

Seymour Lake Association - Board of Directors Meeting 1/13/24 via ZOOM at 3 p.m.

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

Committees: Peggy Barter

1. **Secretary's Report:** Motion to accept report October 21, 2023. Candy brought up that "Wakeboard Legislation Status" should be Legislation Rule Status. Approved as changed.

2. **Old Business: Proposed Wakeboat Rule Status** - Candy Moot - LCAR hearing will be held February 1st. ANR is sticking to the 500 ft offset while Jack Wideness's group is still lobbying for 1,000 ft and have hired a professional lobbyist. The fear is that they will ruin it for the rest of us. Bruce Remick will represent the Town and SLA at the hearing with Tim Buzzell as backup. Bruce will not need to speak to "science", just what SLA as an organization can do to implement the Rule - meetings with owners, the Greeters etc. to make the Rule work. According to Oliver Pearson, this proposed Rule is by far the most restrictive in the US and probably the world.

3. **Treasurer** - Jean McKenny - the Executive Board presented a proposed 2024 budget. The Budget vs Actual for 2023 is attached to this report in the Secretary's files. There was much discussion about the 2024 Budget line by line as proposed. It was noted that the budget includes equal donations/memberships to FOVLAP, MWA and Northwood Stewardship Center in the amount of \$250 each. A motion to accept the 2024 Budget was made by Tom Adams, seconded by Bruce Remick and approved. This report is also attached to this report in the Secretary's files.

3. **Membership** - Tom Adams - He will meet with Rhonda, Candy, Chuck and Jean via Zoom after this meeting.

- Need to update the website with the new membership form. Will add a button just for donations. The goal is for the membership renewal letter to go out in late February but no later than March.

- Some discussion on potentially adding an Association/Business class of membership - whether to let them use "Family" as some existing businesses have done (Seymour Lodge, Farm and Family real estate) or Candy feels we should consider adding a corporate membership. We could thank them publicly in the newsletter, annual social etc. Rhonda noted there are a number of potential businesses that we could approach who don't own property on or near the lake but benefit from lake properties (other real estate firms, contractors, landscapers, etc.)

- Also, discussion on whether we should establish categories of donors based on the amount of their donation. Bonnie feels next year is a possibility. We would need to change the By Laws if we added a corporate category. A committee was formed with Tom Adams as chair, Bill Bilowus, Denis Fortin and Bonnie McWain to discuss and bring suggestions for the June meeting

4. **Water Quality** - Peggy Barter

Water Quality Events Tracey announces that she has firm plans for two events.

July 8 Four Lake Shore Management Presentations

Pruning Lake Shore Trees Jared Nunery, Orleans County Forester

Driveways, Downspouts and Deluges Meg Carter, Northwoods Stewardship Center

Invasives -You Can Win with Patience and Perseverance Sam Perron, NWSC

Wastewater: Everything You Need to Know and More! Cristin Ashmankas, VTDEC Technician

July 25 Garden Tours, 2 at Echo & 2 at Seymour

Lake Wise – Tracey has a list of 10 properties waiting for assessments and is working with Alison Marchione to have these scheduled. She and Peggy have a list of Seymour properties whose owners have requested reassessments after making the changes which were suggested to them in previous Lake Wise assessments.

LWAP –

Patrick Hurley's 1/8/24 Updates

1. Patrick and Gabby began road and stream surveys the first week in November, covering more than half of the field work. They will finish in the spring with their entire list of observations/potential project opportunities documented.

2. Phase 2 stream geomorphic assessments on Sucker Brook and Upper Valley Brook will be performed. Also, they plan a road tour with Shawn Austin and Wendell Hastings to determine priorities for the more problematic road segments.

3. Gabby and Patrick met with Wayeeses Road and Sugarbush Road landowners to view their concerns. They report a great tour of Wayeeses Road, Shore Road and Sugarbush Road with the Judds and other landowners. Patrick stresses this is a difficult area which he considers outside the LWAP. He is currently working with Ben Copans and DEC to continue to explore possible solutions to the drainage in this area. MWA will work to identify funding for DEC's possible solutions.

Bevin Barber-Campbell's LWAP Lake Wise Plans – Bevin will be contacting lake shore owners this month to seek their approval to schedule for June LWAP Lake Wise assessments for lake shore properties identified by Patrick, Gaby and Alison Marchione as excellent opportunities to reduce phosphorus and sediment runoff into the lake.

Lay Monitoring Data – Peggy, Denis and Echo's Tom Wagner are working with Tom Emery and Mark Mitchell to learn how to best report on the data from last summer. This is a challenge because DEC's Leslie Matthews has retired which has halted the posting of the data and also because the sampling protocol drastically changed last summer. The purpose of the change is to better align the phosphorus data with the clarity and chlorophyll (algae) data. Tom Emery

reports that his new equipment came in late July, so sampling last summer was incomplete. He is well prepared to resume a full sampling program next summer.

Valley Brook – Patrick reports with permission to publish in our spring newsletter “that MWA was awarded \$72,000 from the Memphremagog Clean Water Service Provider to engineer up to 5 stream crossing structures and design additional floodplain/stream restoration actions on Valley Brook as part of the Phase 2 project. We will be working on a Morgan Town culvert, a Holland Town culvert, a VT F&W/VAST trail culvert, and two private landowner culverts.”

SLA's Access Kiosk - Andy reports that it is his intention to install the kiosk this spring.

Lake Shore Permits – Trish Clark is currently monitoring DEC's lake shore permitting pages to provide a list of Seymour Lake shore properties with permits. This will guide us when folks ask committee members whether actions they perceive as possibly detrimental to the lake have been permitted.

Lake Reclassification to A(1) – Rhonda, Beth and I (as well as several people from Echo Lake) attended a presentation by VTDEC's Bethany Sargent and Peter LaFlamme outlining their work to fix the unsupportable restriction which has been a barrier to reclassifying B(2) lakes as A(1). They received Senate approval, but not yet House approval in last year's legislative session to enact a rule which states that no one may degrade water quality including by septic system discharges. Current technology for permitted septic systems results in nonpolluting discharges up to 6,500 gpd. Their intent is to finish establishing the anti-degradation rule and delete all restrictions for A (1) watersheds. If/when the anti-degradation rule is established, we were not clear about how reclassification for lakes which have completed petitions will proceed.

5. **Boating** - Tim Buzzell - He talked with Rhonda and Candy about 2 months ago about another talk with Chris Herrick. They were in agreement that it was too early at that point. Tim would like the access dredged before May. He will send Herrick an email in March. Denis mentioned there has been an amazing movement of silt in the late fall storm. Would a manmade peninsula help?

Tim and Bonnie will discuss the date for the boat parade. This year July 4th is Thursday.

6. **Activities** - Bonnie – It was agreed to have the annual social on August 3rd at Camp Winape. Bonnie will contact the Kolar's. They had provided that date or July 27th. As the 27th was the same day as the annual meeting it was agreed it would be better to separate the two events.

7. **Milfoil/VIP** - Rhonda - Beth kept better track of her hours this year so the final expenses reflect the additional hours she worked. There was much discussion about the "barge" contractor from NH that came in to take out docks this fall. They are the ones that do milfoil dredging in Willoughby and Salem etc. and everyone is very worried about how clean their boat was when they were on Seymour. They said they were inspected at the access but apparently, they were not. Rhonda is going to check with Beth about possible action we can take to make sure they are properly inspected this year, whether they will be putting docks in as well as taking them out.

8. **Newsletter** - Denis Fortin - he asked that articles be in by April 1st. It was suggested that Candy send an email blast asking members if they have suggestions for articles.

9. **On Line** - Candy Moot - no updates but more email blasts and Facebook updates.

10. **Fishing/Loons** - Woody Woods. Cameras did not pick up any kayaks in the loon nesting area last season. Denis counted 19 loons in October. There will be a fishing tournament soon and there is only 2" of ice.

Smelt - Bill Bilowus - He has contacted the State but hasn't heard back yet but assume another year. The fish are much healthier looking this year.

Next Meeting:

June 8th in person at 9 a.m. at the town office; only if needed for unforeseen business before then.

A Motion was made by Woody to adjourn at 5:10 p.m., seconded by Sean, approved.