

Lake Massapoag Advisory Committee

Meeting of October 4, 2022

Minutes of Zoom Meeting

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

Also present: Josh Philbert

Approval of Minutes of Meeting of September 6, 2022: Motion Ken, Second Stan, approved 5-0-0

Discussion regarding notification / communication regarding Lake alerts and communications by the Committee– How best to disseminate information – Circulate amongst Members – Depending on the issue, we should discuss with Board of Health Admin – process for public notification of select items to be developed pending further discussion – an example of an item that should be covered by a notification policy was the recent elevation of Cyanobacteria, following several days of rain, which was sighted in Fletcher’s Cove, the South Cove, and the eastern side of the lake.

Review of Lake Testing – noted that phosphorous levels are consistent and significant at many inflows, while high E. coli counts most prevalent at Community Center Beach and Sucker Brook; Ken and Josh will attempt experiment to determine the flow pattern out of the Brook. Question was raised if we should test to determine if E. coli is of human, other animal or avian source. Debbie reported Jonah Ventures advised given our lake human is most likely, and to start with that. We purchased 10 to deploy this year and next, she will begin by piloting a handful upstream along Sucker Brook. Sean and Josh will also do Sucker Brook hot spot testing of water quality indicators at numerous sites up Sucker Brook, including E. coli and phosphorus.

Update on Lake Level – Josh reported that the lake level was 9.14, flume outflow reduced and not in conformity with Order of Conditions. However, it was also noted that in average years with average rainfall, the Lake continues to drop August to approx. October, and then the levels start to rise.

New England Aquatic Service Report – as reported by Debbie – weeds were extremely dense and DASH didn’t cover the whole area (reserve funding covered approx. 50% of the recommended effort). The amount of weeds collected per day was less than that collected in previous years; NEAS said it went back to more fully clear the denser area vs. covering more ground. Discussed the need to consider more options for weed mitigation re effectiveness and cost effectiveness, based on invasive weed survey results from TRC. LMAC will need to request higher funding levels for additional efforts at weed reduction / removal and other activities. This to be further discussed and acted upon. Ken asked that we consider the swim areas in developing weed removal plans.

Laura also asked for input on the level of ongoing baseline testing from Debbie and others. Gary said we should develop an adequate baseline monitoring and service level and base the budget request on that. Laura suggested we should survey what other Towns with lakes are spending on weed removal, on lake testing, development of watershed-based plans, and excess nutrient and E. coli mitigation efforts. Gary said we should do a realistic needs-based budget on what is needed to keep the lake healthy, and make

the case for that. Dan said we should identify what's in the core operating budget, what to request from CPC, and what to request from 604b and other grant sources.

Following discussion, it was **voted** to create a Budget subcommittee that would bring a proposed FY24 budget to the 11/1 meeting. LMAC's budget request is due to the town 11/17. Motion Stan, Second Gary, approved 6-0-0. **Voted** that Laura, Dan, and Stan would serve on the Budget subcommittee. Motion Laura, Second Stan 6-0-0. Agreed that Laura will submit a **Placeholder for CPC grant** by 10/27 deadline; this item will be discussed and amount of the request informed by the Budget subcommittee.

Laura noted that we should be developing Goals for the Lake for the Select Board. We need to come up with a way to limit excess nutrients coming into the lake, and accelerating transition to newer septic systems. The Committee discussed a proposal. Ken suggested, "Identifying and implementing methods to reduce use of nutrients that feed algal blooms in Lake Massapoag, and accelerate transition to updated septic systems." **Voted:** Motion Ken, Second Debbie, 6-0-0.

In other discussion, Gary reported that Recreation Department didn't have any beach or boat launch related requests for CPC this cycle. It was noted that in the Lake, which is a 'Great Pond', the docks and moorings are under the control of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Voted to Adjourn at 1:30 pm, Motion Debbie, Second Ken, 5-0-0