

Seymour Lake Association - Board of Directors Meeting 12-20-22 - VIA Zoom

Present: Rhonda Shippee, President; Bonnie McWain, Vice President; Jean McKenny, Treasurer; Linda Buzzell, Secretary; Tim Buzzell, Denis Fortin, Tom Adams, Bruce Barter, Sean Selby, Bruce Remick, Eric Lessing; Woody Woods, Bill Bilowus

Committees: Candy Moot, Peggy Barter, Beth Torpey

Candy Moot was invited to give us the Wakeboat Petition Update:

Background: Late last winter the legislative and regulatory discussion about wake boats in Vermont intensified.

There are five primary concerns about wake boats: since their ballasts can't fully be emptied, they can carry invasives; enhanced waves can be harmful to our shores; they can dredge up phosphorous on shallow lakes; there are safety concerns for nesting loons, kayakers, etc.

Started with a petition (a regulatory, not legislative process) by some of Vermont's very small lakes. Essentially would ban wake boats on all lakes but the 15 largest. This would have "driven" wake boats to lakes like Seymour, Echo, Caspian, the Averills, etc.

Therefore, Beth Torpey and Candy Moot put together a coalition of six of the Kingdom's pristine lakes: Seymour, Echo, Willoughby, the Averills, Maidstone, and Caspian. Their primary concern and focus has been the transportation of invasive species. They have worked with the petitioners to a limited degree, but with Oliver Pierson, the Director of ANR's Lakes and Ponds Division on a weekly basis.

Current status is as follows: Oliver has met with all the requisite people in ANR to get their approval. The rule will now go to ICAR, where no significant changes are expected. Next, the rule will have its final public hearing, probably in the NEK, although both oral and written comments will be accepted. Lastly, the rule will go to LCAR, where although they will judge the rule on three criteria, their decisions can often be somewhat political. Because democrats have a super majority of both Chambers and all legislative committees (including LCAR) have a majority of more liberal-leaning legislators, Candy would expect this bill to pass LCAR.

What's in the rule: Essentially, the smallest lakes will still be exempt from having wake boats on them. The remaining lakes will be governed by what is being called the "home lake" rule, something Beth and Candy came up with. Basically it means that while wake boats will be allowed on the 36 largest lakes in Vermont (up from 15 lakes, originally), they will get a sticker from DEC where the boat owner will designate his/her "home lake." So for example if a wake boat from Salem wants to come to Seymour, the greeters will explain to them and give them a piece of paper explaining to them that they are not allowed on Seymour, and if they do enter Seymour, they could be subject to an existing statutory fine of \$1,000.

Secretary's Report: 9-24-22 A Motion was made by Denis Fortin to accept the Secretary's report, seconded by Bonnie McWain. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: A Year End Report as of 12-22-22 was presented by Jean McKenny. She indicated there were still a few bills to pay and the report would be updated as of the 31st. The interim report is in the Secretary's files as a hard copy. Jean also presented the 2023 Budget as prepared by the Executive Committee. This report is in the Secretary's files as a hard copy. A motion was made by Bonnie McWain to accept the 2023 Budget, seconded by Bill Bilowus. Accepted.

Sean Selby suggested we help out two greeters who have serious health issues. A motion was made by Sean to give them \$150/ea, seconded by Bill Bilowus. Approved. Jean will write the checks. Rhonda will provide Jean with names. Jean will write notes to accompany the checks and Sean will deliver them.

Committees:

Membership: A report is attached as a hard copy in the Secretary's files. It was a very good year for memberships with 57 new members. There was some discussion about the new role when Bruce Barter retires from Membership Administrator. Rhonda told us that Andy Barter has agreed to take over this position and will meet Jan.14th via Zoom with Rhonda, Bonnie, Jean, Tom, Bruce and Chuck Nichols.

AIS Prevention Program Update: The 3 greeters with the most hours this last summer may not return next year due to serious illness and other work commitments. Therefore, we need to recruit more greeters for 2023. In

addition Beth wants to step down within 2 years. She is paid \$25/hr for a total annual cost of \$2,000 as the Program Coordinator. This includes grant administration, hiring and scheduling greeters. She also fills in when a greeter is sick or unable to come to work. She has a couple of ideas for a replacement. Some discussion about whether to separate the greeter from administration of this position.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 1 pm via Zoom

Motion made to adjourn at 4:30 by Tom Adams, seconded by Denis Fortin. Accepted.