

Lake Massapoag Advisory Committee

Meeting of December 6, 2022

Minutes of Zoom Meeting

Members present: Laura Russell, Chair, Debbie Tatro, Vice Chair, Dan Lewenberg, Ken Hyman, Colin Barbera, Gary Bluestein, Stanley Rosen

Also: Josh Philibert, Conservation

Approval of Minutes of Meeting on November 1, 2022: **Motion:** Dan; **Second:** Debbie; **Voted:** approved 5-0-0 (Gary and Ken had not yet joined the call).

Rec Advisory Request to Close Community Center Beach for 2023 Season – Letter of support on behalf of the LMAC drafted and sent to Select Board for their meeting also on December 6. Some concern about wording and specifics of the letter of support. Discussion that LMAC should reword/amend and vote before sending an amended letter of support. Select Board ultimately not taking up on December 6, rather will be December 20th, which allows opportunity to do so.

Gary discussed Rec Advisory rationale for request. Rec Advisory has been monitoring usage levels of the community center beach in recent years (which have been low), and factoring in labor costs (lifeguards) and frequency of closures due to elevated E. coli, is recommending a “pilot” closure to swimming for the 2023 summer/beach season. The beach area would still be open to launch canoes/kayaks, youth sailing program, and fishing, just not for swimming. Non-residents would use the Memorial Park Beach alongside residents. The recommendation is for one year. Understanding that Board of Health testing for E. Coli at community center beach would continue through closure.

Discussion about wording of letter and specifics around E. coli closure rates. Mention of children’s diapers as a potential E. coli source and that clean tests at a closed beach would support that possibility.

Motion to submit amended letter: Gary; **Second:** Debbie; **Voted:** approved 4-0-2. In favor: Laura, Debbie, Dan, Gary; Abstaining: Stan & Colin; Ken not present for vote.

CPC Proposal Recognition that Debbie has done a lot of work on this – thank you! December 15th deadline. Asking for next phase of support. Request is for more source testing, reduced in-lake testing, fanwort control, sediment testing to guide potential alum treatment, equipment needs. 604b grant decision due in January – still awaiting.

Discussion around scope of continued in-lake testing in the Deep Hole, whether to continue, reduce, etc. Last season a drought season, discussion of value in data from another year. Could reduce frequency of testing.

Need to send to other committees for support, approval.

Motion to approve CPC request as amended: Gary; **Second:** Debbie; **Voted:** approved 6-0-0. Ken not present for vote.

Notice of Intent for Conservation Commission and Permitting Permit to treat Fanwort expired in May, need timely extension. Letter needs to be in the right form. Put all options in to have approval and be able to decide later based on information/need. Need amendment to authorize **DASH** – original was for fluridone. Also need to add **hand-pulling**, possibly for Fletchers Cove (would be 4-8days @ \$1250/day). Also add **benthic barriers** – pilot 4 of them: potential hassle of moving around mid-season, storage if removed, need for buoys. Include **Alum** as well.

Motion to put these items into a form to be presented to Conservation Commission: Gary; **Second:** Laura; **Voted:** approved 6-0-0. Colin not present for vote.

Discussion on the motion regarding fluridone. Looking to repeat 2018 treatment in lagoon without lowering the lake level. Barrier to prevent flow out of lagoon. Treatment would start in May/June. Could be hard to block outflow from lagoon for 2 months? Will discuss this further.

TRC Report Discussion whether to ask TRC to add other data compiled this year to the report and analysis. Cost: 8-10 hours @ \$159/hr plus 1-2 hours @ \$229/hr. Discussion on the value of reports to date and a professional summary/analysis of all findings. Follow up questions/requests for Matt Ladewig at TRC.

Question about phosphorus threshold for Alum. Need to look at sediment testing results, which are not in yet. Question about effects of Alum on wildlife. Suggested downside limited aside from high costs in the 100's of thousands of dollars. Treatment would last 10-20 years. Like a playground – arguably the town's best playground. Given recent lake closures, bloom activity, need more testing and experience. Need guidance as to whether the numbers point to a need for Alum treatment, also whether to focus more energy and resources on alum vs. inflows (or both).

Watershed Based Plan would take steps to address inflows. Inflow mitigation options: floating islands, biochar floating socks, barley bales, etc.

Comparing Lake Massapoag's phosphorus levels to lakes that were treated with Alum, Lake Massapoag may be significantly lower.

Want clear recommendations from report in addition to summary of findings. One sample of sediment testing may help provide additional guidance. May not have enough data to make definitive recommendations yet. Follow up questions/requests are within the scope and timeframe.

Motion to recommend additional money (~\$2030) to extend scope of report to include and make recommendations including inflow data: Laura; **Second:** Gary. Discussion on the motion to defer the vote until January, **Motion withdrawn.**

Motion to hold next meeting on January 10, 2023: Laura; **Second:** Stan; **Voted:** approved 5-0-0. Colin and Ken not present for vote.

Motion to adjourn: Gary; **Second:** Stan; **Voted:** approved 5-0-0. Colin and Ken not present for vote.