

Lake Massapoag Advisory Committee

Meeting of September 12, 2023

Minutes of Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Laura Russell, Debbie Tatro, Dan Lewenberg, Gary Bluestein, Colin Barbera, Ken Hyman

Guests: Josh Philibert, Town Conservation Administrator

VOTES

- Approval of the July meeting minutes. Dan moved to approve, Colin seconded. Yes votes: Gary, Dan, Debbie, Laura, Colin and Ken.
- Approval of the August meeting minutes. Dan moved to approve, Colin seconded. Yes votes: Gary, Dan, Debbie, Laura, Colin, and Ken.
- Motion to accept the TRC change order: Dan, Laura seconded. Yes votes: Gary, Dan, Debbie, Laura, Colin, and Ken.
- Motion to enter in MVP grant contract as submitted with the updated budget: Gary, Dan seconded. Yes votes: Gary, Dan, Debbie, Laura, Colin, and Ken.
- Motion to enter into 604b contract as submitted with the updated budget: Gary, Dan seconded. Yes votes: Gary, Dan, Debbie, Laura, Colin, and Ken.
- Motion to authorize LMAC to enter into contracts with TRC consistent with scope and budget of the MVP, 604b and CPC grants: Gary, Dan seconded. Yes votes: Gary, Dan, Debbie, Laura, Colin, and Ken.
- Motion to authorize LMAC to enter into contracts with NEPRWA consistent with scopes and budgets of the MVP, 604b, and CPC grants: Ken, Dan seconded. Yes votes: Gary, Dan, Debbie, Laura, Colin, and Ken.

DISCUSSIONS

Cyanobacteria

- Committee discussed purchasing new cyanobacteria tests in the early spring 2024 (they have shelf life of 9 months). The decision to close the beach or lake is the BOH's to make. When reporting a significant algal bloom to MA Dept of Public Health, there is a mandatory 2-week closure (no boating and swimming) until two tests come back negative. In addition to visual sightings, Josh and Debbie do microscopic analysis, and Debbie has been running cell count tests this summer to help inform monitoring. We also used test strips in the past to provide warnings and to inform the BOH, but they were more sensitive tests for pet and farm animal safety (as they drink the water and lick off fur). Can we get a test that tells us we should close an area of the lake for swimming? Debbie recommends a good test strip or recreational safety from Abraxis (now Gold Standard Diagnostics): <https://www.goldstandarddiagnostics.us/home/products/rapid-test-kits/algal-toxins/>
- The microcystin test for safe recreational use (5 kits) costs about \$200: <https://www.goldstandarddiagnostics.us/home/products/rapid-test-kits/algal-toxins/algal-toxin-test-strip-kits/abraxis-microcystins-0-10-20-ppb-recreational-water-with-quicklyse-feature-dipstick-epa-etv-5-test/>
- 20 kits costs about \$600: <https://www.goldstandarddiagnostics.us/home/products/rapid-test-kits/algal-toxins/algal-toxin-test-strip-kits/abraxis-microcystins-0-10-20-ppb-recreational-water-with-quicklyse-feature-dipstick-epa-etv-20-test/>

- In addition to LMAC purchasing next year, we should tell residents to use these tests (instead of Blue Green tests), and what to look for in regards to the results (i.e. what levels make it unsafe to swim). To purchase five tests the cost is about \$200 and 20 tests are about \$600.
- We agreed to spend up to \$200 (chair has that authority) to copy and post signs Leandra created for Memorial Beach to warn people about blooms late August through October, should visible blooms recur. Signs could be placed at Fletchers Cove, Arboro Beach, Massapoag Yacht Club, 123 Beach St, Beach Rd, etc. Recommend Recreation Department post signage at Community Center Beach.

DASH

- We had 8 days of DASH in South Cove scheduled for Sept 18 but need approval from DFW/NHESP; botanist surveys completed and submitted on Friday. Josh to reach out. We need to perform DASH before Fanwort dies and releases nutrients back into the water.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sharon Day, Sunday Oct 1st: Ken and Laura 11-1 pm, Debbie and Eman 1-3 pm; Lake Walks 11:30 and 12:30 pm along with SSC Youth.
- Men's Club presentation, Dive into Lake Massapoag, Tuesday Oct. 31 9:30-10:30 pm, Laura and Josh.

CLOSING

- Next meeting back to regular time of first Tuesday, Oct 3rd, 12-1:30 pm.
- Motion to Adjourn: Gary, Dan second. Yes votes: Gary, Dan, Debbie, Laura.