

Town of Sharon Lake Management Committee
Minutes of 3/22/2022
Meeting Held via Zoom

Present: Colin Barbera, Acting Chair, Debbie Tatro, Ken Hyman, Laura Russel, Acting Vice Chair and Acting Secretary. Other Attendees: Gary Bluestein, Leslie Koval, Matt Vogt (New England Aquatic Services)

Colin asked Laura to chair the meeting. She called the meeting to order at noon, and said we would take items out of order and start with Matt Vogt of New England Aquatic Services' presentation and questions to him from members.

New England Aquatic Services (NEAS)/Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH)

Matt Vogt said he has been doing DASH at Lake Massapoag since 2017, every year except 2021. Each year he was contracted for two days of work; at the end of each session he had recommended additional days to get ahead of the weeds, e.g. four days, and up to 16 days for 2021 at the end of the 2020 session. DASH requires annual maintenance, and if sufficient weeds are pulled, they should be thinner the next year; Lake Massapoag never got to that point. He mentioned a pond in Falmouth as an example. Laura asked if DASH was effective with both Fanwort and Milfoil, he said yes. He did not have experience with Brittle Naiad, also found in the lake, but would research it. Ken asked how the weeds were disposed; Matt said DPW carted away the bagged weeds. Colin asked about DASH only vs. herbicides and DASH; Matt said both were helpful in managing weeds, and the decision was local preference. Regarding timing, he said it is best to do it in late August when fanwort is well established. Laura asked if DASH would also be effective on swim area weeds; he would look into what kinds we have; Laura shared the 2021 weed survey. Debbie asked if we contracted for 8 days this year how soon would he need to know that we wanted more days; Matt said soon! Debbie volunteered to contact DPW to see if they could handle disposal of the large weed volume over the longer time period; Matt recommended they pick up every two days to avoid odor. Laura thanked him for the presentation; Leslie introduced herself with the Briggs Pond Association and said she would follow up with him later.

Motion for DASH: Colin said there should be two votes, one on using DASH vs. herbicide, and one to approve the contract. 1) Ken moved we use DASH in 2022, Debbie seconded. **VOTE:** Colin yes, Debbie yes, Ken yes, Laura yes.

Vote for NEAS: The Committee discussed 8 days of treatment vs. 16 days recommended. Laura noted the FY22 Reserve Fund allocation of \$17,700 would nearly cover 8 days at \$2,300 which is \$18,400. Colin said he could ask Camp Everwood if they might contribute toward the balance, as treatment is largely in the South Cove. Following discussion, Ken moved we approve up to 16 days of DASH or \$36,800, with \$17,700 from the Reserve Fund and \$700 from the Operating Budget; and seek funding for the \$18,400 balance. Debbie seconded. **VOTE:** Colin yes, Debbie yes, Ken yes, Laura yes.

Laura said we would return to the other items on the Agenda. Approval of Minutes for 2/28/22: Debbie moved, Colin seconded. **VOTE:** Colin yes, Debbie yes, Ken yes, Laura yes.

Reports: Laura reported the FY22 Operating Balance, after the \$245 allocated for the MACC webinar and the website, was \$3,941, to be spent by 6/30/22. The FY22 Reserve Fund of \$17,700 would be allocated to the NEAS contract (with the \$700 balance from operating funds).

ESS Group Proposal for Water Quality Testing and Report

VOTE: ESS Group: Following discussion of the ESS Group contract, Debbie moved to approve ESS Group proposal for \$9,900 in Water Quality Testing and Reporting at the Deep Hole (counts as two sites, at top and bottom and along the water column), and two additional lake sites (flexible, anticipate South Cove and Fletcher's Cove). We will discuss the two optional components, chlorophyll a and phytoplankton ID, and weed mapping, at the next meeting. Ken seconded. Approved: Colin yes, Debbie yes, Ken yes, Laura yes.

Vote to ask Everwood: Ask Camp Everwood to contribute up to the \$18,400 balance. If there is a shortfall, we can ask for a FY23 Reserve Fund allocation, Debbie seconded. **VOTE:** Colin yes, Debbie yes, Ken yes, Laura yes.

Election of Officers: Laura noted the interim officers were appointed through March; we still have a lot on the agenda, and suggested we continue the interim officers for three more months through June. Colin suggested we affirm the existing officers. Laura noted that she could not do both secretary and another office. Ken and Debbie said they could help with minutes, and could rotate. Debbie nominated Laura as chair. Laura said we all have different strengths and skills to add. Debbie suggested we postpone the vote until after the Town Meeting. Colin moved we extend the interim officers for another 90 days (till the end of June), Laura seconded. **VOTE:** Colin yes, Debbie yes, Ken yes, Laura yes

OTHER ITEMS

Lake Sampling Sites: The Committee briefly reviewed the proposed test sites and map Debbie prepared. Laura noted we are still getting information on what was done in the past, and can revisit this further at the next meeting.

Reimbursements: Colin moved for administrative purposes, we authorize him as interim chair to sign requests for reimbursement. Laura seconded. **VOTE:** Colin yes, Debbie yes, Ken yes, Laura yes.

EPA Cyanobacteria Training: Debbie said the date was now Saturday May 7th, 10 am – 2 pm. We needed at least 12 attendees, there is interest, we can share event information via email and post it as an event on Facebook. Laura moved to hold this event, Debbie seconded. **VOTE:** Colin yes, Debbie yes, Ken yes, Laura yes.

Lake Information Walk: Following discussion, Laura moved we hold a Lake Information Walk at Memorial Beach 10-11 am on a Sat or Sun before the Town Meeting vote and publicize via Facebook; we can hand out the new website link, and the Warrant Article and CPC grant; Ken seconded. Laura checked with Rec. Dept., as long as it's a walk on Recreation property no permits required. Dates: 4/23, 4/24, or 5/1. **VOTE:** Colin yes, Debbie yes, Ken yes, Laura yes.

Posting Events and Information on Social Media: Following discussion, Ken moved that after review by another committee member, a member can post an event or information on one of the Facebook pages in town, including the Town page, Friends of the Lake, Everything Sharon, and Sharon What's Up; Debbie seconded. Laura said we may want to have a Lake Massapoag Committee Facebook page in the future. **VOTE:** Colin yes, Debbie yes, Ken yes, Laura yes.

Purchase of BlueGreen Algae Test Kits: Laura noted Debbie had seen a post on the Friends Lake Massapoag Facebook page last week from a woman who said her dog experienced seizures soon after being near the lake just over the bridge over the lagoon entrance on the South Cove path by the Community Center. Laura contacted the resident who lent a BlueGreen Algae Test kit last fall, and he agreed to lend it with a request it be replaced. Debbie and she went and tested the lake water there; the test was negative, which she relayed to the woman, who updated her post. Debbie also notified the Board of Health. Laura moved we purchase 6 kits at \$35 each (plus tax); Ken seconded. **VOTE:** Colin yes, Debbie yes, Ken yes, Laura yes.

MVP Action Grant Exploration: Laura noted Debbie and she attended the Lake Boon citizen science workshop at MACC, and it was fantastic. As reported in her memo, the MVP Action Grant presents a great opportunity for the Committee and the Town, but there is unfortunately no administrative support to assist uploading the application and budget, and preparation and submission of the required Town forms; hopefully we can pursue this next year. Debbie suggested we consider allocating some FY23 operating funds to grant preparation assistance.

Other: Ken offered his graphic design skills for the upcoming work on kiosk posters (after CPC grant approval), which were enthusiastically welcomed by all.

Next Meeting Topics: In addition to following up on additional contract items (lake testing sites, cyanobacteria testing, weed mapping, G&L contract, and NepRWA CWMN contract), Laura suggested we invite Kevin Davis and Kevin Weber to our next meeting, to learn more about septic issues and regulations and animal regulations, and lawn/field maintenance by the Town and SPS.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 19, 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm.

Adjourn: Ken moved, and Debbie seconded we adjourn at 1:30 pm; all agreed.