

## **Seymour Lake Association - Board of Directors Meeting June16, 2023 DRAFT**

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

**Absent:** Erik Lessing

**Committee Members:** Peggy Barter, Beth Torpey

1. **Secretary, Linda Buzzell** - Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting 3-13-23 - Motion made to accept made by Jean McKenny, seconded by Bonnie McWain, approved. This year we will sponsor one boy for the Green Mountain Conservation camp, Tristan Blindow. We will bring up the scholarship at the annual meeting.

2. **Old Business:** Wake boat Update - As of June 12, 2023, the wake boat rule was presented to Vermont's Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules by Lakes and Pond's Manager Oliver Pierson. Recap: A lake must have a minimum of 50 contiguous acres; a wake boat would have to stay 500' from shore; the lake must be at least 20' deep; the "home lake rule" originally proposed by SLA members will be incorporated so a wake boat will be able to operate only on one lake per season so that invasive species aren't transported from one lake to another. There will be at least one more public hearing this summer. After more public input, this rule will go to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules where the belief is it will pass. A possible effective date is May 2024.

3. **Treasurer, Jean McKenny** A Motion was made by Tom Adams, seconded by Sean Selby to approve \$50 to FOVLAP, \$100 to Memphremagog Watershed Council, \$250 to Northwoods, approved. There was a discussion about the Budget to Date. There seems to be a glitch with PayPal and on line membership renewals which the committee is working on. There will be a meeting with Tom Adams, Andy Barter, Jean and Chuck Nichols to discuss updating our records for 2023 renewals and to consider the best process to go forward to reduce the administrative burden. Jean noted that the required form has been filed with the IRS and the auditor has the books and will have the audit completed by the annual meeting. There are no CD's due until 2024. Sean requested the board reconsider our policy of only using FDIC insured investments when these come due to hopefully receive a higher rate of return. Jean will write thank you notes to donors who paid online (donors paying by check already receive notes). Reports are included in the Secretary's files. A motion was made by Sean Selby, seconded by Bonnie McWain to accept the Treasurer's report, accepted.

4. **Membership, Tom Adams** – 362 membership renewal letters mailed on April 24<sup>th</sup>. 272 member renewals to date. Many are still mailing a check vs. using the online option. Observations and action items were outlined in a report by Andy Barter who has agreed to assume the role of membership administrator.

5. **Milfoil/VIP** - Anyone who volunteers for the boat inspection program should fill out form 430-M with their hours. Beth Torpey attended the meeting to discuss stepping back as backup

greeter. She would like to find someone to take over as AIS Program Manager. She would still do the grant application. She tracks her hours @\$25/hr about \$2,000-\$3,000/yr. Duties are listed on report attached to Secretary's files. Some discussion about whether to post the position and look for interested people.

## **6. Activities:**

**Boat Parade** - July 2 (rain date July 3) - flyers are done and Bonnie will have Candy Moot post on our website. We agreed to including "National Flags Only" on the flyer.

**Annual Meeting** - July 22 at the Community House. Bevin Campbell of OCNRCDC will present a report on LWAP (about 15 minutes). Discussed logistics and housekeeping issues. We decided to have the board bring food to share at the meeting. Discussion of a petition to send to ANR about the sediment issues at the boating access to be at the Morgan Store, Town Office, Annual Meeting

**Summer Social** - July 29 at Camp Winape. Bonnie will meet with the Kolars. Would like nametags to have members road address as well.

**Nominating Committee:** Tim Buzzell, Bonnie McWain, Sean Selby - Terms are up for Bill Bilowus, Tom Adams and Tim Buzzell but they have agreed to stay on for re-election. They have talked with Erik Lessing who may drop out at the annual meeting and they are exploring a new member.

**Newsletter, Denis Fortin** - He may update the format. Will be adding interviews with long time lake owners. Article on Past Presidents of SLA was a suggestion made by Janet Selby. Rhonda has a list and suggests Lyman and Jim McWain might be interested in putting together an article. She will get the list to Denis. Moose season in Morgan. We discussed printing a few more newsletters to give to those who didn't receive a copy due to the mailing problem. Rhonda asked Denis to get costs. The Executive Committee will make a decision. A motion was made by Bruce Barter to revisit our decision to send hard copies of the newsletter to current members only and resume sending the newsletter to Morgan property owners who are not members, Tim seconded. Discussion: Jean asked that we have costs first. Rhonda noted that putting together a mailing list of property owners who are not members was extremely time consuming and not practical to do now. Sean suggested we table the decision until we have all the facts and identified a way to create the mailing list. Bruce agreed to table the motion until the next meeting when we have more information.

**Water Quality - Peggy Barter:** A1 Classification is on hold until the 1,000 gpd septic restriction is amended in the legislature. LWAP - next meeting July 17. Lakewise Workshop is July 7. Lay Monitoring Changes – testing now required every 2 weeks instead of weekly – possible need for new testing equipment.

**On Line Committee - Candy Moot** - SLA has sent 10 email blasts (occasionally including more than one topic) since January 1, 2023. These seem to be very popular with our membership, and they appreciate being kept informed. Some new SLA members have stated these are a main reason for their membership. While email blasts go to 438 distinct email addresses, we know we do not have email addresses for all our members. Some members for whom SLA does not have email addresses may prefer to keep that status ("snail mail only"); nevertheless there's been some discussion about confirming this "snail mail only" status with the 40+ members for whom SLA does not have an email address. As these members will get a

postcard for the summer outing, Bonnie will include a note that if they would be willing to provide an e-mail address it would be helpful.

SLA Facebook page: SLA also has a Facebook page, to which we try to post items that coordinate with our email blasts, or which we think would be of general interest to our membership. New and interesting posts or photos are put up every other week or so. Rhonda, Chuck Nichols and Candy Moot are the Administrators of the SLA Facebook page which means we are the only ones who can put up a post. The most popular photos we've posted have been drone and airplane photos taken by Denis and Bruce and Kathy Remick. In the last 28 days (May 15 - June 11), the SLA Facebook "reach" has been 1.1K (down 67% from the previous 28 days); and an "engagement" of 289 (down 62% from the previous 28 days).

SLA Website: Without paying for a software upgrade (\$100 for the first year, with a refund of our money after 14 days if we're not happy; and \$200/year if we were to choose to continue with the upgrade for a second year), we are only able to capture 30 days of data at a time. By data, for example, we mean how many people visit our website, what sections of our website get visited the most, how long they stay, etc.

**Fishing/Loons:** Bill Bilowus indicated there were good results in the bass fishing contest last weekend. The smelt project is under way for the fourth year. The first 4 burlap bags from Harvey's Lake were really healthy; Joe's Ponds had a fungus and we didn't take them; Willoughby did not have a good run. The Smelt "guru" in Maine told Bill we're on the right track and should have smelt in 4-5 years. We've asked for a 5th year from the state for the project but will only do three streams. Woody Woods indicated the Loon count is July 15th.

**7. New Business** - We were asked about boater safety education by an SLA member. Rhonda provided information provided at a recent FOVLAP seminar on a buoy program at Lake Iroquois and Dunmore where buoys are placed at the 200' safety zone to inform boaters of the limit. It was decided that potential liability as well as the fact that Seymour is much deeper than those lakes would make it more costly and difficult here. No action taken.

**Next Meeting:**

July 8 @ 9 am, Town office

August 18 @9 am - Town office

Motion made to adjourn at 12:20 pm by Tom Adams, seconded by Bonnie McWain, approved