

## **Seymour Lake Association - Board of Directors Meeting - August 18, 2023**

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

**By phone:** Tom Adams

**Committee Members:** Peggy Barter, Water Quality

1. Rhonda thanked and welcomed Candy Moot to the Board.

2. **Secretary's Report 7-8-23** - Linda Buzzell - Motion made by Woody Woods to accept the report, seconded by Bonnie McWain, approved, one abstention. We received a nice thank you note from Drew McKenny who received a scholarship to attend the Green Mountain Conservation Camp this summer.

3. **Old Business** - Board contacts updated

- o Annual Meeting Review - will put Water Quality at the top of the agenda; food was a hit; about 55 people attended; will put a timeline on the agenda for next year.

- o Annual Social - many new people attended - 2 email blasts served as a reminder

- o Rhonda received a letter from Beverly Lewis who was concerned about the docks along the public beach. Rhonda called DEC to make sure she understood the situation. The lake is owned by the State and the docks are in violation but they can't identify the owners without some deed research. Rhonda called Bev and e-mailed Margo Burns who had expressed concern about the docks at the annual meeting. If people are concerned, they should call RYAN McCALL, DEC Enforcement Officer 802-793-3936.

- o SLA representative to FOVLAP. Bruce Barter has filled this role but said he would like to step down. Candy noted that she has volunteered for their new legislative committee. Rhonda volunteered to be the SLA representative to FOVLAP and attend the annual meeting and business meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>. If she cannot attend due to possible family illness, Peggy will attend in her place.

4. **Treasurer's Report** - Jean McKenny - a hard copy of the report is attached to the Secretary's Report if anyone wishes to view it. Jean would like to have memorial donations added to the newsletter with the list of memberships. Some discussion on the CD's. Motion made by Sean Selby to accept the report, seconded by Tim Buzzell, approved. We received the annual audit report from Marie Tule. A motion was made to accept the report by Bruce Remick, seconded by Bonnie McWain, approved.

5. **Committee Reports**

**Membership** - Tom Adams - he thanked Jean for all her work as Treasurer.

Memberships are behind a bit to date and they are trying to contact 2022 members who still have not joined. He thanked Andy Barter and Chuck Nichols for the invaluable information they have provided him. Discussion in their committee about whether the annual membership letter should go out earlier this year, January as opposed to March? Erik Lessing was replaced on

the committee by Richard Morley, still needs a replacement for Brenda Wierschke on Wayeesees. Jean suggested some possibilities. 346 memberships to date, 358 last year at this time. Committee still need email addresses for some members.

**Water Quality - Peggy Barter:**

- **Lake Wise** Report by Tracey:  
*Despite having been unable to schedule even one Lake Wise assessment this season due to lack of staff at the State level, there were some bright spots. I spoke with 18 lake shore property owners about the Lake Wise program over the summer. While not all agreed to have their properties assessed, all were interested to hear about the program and I hope some decide to be assessed in the future. Next year, assuming the State can hire enough help, we should have a banner year for Lake Wise assessments. We currently have 12 property owners signed up to be assessed.*
- **30 Sharing the Edge Booklets** for Membership and WQ Committees were obtained by Andy.
- **Damage from the July rains** reports have been handled by Peggy
- **LWAP** – Tracey, Peggy and Rhonda have worked with our contractors OCNRCD and MWA
  - Two meetings for the entire Echo-Seymour watershed have been held giving opportunities for input of interested citizens
  - much time consuming planning for LWAP Lake Wise assessments
  - planning and information sharing with contractors (Patrick Hurley and Bevin Barber-Campbell) for road and stream assessments
  - on August 25 a shoreline survey is scheduled for which Denis Fortin will pilot the group on his boat
- **Phragmites control** report by Tracey:  
*The phragmites patch on the town beach has really taken off again and I hope to arrange a phragmites pulling party soon. Another property owner with a phragmites problem on a stream with a very steep embankment contacted me and I am hoping to get her some help/advice from Northwoods as it is nearly impossible to dig it out from that location.*

- **Lay Monitoring** – Tom Emery, Seymour's Lay Monitor who has been serving for 25 years, reports that new protocols have been adopted this year. A study conducted by Mark Mitchell, who leads the program for VTDEC, resulted in revised protocols with the intention of making the data more useful. Secchi disk readings, indicating water clarity, are now enhanced by using a viewing tube (pictured to the left) which SLA purchased for about \$350. Lay monitors are now able to test for phosphorus and chlorophyll at 20 meters using a slight change in equipment as well as at the surface. They are also now, as part of the new protocol, testing for caffeine, which research shows is a reliable indicator of fecal contamination.



### **Questions for SLA's Directors** –

- **In what ways would you support and participate next summer in an instructional workshop about driveway maintenance?** Ron Kolar presented this idea to the committee about a year ago and remains enthusiastic. It seems to be a practical way to assist folks in installation of effective water bars, driveway crowning and driveway surfacing materials.
- **What do you think about conducting an online survey to collect data about the concerns/damage reports of folks in our watershed resulting from the impactful rains this summer?** (Collect stories or quantitative data about things such as driveway washouts, lawn erosion and culvert failures).
- **In what ways will SLA inform our watershed residents about two planned LWAP field surveys and seek their input?** LWAP work for the next 12 - 16 months will include stream surveys by Patrick Hurley and Gabryel Gianoni (both MWA employees) as well as private and public dirt road surveys in collaboration with Shawn Austin. Our contractors have stated that field surveys will be most useful with community input. Andy Barter suggests an informative one pager posted on our web site along with email and FB communications with links to the web site. Contractor will assist if we wish.

There was a great deal of discussion about #3. The Board feels the Town should consider a newspaper article to reach residents and let people know that LWAP people will be on their property. The Contractor (OCNRCD) needs to take responsibility for letting people know what is happening. It is the sense of the Board that SLA has reached out to the membership and is confident in the contractor.

Peggy asked if the Water Quality Committee should go out and look proactively at issues from the flooding or wait until we get a report if phosphorous has increased? Sean Selby mentioned that Sean Austin, Town Road Commissioner, knows the Town roads already but not the private.

**Boating - Tim Buzzell, Dredging Subcommittee** - Bill Bilowus approached Tim about the boat access. After talking with Rhonda, Tim set up a committee (Sean Selby, Bill Bilowus, Candy Moot, Chuck Nichols, Tom Adams, Denis Fortin, Larry Labor). #1, decided to set up a petition about the shallow access and got 450 signatures, then the storm caused further damage. Committee decided to put the petition aside for now so FEMA wouldn't think the damage pre-storm. Wrote a letter for Larry Labor's signature to Commissioner of Fish & Wildlife Chris Herrick, Brittney Wilson, Senior Governor's Staff, Julie Moore, Secretary DEC, copied Representatives Starr and Ingalls, that we need help dredging the access. Julie Moore and Chris Herrick responded. Tim emailed Herrick suggesting he stop on his way through to Wallace Pond; he said maybe Wednesday but he didn't come. Tim emailed again but Herrick said he couldn't come until August 31st-September 1st. He said FEMA would only fix damage caused by storm. Optimistic he will do the work. Time for petitions or the letter from Scott Wheatley, DOT, that Tim received? Candy says no because they are pre-storm. Herrick is explicit. Tim says he will hold them for now.

Bill Bilowus brought up the buoys to mark the access channel. SLA will purchase them and Bill, Denis Fortin, Sean Selby and Bruce Remick will install them.

**Milfoil/VIP - Rhonda Shippee** - talked with Tracey Becken about replacing Beth Torpey but she is not interested.

**Newsletter - Denis Fortin** - Trying to squeeze in more articles by changing the format.

**Activities - Bonnie McWain** - Nothing new to add. 85 people attended the SLA Social

**Nominating Committee - Tim Buzzell** - No activity.

**On Line - Candy Moot** - The Online Committee handles all Facebook posts and responses to the SLA page, the creation and dissemination of all email blasts, and posting all updates to the SLA website. While we know from the survey of our membership how important the newsletter and email blasts are as a reason for people join SLA, the Facebook impressions and interactions can be in the thousands over a 30-day period. Candy will check with Chuck to see if we can learn how many visitors we get to the website, and which sections see the most activity.

**Fishing - Woody Woods** - fishing is pretty good right now and they are looking fatter with bigger girths. Loons are beginning to congregate. People seeing smelt at Cranberry Brook and other brooks.

**Maps – Rhonda** – There are plenty of maps available for sale at the store. No need to print more at this time.

**5 New Business** – What are some future goals/activities for SLA?

- o Rhonda shared a door hanger which Shadow Lake designed on boating safety and other lake issues. We may do something similar for next summer.

- o In our 2022 member survey there were suggestions for SLA to do an activity that involved children. Rhonda suggested an ice cream social. Most felt when people have children at their camps they prefer to stay home so we might not get much of a turnout for a lot of work.

- o A review of membership dues to be on agenda September 9<sup>th</sup> – is it time to consider an increase?

A Motion to adjourn at 11:35 a.m. was made by Tim Buzzell, seconded by Bill Bilowus, approved