

Seymour Lake Association - Board of Directors Meeting January 15, 2025 4 p.m. Zoom

Present: Rhonda Shippee, President; Bruce Remick, Vice President; Jean McKenny, Treasurer; Linda Buzzell, Secretary; Bill Bilowus, Tim Buzzell, Denis Fortin, Candy Moot, Tracey Becken, Bonnie McWain, Mike Tule, Chris Blais, Woody Woods

Absent: Tracey Becken

1. **Secretary's Report:** Linda Buzzell - A Motion to accept the Minutes from the November 24th meeting was made by Jean McKenny, seconded by Woody Woods, approved. Nothing new on the camp sponsorships. Rhonda said that Northwoods is already booked. Chris Blais said she would put out a couple of posters and Linda will send one to her.

2. Old Business

There is a board vacancy created by Tom Adams' resignation. Tim Buzzell, Nominating Committee Chair, said that they had considered several choices and felt that Chris Blais would be a perfect fit. Chris has accepted. A Motion was made by Tim to appoint Chris as a Board member for the remainder of Tom's term (which expires in 2026). Bonnie McWain, seconded, approved unanimously. Tim said that Chris has agreed to take over as Chair of the Membership Committee. The President officially appointed her as Chair.

Petitions to ban wakesports/boats - Rhonda said that FOVLAP has been told that a recommendation regarding the petitions will be made to the ANR Secretary by February. Beth is on a committee about guidelines for decontamination of wake boats. There was much discussion, especially about the public safety aspect coming up now, not addressed in the original Ruling. ANR has chosen not to act on the Home Lake Rule but it is still in play as part of the rule. Very confusing to everyone.

Mike Tule - findings on looking into the petition process should SLA wants to pursue a wakesport ban - he said it could take months to put a petition together, identifying allies, gather supporters. Nothing he would be able to do but would help. We would need a sub-committee. Rhonda said her gut feeling is the petitions would not be approved, but if they are, we could use the other petitions as a template. Each petition is individual - Fairlee has three children's camps; Willoughby is a National Landmark. Seymour's could be our pristine water and lack of invasives?

3. **Treasurer' Report** - Jean McKenny - presented the 2024 final financial report and the 2025 Budget. No significant change to Budget from 2024. She is researching insurance coverage and carriers to hopefully find a lower cost alternative. Candy Moot made a Motion to approve the 2025 Budget, seconded by Woody Woods, approved. Discussion about the current CD's. \$14,000 in checking account. \$20,000 CD due Feb 13; \$80,000 in May and \$82,000 in December. Will move \$10,000 from checking to the new CD in February.

4. Committees

Membership: Chris Blais is now the Chair. 44 letters ready to go out to 2022 and 2023 members who did not renew in 2024. She suggests we consider a way in June to introduce new members to the lake and each other. Discussion of changes to ownership and AirBnB.

Water Quality: Tracey Becken is almost ready to file the grant application approved by the Board in December. Discussion of Wayeeses road association update send to Rhonda. Tracey will reach out to them.

Rhonda contacted the state regarding the septic part of the A1 Classification, not going anywhere.

Boating: Tim Buzzell said the Boat Parade will be Saturday July 5th, with a rain date of Sunday July 6th. Denis said the lake buoys and the 200' markers will be put out. Denis should be reimbursed.

Activities: Bonnie McWain - the Kolars have again graciously offered Camp Winape for the Annual Social August 2.

Milfoil - Rhonda provided the following summary of the 2024 boat inspection program:

The 2024 season for the boat inspection program was its usual success. The complications of the dredging at the boat access, two flood events and the first season of the new wakesport regulation implementation did make it challenging at times!

The program operates from Memorial Day weekend to October 31 from 6 am to 6 pm and 6 am to 7 pm on Saturdays. A total of nine paid greeters were hired, most of whom returned from previous years. We did not seem to have the problems finding people willing to work this year that we experienced at the start of the 2023 season. Greeters are paid from \$15 - \$25 an hour based on experience and logged a total of 1910 hours. Beth Torpey is paid \$25 an hour for program coordination and logged 135.5 hours. David Wieselmann is paid \$20 an hour for coordinating the VIPs and logged 34 hours. A total of 908 watercraft were inspected and 39 were decontaminated. Our program is the oldest running program in the state having operated since 2000. Beth is recognized statewide for her knowledge and experience coordinating our program. While she expressed interest in stepping away from this role a few years ago, she is now planning to continue for a few more years. David also does an excellent job overseeing the VIP program and spends countless volunteer hours inspecting the lake in his kayak. SLA is fortunate to have both of them!

We were extremely fortunate this year to receive a much larger state grant to support the program. This is due to the great work that Candy helped coordinate last year in getting the program an additional \$500,000 statewide. Our 2024 grant was \$36,612 compared to \$12,285 in 2023. Looking forward to 2025, we are hoping our state grant will remain at a similar level and the 2025 proposed budget is based on that. Beth has indicated that the decon. unit is on its "last legs". This may be a major expense down the road, but I believe we need to have more clarification on the decontamination of wake boats before we invest large \$ in a new unit.

The following is a summary of the total cost of the program in 2024. Please note that the state grant award is a percentage of total costs, including the no cost volunteer hours and donated services. That means we receive a % of all volunteer time and donated services in grant funding. The VIPs are our largest volunteer hours and winter storage of the trailers (thanks to Sean Selby) and complimentary winterization of the decon. unit (thanks to Damien) are helpful in reducing our share of the direct expenses.

Expense	Direct	Volunteer/In-Kind	Total
Personnel	\$38,890	\$3,453	\$42,343
Fringe	\$3,397	\$0	\$3,397
Supplies	\$318	\$0	\$318
Misc.	\$0	\$1,335	\$1,335
Total	\$42,605	\$4,788	\$47,393

The net cost to SLA/Town of Morgan is \$42,605 - \$36,612 (State Grant) = \$5,993. This amount is divided equally between SLA and the town so the cost to each is \$2,996.50.

Newsletter: Denis Fortin - newsletter will have 8 pages in May including the membership form.

On Line: Candy Moot - she is doing less email blasts or FB posts in the winter. She noted the website needs to be updated and she has that on her agenda.

Fishing/Loons: Bill Bilowus and Woody Woods - there will be a new loon nest at the west end of the lake by Steenrods. Bill said people are catching fish with smelt in their bellies. Brown and salmon are going up Valley and Sucker Brook hopefully to spawn.

New Business: 2025 Goals/Ideas

Volunteer appreciation - Rhonda will look into having hats made for them.

Road association exchange of information/ideas - Candy will send an email blast in the spring to see if road associations or individuals would be interested in getting together to discuss problems and concerns and exchange information; will include Echo associations/private roads.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE(S)

February to May as needed

June - September - will set dates - Saturdays at 8 a.m.

Motion to adjourn made at 5:50 PM by Bonnie McWain, seconded by Bruce Remick, approved