

FOVLAP Annual Meeting Minutes



28 July 2014

Location: The Steak House
1239 US Route 302
Berlin VT 05602

Introduction and Welcome

- FOVLAP President Jackie Sprague opened the meeting by asking board members to introduce themselves.
- Emily Geske, 2014 Scholarship Recipient, shared her background and passion for science.

I. FOVLAP Business

A. Bylaw Change

- * President Jackie Sprague provided a copy of the current bylaws and a proposal for change.
- * MOTION: Bruce Barter made a motion to accept the proposed bylaw change and Richard Simpson seconded.
- * Discussion: Roger Crouse (Lake Iroquois) expressed concern that language in membership paragraph does not clearly limit voting for business membership. Bruce Barter (Seymour) clarified that under current bylaws one vote per association membership is allowed. Business members have no voting rights. Individual members would carry one vote. Jamie Longtin (Sunrise Sunset ...) expressed concern about the imbalance of power for small associations.
- * MOTION: Jamie Longtin made a motion to accept proposed bylaw change without giving voting rights to individual members. The motion was seconded.
- * Discussion: Judy Davis stated that current bylaws allow individuals without an association to vote. It became clear that those attending the meeting had not been asked by their association to represent their interests in a vote during the Annual Meeting.
- * MOTION: Roger Crouse motioned to table this discussion until Annual Meeting 2015 and have the FOVLAP Board review the proposal. Phil Saxton from Ticklenaked Pond seconded. Motion passed.

B. 2013 Annual Meeting minutes

- * Minutes were made available on FOVLAP's website and hard copies distributed.

MOTION: Roger Cartee from Lake Salem moved to accept minutes. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

C. Financial Report

* Treasurer Bruce Barter provided copies of the 2013-2014 Financial Report and an overview of the general fund and grant information.

Highlights:

* \$5700 income \$ 5400 expenses. Net \$300. Carryover Balance from 2013 \$10,000+

* Lake Seminar 2013: income=\$1085 expenses=\$1127. Annual Mtg income=\$1280 expenses=\$1600+

* Grant from state provides \$2500/year to support our activities. Carryover from 2013 \$182. Spent \$2682 to get us to \$0

* 2013 Watershed Grant: \$7744 (80% of award), Sale of blueberry grants worth 2500, income over 10K. Spent 11K, left us with negative balance of \$738. (20% award brings to positive balance).

* 2012 Green Coffee Roasters Grant: no income 2013. Spent \$1100 in 2013, balance \$800. Perry Thomas explained that funds from this grant have been used for educational purposes. Progress reports are given regularly.

* Bruce Barter was applauded for the thoroughness of his report.

D. Membership Report

Bruce Barter gave report: Last year FOVLAP had 75 members - 33 indiv, 35 assoc, 3 businesses. This year's membership to date includes 74: 29 indiv, 38 assoc, 1 lake rep, 2 businesses. We have 16 new members this year due to Peggy Barter and her committee who worked hard getting membership letters out.

E. Election of Directors and Officers

* Dick Simpson and Julie Moore were thanked for their participation on the board.

* Andy Dales was nominated for a 2nd term and 2 new members of the board were introduced - Don Weaver and Mary Jo Teetor. Don maintains FOVLAP's website and represents northern Lake Champlain and PBRA. Mary Jo represents Lake St. Catherine and is active in lake activities there.

* MOTION made by Art Brooks to accept slate of officers. Tim Ide seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

F. Other Business

- * NEC NALMS 2-day Conference Jackie Sprague asked members to share their input in writing for planning purposes for conference committee.

II. DEC Updates

III. Best Management Practices/Lakeshore Landscaping

IV. Speaker: Charlie Browne - Shoreland Protection: For the Birds?

Charlie gave us new understanding about the importance of maintaining good habitat for wildlife along the shore of our lakes and gave special focus on birds and their needs for food and cover along the shoreline. He entertained us with dramatic enactments of herons lunging for food.

V. Incentive Grants Available (Blueberry Plants)

Judy Davis explained two grant-funded incentive programs for lakeshore homeowners. The first is Blueberries for Blue Lakes. With this program the landowner pays \$50 and grant pays for \$100 worth of plants, amendments and a workshop that comes to the lake. People are on their own to plant blueberry bushes. She is looking for 2 more lakes to be involved. The 2nd program is Lakescaping and funded by ERP. \$1,000 incentives provided to each landowner. Homeowner pays \$250. Landscape design is customized to your location, plant materials, steps or paths material, includes labor. Looking for one more lake. This grant seeks to implement Lakewise BMPs, like a no-mow zone, path or steps and other best practices along lakeshore.

VI. Lake Concerns

As lake names were called, representatives gave an update on lake issues they were dealing with.

Willoughby: (Art Brooks) we have a good website with information linking to state agencies, more emails to membership about opportunities to learn more, not much has been accomplished with aging septic systems, camps that are rented can be heavily populated with guests and septic systems can be stressed. Town provides funding for milfoil harvesting. Last season divers took out less than the previous year. Lake association supports greeter program.

Tinmouth Pond (Sherry Johnson) lake weed and natural grasses are coming back, there is no lake association, association hires divers for milfoil, there is no scientific measure of what has been done, they aren't keeping track of geographic location of what has been covered, would like to see scientific collection of data mapping

Carmi (Peter Benevento) milfoil is still an issue, using a harvester, tried an experiment with weevils but wasn't happy with results but plan to try again, still has issue with town who is against using a chemical treatment, planning an education process to convince selectboard that herbicide is a safe means, meetings in spring and vote by residents in June/July 2015. Will reach out to different lakes who have used the herbicide and consult with them.

Iroquois issue: stormwater run-off, especially on the beach, got a grant and an engineering design was created, recreation district is trying to find money to implement solution on beach which diverts run-off from the beach away from parking area. One of the streams with big problems had corrective measures completed by Youth Conservation Corps. 2nd stream will be worked on this summer. Iroquois experimented with weevils with unknown results, a labor intensive solution.

Harveys: (Jackie Sprague) issue is dam, 3 members of lake association placed stop logs in water after selectboard did not move on the problem, selectboard wrote a letter stating that this will not be tolerated, one of their board members is an attorney and will act as a liaison with the selectboard.

Lake St. Catherine issue is stormwater run-off, they teamed up with local conservation district and the nature conservancy who offered reduced prices on native plants. Massive clear-cutting has been observed, doing education sessions with homeowners, culverts are being replaced without sediment ponds added, lake is having a hard time recovering from storms, algae blooms present, run-off still a large issue, they do suction harvesting, 100 underwater sites have been surveyed with GIS to help them know areas to address.

Seymour (Bruce Barter/Chuck Nichols) 3 issues: vehicle breaking through ice, group plan to provide unemployment insurance to greeters and lawsuit over rights to lower water level at dam. The truck is still there, EPA surveyed the lake but couldn't find truck. Association, through a grant, and town pays for greeters. Suing state of VT to be able to lower level of lake via dam in spring, runoff has caused erosion and other problems. We have a statute that tells us we can do this. The goal is to keep water between high and low pins. We want to make the state obey the law. Waiting for judge to rule.

Lake Champlain (Don Weaver) milfoil Charlottes Bay, still there, only choice to keep on harvesting, 2010 removed 216 cubic yds. weeds, 2012 removed 594 cubic yds of weeds.... costly and labor intensive, receiving grants through state, looking for other sources of grant funds. Uses no aquatic herbicides because NY, Canada & VT would have to agree, not permitted since L.Champlain is a source of drinking water. A very aggressive type of milfoil found in Missiquoi Bay, no money or manpower provided to eradicate. Philosophy for invasives is not eradication.

Sunrise-Sunset Lake... Pond (Jamie Longtin) road erosion, we withdrew support of lay monitoring on all three lakes to get attention of stakeholders, diverted run-off from private property with great improvement

Shadow (Christine Cano) Eurasian Milfoil first found at 2011, estimating a 2-year infestation, began monitoring, laid mats, mapped plants, takes issue with the fact that homeowners are having to be responsible for state waters and asks ANR to step up - help us with advice and grant money and put more tools in the toolbox so invasives can be fought. Filed a petition with ANR for temporary closure of Shadow Lake where mother patch can be dealt with. Collecting less milfoil in the past four years! Hoping they will be the third lake to eradicate milfoil. Chrissy offered her assistance to other lakes suffering with infestations.

Little Hosmer Pond (Judy Davis) No milfoil. Greeter program is helping.

Ticklenaked Pond (Phil Saxton) 21 cabins on lake, active association, fighting milfoil for 4 years, Ann Bove very helpful, grant \$ for suction harvesting, trying to get an aquatic survey before using a herbicide, town and state access but eradication is up to homeowners, suction harvesting - does it really work?

Maidstone working to keep invasives out, little disturbed soils, little phosphorus, lay monitoring program, boat ramp monitoring 40 hrs per week

Salem no milfoil, have monitoring program 8-10 yrs, 7 days per week, 300 boats checked, caught two with milfoil, Derby Pond provides drinking water for Derby and is full of milfoil, Memphremagog full of milfoil, feels threat all around, program supported by grant from state, and town of Derby, problems, geography of Salem, camp owners/renters can launch from cottage, Clyde River flows through lakes, Other issues: fireworks late at night, ice fishing leaves a mess for the spring, speeding of boats

Halls milfoil present, no money from state to help, Newbury contributes, water level dam is on private property, owner not cooperative, low lake levels contribute to milfoil, we have dirt roads, road dept. does poor job of maintaining roads, sand and gravel pour into lake, sandbars building, doesn't see enforcement of Shoreland Act, for example, who do I call about neighbor placing loads of sand in lake? Town doesn't seem to care about washout.

* Amy Picotte responded. There are 6 enforcement officers for the state. Total Max Daily Load (TMDL) looks at dirt roads. The observations of homeowners is discussed. There is growing movement toward working with town and road crews. File complaints with the permit program. (The permit program because they are tracking to see if a permit has been issued or reviewed). You can also contact the environmental officer. Success of Shoreland Act will be because of partnership. 67% of VT's roads are dirt gravel. There is talk of issuing stormwater permits statewide as a way to manage town roads. Waiting on approval by EPA. Would then be presented before legislature next year for funding.

* Lori Fisher responded. Things are changing, when TMDL is approved by EPA things will improve. File complaint with state agency. Be specific and detailed. Election year, make water issue part of the conversation, ANR is underfunded & understaffed.

Carmi: one fine, weren't mandated to fix problem, still there,

Caspian: no milfoil present

Iroquois (Part 2): (Dan) zebra mussels + milfoil found on a boat as it was leaving, difficulty funding greeters, state tried to find some in lake and didn't, powerboat-swimmer accident person in ICU, clear cutting at end of June, how to mitigate? what to do?

Westmore: tree warden, permission to take down a tree, property owner was fined for stumps left

VII. What Worked Well? What Could be Improved?

1. good opportunity to hear form others and inspirational speakers
2. Jackie ran a good meeting
3. meeting better organized, FOVLAP bylaw change took more time than expected
4. discussing lake issues at beginning of meeting not the end and stick to time limits
5. I like all of us together discussing similar problems, it ought to be earlier in the meeting with more time devoted to it
6. I like that you followed up on our problems.
7. Liked the recap of issues
8. In depth review of law appreciated, clearly for betterment of ponds, nice to have it explained, now we can take information back to association members
9. landscape presentation was good, suggest go one step further and talk about some of the plants we can find including common names of plants
10. share contact information of people attending Annual Meeting so we can network.

*FOVLAP directors reminded everyone to go to the VermontLakes Facebook page and/or FOVLAP website to share concerns. We monitor both and will contact appropriate people with answers.

Annual Meeting Minutes were recorded by BOD Bruce Barter and transcribed by BOD Secretary Tracey Shadday. Submitted June 2015.