

Lake Management Study committee
Minutes May 6, 2015

Present

Noah Siegel
Steve Weiss
Mike Goldstein
Rob McGrath
Dave Blaszkowsky
Stanley Rosen

also present

Greg Meister (conservation officer)
Paul Lauenstein

Call to order 7:02 PM.

Motion to approve Minutes of Feb 2, 2015. New members abstained as they were not present. No Nays.

Noah Welcomed three new members, Rob, Dave and Stanley. Acknowledged the tremendous work of Cliff Towner, and re-iterated Mr. Towner's offer that he was always just a 'phone call away'.

thanked Greg Meister for coming tonight.
New members gave brief summary of their background:

Rob McGrath has been in Sharon over 18 years, is a Hydrogeologist by trad. Also owns lake property in Vermont with many of the same issues. Has experience with Con-Com as well.

Stan Rosen spent many terms, and chaired the Board of Health and has served on health advisory board for selectmen; extremely well versed in health issues. Has lived in Sharon since 1973.

David Blaszkowsky has been newly elected to the planning board, lived in Sharon for 21 of the last 24 years. Understands regulatory issues in general, although not specific to the lake; highly values the lake resource.

Noah distributed the original town meeting warrant article from 1969. we discussed the scope of our charter, and prior attempts of the selectment to 'sunset' the committee, but town-council has repeatedly advised the selectmen that they cannot.

Discussion of Who does the committee 'recommend' to.
Primarily Con-Com, as they oversee most issues relating to the lake, but certainly and body, especially the selectmen and board of health as necessary. we are not restricted.
Con-Com, byt the article 23 bylaw, has responsibility over wetlands and flood plains.

the existing lake policy is from the selectmen, but requires approval of con-com, who issue the order of contitions.

Greg: con-com looks at 'negative effects' when presented with a request. prior Selectment policy hheld lake too high - which caused serious issues. it was lake-study who brought this to the attention of con-com and had the policy revised.
The order of conditions states the lake to be maintained for Swimming, boating, fishing and other recreation, in that order. swimming, is primary. Greg discussed the background of the order of conditions and the permitting from con-com.

Greg discussed the management of the lake. during the 'season', roughly early may to early october, 2-3 times every day clarity, temperature, level, weather (including winds) will be evaluate to adjust the outflow of the lake. if conditions warrent (clarity, winds) the gate might be opened to flush debris, nutrients and especially temperature. Heat is the biggest issue to control, high temps lead to fish kills, weeds and algie blooms. anything over the mid-80's is a concern. Opening the gate pulls down temp by bleeding off the highest temp water (surface) and pulling in cold spring water.
Greg is concerned that trout are not currently surviving due to tempature and nutrition issues. with no surface waters flowing into the lake anymore the lake is deficient in the nutrients fish need. this is one of the reasons (another being the ramp fees) that is currently driving the state's decision not to stock the lake currently.
as of May 6, the lake was at 10.1 (a little low) and 70 degrees (a bit high for this early in May).
Greg also reminded us that the is nominally 13 feet deep - rather shallow.

Stan noted that we all need 'lake management 101' to get up to speed, and noted that management is part art and part science. Do the committee members get town email addresses?

Dave wanted to know about our responsibilites and powers, are we 'deputized' in any way, and noted that

transparency is key to maintaining support and credibility.

consent amongst those present that monitoring of outflow is important to settle issues raising last year.

discussion of what data to collect, how, and what to do with it. Greg does not entirely trust automatated instrumentation, need to suppliment, and confirm with actual readings.

Paul - should monitor lake outflow via Massapoag Brook, and be mindful to acknowledge

effects of evaporation and water flowing back into soil.

Reminds us to be careful of focusing attention on 'secondary' factors. Greg commented that correspondence he receives always focuses on outflow as the presumed

cause of the level when low. Greg noted that he has seen these issues before, and that

and cautions the committee not to get caue in a trap. The greater issues and debate involves

many downstream issues especially with the surrounding towns.

Greg noted the impacts of surrounding wetlands, that the lake is entirely dependent on

spring and ground water, most especially during the growing season, and re-iterated the importance of the ceder swamp reclamation project, and the town's

groundwater recharge issue, being at the head of multiple sub-basins.

Believes some monitoring

wells do show change, even though they were not designed to monitor the lake's basin, and

many were put in after changes already taking effect.

reminded us that our study committee is an important voice for the lake and the town.

Paul noted that the well permits for surrounding towns are coming up for re-approval in spring of 2016.

Noah noted that not all in town are in agreement as to the water problems.

reviewed the lycot report, and noted that the committee is currently lacking in it's ability and knowledge to continue monitoring for weeds. hope to enlist enlist additional

volunteer resources in town, especally the camp in south cove and the Massapoag yacht club.

Greg noted that the committee should have a 'file cabinet' -literally a physical cabinet, to store our records, and will help us procure a place to keep one.

discussion on how the boat launch will get monitored for 2015, recommended that we talk

to con-com and selectment both in order to get support for the selectment
to make recommendation
to police dept.
question on possibility of closing the gate at the launch after-hours,
but concern that
this will further damage our relations with state fish and game.

Stan noted that regulations without enforcement have little effect. noted
the Beach dog ban.

Mike Noted that his appointment by the planning board had expired, and
hoped to get re-approved
at the planning boards earliest convenience. David said he would contact
the chair and
try to get him on the agenda for the next meeting.

actions:

- Craft letters for
 - Beach dog ban enforcement
 - request for Boat launch monitoring
 - begin web-site development (with town?)
 - create drop box for gathering documentation
 - begin re-establishing relations with Dept of Fish and Wildlife

motion to adjourn at 8:50

respectfully submitted,
Michael Goldstein,
clerk