

**Town of Sharon Lake Management Committee
Minutes of 2/28/2022
Meeting Held via Zoom**

Roll Call and Approval of minutes

Present: Colin Barbera, Acting Chair, Laura Russell, Acting Vice Chair and Acting Secretary, Debbie Tatro, Stanley Rosen, Ken Hyman. Other Attendees: Jen Forster, Camp Wonderland.

Colin moved approval of the February 7, 2022 minutes, Laura seconded, and the motion passed: Debbie yes, Ken yes, Stan yes, Laura yes, Colin yes. Debbie agreed to take the minutes.

Guest Jen Forster represented Camp Wonderland in attendance. Camp Wonderland hosts a 7-week camp season with 216 kids/week at full capacity, and 100 on the water at one time. Their programming includes about 35 days of swimming each season. Lake closures are Camp Wonderland's biggest concern, with their programming highly dependent on the lake, paddling and boating as well as swimming. For the 2021 season 15-16 days of this were not available. Colin asked why the lake wasn't available. Answer: lake closures due to algae blooms. They only have 0-1 closure days due to *E. coli* each season, they are fortunate at their location, it is much better than the Community Center Beach. On the topic of weeds, the lake bottom is rocky and they have some, but not a lot of weeds.

Discussions

Discussed requesting annual operating funds beyond the \$7,000 for FY23. Laura's view is that: 1) We should anticipate and budget for items that will be needed to move forward next fiscal year, including renewing the permit for treating the lake and expanding it to include other recommended actions, 2) there is a shortfall of \$3,120 between the CPC budget and the actual proposal received from ESS Group as they count the bottom of the Deep Hole as an additional testing site, 3) some base funds for annual testing should be scheduled each year for continuity the CPC grant is aimed to cover May 2022-April 2023 and there will be a gap before the new FY24 cycle begins in July. Colin's view is that: 1) We do not know exactly what we will need in FY23 until the testing and recommendations are complete, so it is therefore premature to ask for funds, and 2) The Con Comm asks for this funding, not LMSC. It's up to them to request additional funds. Stan disagrees, and suggested getting back to our appointing committees to check on their understanding and report back soon. Colin agreed.

Discussed the IEP 1980-1981 Lake Feasibility Study published 1984. For future funding requests and grant proposals it shows proof of the Town's previous testing, analysis and planning efforts, follow-through on recommendations, and a positive outcome with reduction in *E. coli*, algae and weed issues and a delay in the lake's eutrophication process otherwise predicted for 2000. A Phosphorus Loading Table points to high P loading from lagoon, inlet from Fletcher's cove, and Sucker Brook, providing a rationale for these sites for this season's testing, in addition to the Deep Hole. Debbie noted we used this information to adjust the specific test sites for ESS.

Important note: Josh shared that he checked with Greg Meister on the weed management recommendation for a winter drawdown. When this was done in the past, there was a concern it lowered the entire water table, which risked more septic seepage (leachate) into the lake. Laura noted the same concern about future summer herbicidal treatment drawdowns, as in 1984 the concurrent drought led to water levels as low as 8 feet. The committee agreed that alterations to the existing 1 ft. water drawdown in winter should not be considered.

Discussed NepRWA's offer to mail a fundraising appeal to add one additional CWMN site at the Lake Massapoag outflow site above the Flume House into Massapoag Brook (in addition to the CPC-funded CWMN site at the Sucker Brook inflow). This will also allow them to compare readings downstream in their Massapoag Brook site. We will ask them to target individuals. All present were in favor; it does not interfere with any potential fundraising that we had in mind.

Debbie presented concerns with fluridone treatment, including concerns about: 1) the accuracy of the 2021 weed survey on which the treatment proposal is based, 2) the safety of fluridone in the camp swim areas, as it is considered hazardous in the EU, and not approved for use in the EU, 3) potential local accumulation of its breakdown product, trifluoroacetic acid, the smallest PFAS and "forever chemical", and 4) the problem of lake drawdown required to protect the endangered species. All members agreed that they would not feel that they could vote to use herbicides based on these concerns.

Discussed using \$17,700 available for herbicide treatment for DASH this season, and needing to know additional information about the effectiveness of DASH to vote. The available funds would also need to cover the cost of Oxbow's botanist services (potentially up to \$10,200), so a FY23 reserve allocation would additionally be needed. The other option is watch and wait, get a more accurate weed survey from ESS in August, and evaluate.

Votes:

Discussion of Exploration of a potential MVP Action grant proposal submission this spring: Last year the Town of Sharon submitted a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (MVP) with the lake and watershed as a top priority for education on the impacts of climate change, along with regional efforts, and drainage improvements. It was noted that DPW's Eric Hooper and Maria De La Fuente expressed interest, and Maria sent an Expression of Interest in by the deadline. Colin mentioned that he didn't think it was appropriate because we do not yet know what we need to do specifically. Laura explained that the MVP Action Grant might be able to be used for developing a Lake Management Plan or other recommended actions from upcoming testing. Stan: Motion for Laura to continue to explore the suitability of the MVP Action Grant proposal, Ken seconded. Debbie, Yes; Ken, Yes; Stan, Yes; Laura, Yes; Colin, abstained.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 22, 12 pm – 1 pm. Agenda items will include: 1) Going over the lake water quality testing plan with a map of what is to be done at which locations. 2) Voting on whether to accept the ESS proposal for lake testing and annual weed surveys. 3) Update on information concerning DASH weed harvesting and review of proposals. Unanimous vote to adjourn at 9:50 pm.