

Lake Massapoag Advisory Committee

Meeting of February 7, 2023

Minutes of Zoom Meeting

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

Also: Josh Philibert, Conservation

Approval of Minutes: Incorrect minutes circulated, will resend January meeting minutes for vote at next meeting.

Goose population control: large number of geese over-wintering at the lake. Ken contacted Take Flight Geese Control who quoted 3 days at \$250/day to look for nests, check & oil eggs, then go back 2-3 times to check on them. According to Dave Clifton, this had been done in the past, but not recently. Year-round resident population increasing, outcompeting mallards.

2 part motion:

1. to retain firm for 3-4 days for up to \$1000
2. to file permit review with Conservation Commission and Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife

Motion made by Gary, **Second** by Debbie. **Voted:** 5-0-0, Ken not present for vote.

Brief discussion of leashed dog walking on beach to disturb geese and BOH role in considering. Brief discussion of potential barrier at water's edge to impede geese access to lake/beach. Will look further into options.

Suggestion to have Kevin Davis on a future agenda regarding lawn fertilizer policy. Suzi Peck continuing her work, needs more time.

Invasive weeds: Lagoon to cost \$14.5K: Sonar \$6.8K plus oxbow associates \$7.7K to protect toothcup. South cove and Fletchers cove cost TBD. How to prioritize the lagoon, need to know soon. Trouble getting updated quote from Oxbow - this quote is from 2021. Given timing with regard to budgets, seek to get Letter of Intent (LOI) setting priorities for funding.

Lagoon may be reseeding the south cove via fragmentation, adding to invasives already in lake. Would want to do lagoon and south cove at same time. Discussion of need to treat lagoon, whether to prioritize or not. Josh presented aerial photos of lagoon growth from 2018 treatment to 2019 (cannot tell if regrowth is invasive or native weeds, can check 2019 ff weed maps). Debbie and Josh discussed timing of treatment. Ken suggested working towards the lagoon, then the lagoon. Josh discussed installing a grate at the spillway to catch debris before it hits the dam. Not a lot of flow this year. Smaller spacing to catch more.

Debbie discussed importance of adding focus on Fletchers Cove, via hand pulling. Benthic blankets are cheaper, but have hassle factor, and concern about killing everything. 5 days of hand pulling would be \$6,250. Laura said good to try different approaches, see what works best, among what is approved.

Budget: CPC grant has been recommended by CPC vote, with language to dissuade future requests to fund lake restoration with CPC funds. No word yet on 604b grant.

Insert for annual report: small version of top 10 flyer. Endorsed and Ken will price. No mailing cost.

Education efforts: adult center, and men's club has one speaker per month – could be an opportunity. Sharon Green Day will be Sunday May 7th. Ken suggested an email/ mailing regarding education on fertilizer use. Laura suggested publicizing UMass Amherst soil testing program – better to test soil before you fertilize. Ken volunteered to draft materials around lawn care for distribution in early spring.

Property tax work-off volunteer to do minutes: we are on the list. There are unfilled jobs.

MVP action grant: exploring, lots of work. Laura, Debbie and Dan will work on this. Still don't know when 604b grants will be announced.

Discussion of **availability for in person meetings.** Decided on 2nd Monday of the month starting in April.

Next meeting: March 7, 12:00 (then April 10, 7:30 pm).

Laura asked to **reconvene budget subcommittee** in coming weeks to review proposal, prioritize, make sure figures are up to date; Dan and Debbie will work with her on this.

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