

# Lake Massapoag Advisory Committee

Meeting of January 10, 2023

Minutes of Zoom Meeting

Lake Committee Attendees: Dan Lewenberg, Debbie Tatro, Laura Russell, Colin Barbera, Stan Rosen, Gary Bluestein, Ken Hyman

Additional Attendees: Fred Turkington, Josh Philibert

**Agenda topic 1:** Special guest – Fred Turkington: We had a number of questions about the budget – CPC is funded to be project specific. Is it improving an asset or something else. They can inform us. Operating Budget items seem worthwhile but it's 3x the last year's budget and guidance is 3.5% growth. Dan can educate us on Reserve funds transfers. Seemed the focus of the committee has been on maintaining the lake and communication campaigns. Dan said this year's operating budget had money transferred from the reserve fund allocation so we considered that to be part of our budget too. \$15k plus \$17.7k so total around ~\$32k budget. It's not possible to triple the budget. Find out the base but doesn't see a way to increase to \$47k. We are catching up on weed pulling and sediment testing (\$15k). Town will ask to define what the ongoing budget is and ask CPC for 1x use. Lake clean up would be \$25 and 20k for testing and grant consulting (though that is more like a 1x cost). Fred had questions about weed pulling and water quality testing. We asked for catch up on Fanwort weed pulling of \$50k to catch up and \$25k for maintenance for total of \$75k. \$10k for water quality testing from the town. \$6k or \$7k for grant consulting. We did extensive testing this year and what we talked about next year is only doing the deep hole testing and sediment testing to see if we are ready for future alum treatment. Fred asked where funds would be coming from. We looked at the budget to clarify what is part of the CPC proposal and what is operating costs. CPC budget needs to be finalized by January 24. We should hear soon on the 604b grant but it doesn't involve funds we are requesting. Budget is currently over. Future Alum treatments would be CPC funds and the lake would be the asset (not the Alum treatment) or if this a one-time expense and would need to be a FinCom conversation.

**Agenda Topic 2:** TRC report potential addition of town inflow and beach testing – do we want to contract for adding more data to the report. Debbie made maps and sent it around. She said it doesn't seem worthwhile to use more funds for this. The only reason is if we needed it for grant applications and validation from a third-party. Dan said there is value in having all the information in one place. Ken noted in the future it is useful to have one accessible document. We decided to table this for now.

**Agenda Topic 3:** Debbie and Laura met with Leandra from Board of Health. They will continue beach E. coli testing. They asked that we pick up costs for E. coli inflow testing. We would plan

tests to rain events. Josh said this sounds good. We should also have it overlap when Camp Wonderland is in session.

**Agenda Topic 4:** Debbie contacted an expert about Sucker Brook. E. coli must be used for fecal contamination which would indicate a recent issue. It is an indicator of other pathogens and there are papers finding that E. coli may NOT be a recent issue and it might become naturalized to the environment. Biofilms can form in rocks and streams and be a source of E. coli. She questioned testing during rain events because of course you will see it then. It is more complicated than we thought. Stan asked about why testing is different at Camp Wonderland – they use the same company for their lab results. We should do some verification testing in 2023 to understand the discrepancy where their camp beach samples are always negative and the Community Center Beach close by are often high. We should also examine water flow patterns out of Sucker Brook.

**Agenda Topic 5:** Egg addling: Gary said it was done before by LMAC with Cliff Towner and along with Conservation. It was done in the lagoon. Peg didn't recall it being done. The company Taking Flight that controls the geese with dogs does this service. Josh to ask the Conservation Committee about their feelings about this. Ken to ask the owner of taking flight about the budget and see if they have samples of the paperwork and recommendations on reaching out to Mass Wildlife. We believe nests are near the lagoon. Josh to talk about this on January 19<sup>th</sup> and Debbie to attend. We observed at least two families and 12 goslings last year.

**Approval of Minutes:** Laura moved to approve the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Gary seconded, and all approved 6-0 with the exception of Stan Rosen who dropped off the call.

Gary moved to adjourn the meeting, Debbie seconded, and all present approved 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.