

Lake Massapoag Advisory Committee

Minutes of September 6, 2022

Meeting via Zoom

Members present: Laura Russell, Debbie Tatro (joined after minutes vote), Dan Lewenberg, Ken Hyman, Colin Barbera, Stanley Rosen.

Also present: Josh Philibert

Approve the minutes of August 2, 2022 meeting: Motion – Ken, Second – Dan. Approved 4-0-1. Stanley Rosen abstained as was not at the meeting.

Lake Update - Josh Philibert:

- Lake level higher with recent storm, unlike previous storm
- 9.36' today vs 9.22' Friday, up almost 2 inches
- Raised gate at flume channel about 3 inches, maybe more tomorrow - roughly 5.5 inches coming over the gate
- Flume level at 1.36' vs. .86' before
- Roughly 20% coming in from storm drains
- Will check various inflows
- Stream gauge in flume channel starts at .4'; should subtract .4' to calculate flow volume
- 1.5 cubic ft per second is the lower limit, can go below under critical drought conditions

Inflow/Rain Event Testing:

- August 22nd rain: few wet: Sucker Br, 140 E Foxboro, Longmeadow and inside Lagoon
- Rain event targets first 30 min of rain, started Sucker Brook then, others 45-75 min
- Discussed challenges and strategies for rain event testing, consider self-sealing bottles
- Members expressed interest in helping
- Josh and Debbie will do Sept. post-rain event testing tomorrow

Lake Dashboard: 5 high E. coli tests at Com Center Beach; 4 at Sucker Brook; High Phosphorus

Discussion of Community Center Beach in relation to Sucker Brook:

- Unclear, not 1:1 correlation, interest in checking water flow from Sucker Brook
- Question about Camp Wonderland testing/methodology – Ken will reach out to Jen Foster and ask how they do it
- Laura said lake flow is important, MYC almost never has a high reading

Posters – Ken: All installed except Open Space poster, not thrilled with resolution on Watershed one, will ask to fix

BOH testing: Will continue beach testing through end of September

Kevin Davis proposal to BOH to register landscaping companies in Town:

- BOH is asking LMAC to co-sponsor, will await written proposal
- Registration could lead to data collection down the road
- (Regulation around) fertilizer use could be a topic for future discussion

Invasive Weeds:

- Sustainable Sharon Coalition Youth swim event was fun, good presentation, later they did a lake survey format for kids to use to assess weed growth
- Ken identified area around boat ramp/east end of beach with vegetation almost to surface – he sent an email with details. Discussion of area size, whether that area provided habitat, which species, whether area needs to be pulled. Need to survey species present there - a survey by TRC is part of the lakewide survey.
- NEAS DASH to start 9/12; funding for 8 of recommended 16 days for last year (2021)

Sharon Day Sunday, October 2nd 11:00-3:00:

- Lake information walks as part of the official program: 11:30 and 12:30. Sustainable Sharon Youth will do 11:30, Laura will do 12:30.
- Ken and Debbie proposed a table to reach more people, able to help. Josh will be away. Other volunteers welcome. Reach more people, easy to locate, direct people to walks.
- Application for table due tomorrow, Debbie will submit.
- Can display posters and flyers, cannot provide handouts without advance permission.

Standing LMAC Meeting date:

- 1st Tuesday of every month proposed: next would be Tuesday Oct 4 noon to 1:30. Committee support for this schedule
- Can continue online at least through the winter

New Rain Event Data:

- Elevated nutrient levels. Lagoon highest. Longmeadow, E Foxboro, Sucker Brook high.
- Discussion of sample quality. Hardly any water in Longmeadow Lane for example.
- E coli: Lagoon 1700 cfu/100 ml, E Foxboro 2800, Sucker Brook >8000, Longmeadow 340.
- Debbie and Josh plan to get back out to inflows tomorrow morning for follow up testing

Cyanobacteria – Debbie:

- Carol Abrams was helping in her pontoon boat. Now Debbie using her kayak which works well with less drift, easy to collect samples.
- Volunteer Patricia Bluestein is helping.
- Would like others to learn sampling, microscopy and can use Debbie's kayak. Debbie can do the fluorometry work.
- Discussion of weekly testing, when to reduce frequency, stop for season.

Budgeting/Financial Projections - Laura:

- Underspent on rain event testing due to drought; reallocate to other testing & match
- Last year budget, current CPC grant budget, planned/projected spend, balance left
- Consider certain testing items during Jan-June 2023 as match for 604b grant proposed
- Rain event testing, spend some consultant \$ on sediment samples, etc. count as match
- \$14,000 total match from combination of CPC budget and FY23 budget Jan-June 2023

Motion – Dan: In light of recent E coli data, if current budget allows \$1300 for PCR test source of E coli in the lake we should move forward with that testing. Second – Ken. Vote: 5-0-0 in favor. Colin had to leave the call previously and was not present for the vote.

604b Grant Proposal:

- Great work Laura getting it done!
- Importance of getting everyone to contribute, and utilize volunteers, etc. going forward

Meeting adjourned at 1:28pm