actions were made:

1. **Permit and Enforcement** - The consensus was that there are activities occurring on lake shore properties that inconsistent with Lake Shore Protection Act (LSPA); however, there seem to be little, if any, enforcement action.

- a. It was recognized that the Lake Wise Program is probably the best method for educating landowners about lake stewardship and LSPA requirements
- b. A seminar like one hosted by Jim Judd on LSPA requirements was discussed.

ACTION: Lake Wise sub-committee will plan a forested lake shore workshop for summer 2022 as suggested by Ron. Peggy will schedule planning sessions.

- c. A LSPA/Lake Wise information package described by Dan was discussed to distribute to persons who recently purchased a lakeshore property. ACTION: Volunteers are needed to implement this.

2. **Access Rain Garden Signs for Plant Identification** – ACTION: The Samuels family will be thanked for their offer to purchase commercially made signs. The committee chooses to use hand lettered wooden signs which Andy will do reusing wood donated by Chris Blais.

3. **Wake Boats/Lake Protection Behavior**

- a. The committee reviewed Rhonda's notes from a recent public hearing. The three specific restrictions were reviewed and evaluated.
- b. Comments: The restrictions would effectively ban wake boats on small and/or shallow lakes. Wake boats operators on Seymour have been operating responsibly for water quality. The petition as submitted may cause additional wake boats at Seymour Lake.

Discussion followed on the specific ecological impacts on these boats and their behaviors. ACTIONS: Committee will work to provide education materials to our

community by word of mouth as Dan is already doing as well as using SLA's renovated kiosk, SLA's web site and newsletter articles. Ron will work with Dan on these efforts. Committee will provide print information and a map showing the areas of Seymour in which wake boats can be operated without degrading the lake.

4. **Lake Wise Program** - The LakeWise program was discussed, including the current staff/resource limitation at the State level. General agreement that this is the most important program we have to protect the lake's water quality. ACTION: A subgroup of SLAWQ will meet to integrate new members into the Lake Wise activities and make plans to continue with this program.
5. **Lead Fishing Equipment Collection** – There was discussion for the location of a receptacle for lead finishing line or sinkers. ACTION: Gerry Cahill will coordinate with Eric Hanson at 802.586.8065 to learn how we can participate in the lead sinker and fishing line collection tubes.
6. **Lake Reclassification** - Bill provided an update based on his professional contact with DEC Staff and ANR Secretary Julie Moore. His understanding is that the petitions will move very slowly (they are on hold right now), that his understanding is that the State seems to have decided to let Echo Lake's petition be processed as if the Seymour Lake Watershed is not part of the Echo watershed and that it will take several years for the septic restriction to be updated by the Legislature. **UPDATE from Rhonda 7/7/22: She spoke with Oliver Pierson this week. He stated he is working with Julie Moore and others regarding how they will move forward with processing the accepted petitions including for Echo, Maidstone, Caspian and Shadow lakes. Oliver told her they considered the option of removing the Seymour Watershed from Echo's petition but are not planning to do that.**
7. **Agriculture** - Rules governing manure spreading before a significant rain event were discussed. Tracey had witnessed such an event in another watershed some time ago and investigated who to contact to educate the farmer of the correct practice. ACTION: Tracey will provide the materials and contact information she has collected for SLA's web site.
8. **Terrestrial invasive plants** - There was broad discussion on the control and elimination of Phragmites including the use of herbicides. ACTION: Gerry and Bill will contact Sam

Perron at Northwoods Stewardship Center to learn the best way to control the phragmites patch near the west end of the public beach.

9. **Annual Meeting:** Plans were described in the agenda. **ACTION:** Peggy will prepare materials.