



## ANNUAL MEETING

July 30, 2012

### MINUTES

Welcome and call to order was made by Vice President Art Brooks at 9:05AM. He announced that Perry sends her regrets. The 2011 FOVALP minutes were reviewed. Peggy Barter made a motion to accept, Don Weaver seconded and the motion carried. Treasurer's report was reviewed and questions answered by Judy Davis. (Please see reports.) A motion to accept was made by Don Weaver and seconded by Ginny Garrison and the motion carried. Outgoing board members were thanked for all their work and given a blueberry bush. New directors, Tracy Shadday, Don Hendrich and Beth Torpey were introduced by Art Brooks. Ginny Garrison moved to accept the slate and Bruce Barter seconded. The motion carried. Next Art presented the slate for officers of the board: President – Jackie Sprague, Vice President – Bruce Durgin, Secretary – Tracy Shadday, and Treasurer – Bruce Barter. Don Weaver moved to accept, Dick Simpson seconded and the motion carried.

Follow up from last year's issues followed the business meeting.

- Kari Dolan reported on Vermont Climate Change Initiative. Climate change is an ongoing concern with the future uncertain with risks to infrastructure, ecosystems and watersheds. There are two responses to climate change – mitigation where you mitigate the magnitude of the impact (ex; limiting green house gases). Understanding the impacts is to determine effort to lessen impact. In 2005, Governor Douglas signed an executive order for a commission to look at climate change. The report was available in 2007 trying to learn from others, of adaptations and what is unique to Vermont. Governor Douglas set up a collaborative with higher education institutions to share ideas/gaps/strategies to apply science effectively. UVM received a significant grant to continue work. Governor Schumlin set up a climate cabinet including Vermont Transportation Agency who is grappling with the same questions. An adaptation plan is underway. The service of Tetratex has been retained by the State to ask questions and evaluate what other states have done, what scenarios are they using for short term and long term impacts. More importantly is vulnerability – what are we good at (Ex: ANR: water, woods, fish and wildlife) and what kind of impacts to expect to see. Next steps are to address strategies and involve the public.
- Jackie Sprague reported that guest speaker, Brian Aitchison from Denis Ricker and Brown spoke to the board about Liability and Director and Officers Insurance (D&O). Handouts included Risk Insights for Non Profit Organizations and product highlights form Alliance of Nonprofits for Insurance (ANI). It is imperative that Board of Directors understand the risks involved as volunteers for their organizations, their responsibilities as board members and how to protect themselves from personal liability. Brian explained the difference between the types of insurances and what to look for when making comparisons. He recommends the ANI because of its stability, comprehensive insurance for nonprofits and the ability to defend. D&O is designed to cover the acts and decisions of the board as they carry out their mission. General liability is to cover bodily injury/property damage. (Ex: taking people out in your boat, band at an annual meeting, etc) The benefits with the alliance are: the premiums are generally lower, legal consultation is readily available (800 phone number), handbooks and

bylaws are reviewed, arrived at and designed by peers, “A” rated financial status. Alliance is underwritten on individual policy for each association (fairly simple application asking assets, financial status). Each becomes an individual association, need to be 501c3 and you need both D&O and Liability. For specific venues, Alliance will send certificate of insurance. Your organization may find coverage less expensive, but use the Highlights of features hand out to make comparison. For more information, you may contact Deb George at Denis Ricker and Brown Insurance at 1-800-340-0563.

- Judy Davis reported on Canada Geese issues. The geese like be on grass or docks. There are a number of control measures: You can harass them and if you shoo them away enough they may not come back. Border Collies clear the geese within a couple of weeks and there are places to rent a dog for this purpose. . Geese fences made of string work around access or docks, but you have to put them up every day. Habitat modifications, such as a natural fence of shrubs, bushes, etc. work well. You also may addle eggs (using corn oil on eggs to stop development. This can be done only with a permit. Information on permitting and other methods can be found on the Humane Society website or Vermont Fish and Wildlife website.

Updates from the VT DEC were next. Amy Picotte, coordinator of *LakeWise* (Shoreland Management) introduced Bethany Sargent as the new Lay Monitoring and VIP coordinator. Amy is leaving this position after 20 years of coordinating. Ann Bove, in charge of Aquatic Invasive Species, reported that there is a new population of Water Chestnuts in Little Lake (Wells) and Eurasian Water Milfoil in Shadow Lake (Glover). There are 100 water bodies with aquatic invasives, 3 % are heavily populated with 35% moderately infested. There are still lots of lakes with no invasives. Asian Clams and Asian Carp are poised to enter Lake Champlain. There is a Cooperative Boat Wash Program underway. Sandwich boards are placed at all lakes with greeter program to give a consistent message throughout the state. A grant was received for the sandwich board and tee shirts. The invasive species sticker did not sell so members should hand them out for information. The Water Quality Division is now the Watershed Management Division. *Resilience* Booklet covers climate change and lake shores in Vermont. ANR launched the Lake Wise program. Susan Warren and Kelly --- are working on a study of current options, comparing similar programs in NH, MA, ME and NY with Vermont with respect to what is going on and what could be done. They want FOVLAP to be involved. The study was mandated by the legislature. Angela Shamlaugh reported that Cynobacteria (blue green algae) is present in Lake Champlain, Ticklenaked Pond, Lake Memphremagog, and the Connecticut River. If you see a bloom, keep away and keep pets away. Pictorial documentation is on the Department of health website as well as a process to report sightings. Amy described the Bob Arnold award and announced that Andy Dales was this year’s recipient.

A Panel Discussion regarding Water Quality/Shoreland Legislation and Beyond included: State Representative David Deen; Louis Porter, Lake Champlain Lakekeeper and Conservation Law Foundation; and Tracy Zschau, Vermont Land Trust was moderated by Ginny Garrison, Retired DEC Lakes and Ponds Section Chief. David Deen stated that he has advocated for mandatory shoreline buffers for 20 years and lost each time. Act 138 is pale by comparison to what was wanted. Statewide stormwater impervious producers would pay. The legislature is requiring ANR to put together a report on the status of Vermont Lakeshores and possible options for management due by December 15, 2012. Louis Porter reported that Tropical Storm Irene did lots of damage to streams in the state, but repairs did more damage. In 50% of cases the removal of gravel and stone from streams for road repairs made conditions in the streams worse when future floods occur. Act 138 includes requirements for better river management and support to towns. Forty four towns have shoreline zoning protection. Tracy Zschau has worked for 14 years in the Northeast Kingdom coordinating land trust activities. The Land Trust gives land owners options to permanently protect the natural resources of their land, including shoreland buffers. The Vermont Land Trust protects land for the future by working with communities on land conservation initiatives, families wishing to develop land conservation plans as well as educating Lake Associations and other groups about the possibilities for

conserving valuable resources. . Much discussion flowed regarding mandatory zoning and why Vermont has none. If it works for Maine and New Hampshire, why not Vermont? Representative Deen reported that in 1970, both Vermont and Maine passed lake shore protection. The legislation was repealed in Vermont two years later. In order to get legislation in Vermont, one has to contact legislators. If you have ideas, concerns, or need more information, you may contact Ginny at [ginnyg@together.net](mailto:ginnyg@together.net), David at, [strictlytrout@vermontel.net](mailto:strictlytrout@vermontel.net), Louis at, [Lporter@CLF.org](mailto:Lporter@CLF.org) or Tracy at [tracy@vlt.org](mailto:tracy@vlt.org) .

Charlie Nardoizzi, expert gardener for over 20 years, author of books, articles and consultant on VPR and WCAX was FOVLAP's keynote speaker after lunch. He reported that there is 46 million acres of land which is sometimes overused. By 2050, there will be 9 billion people on earth. In the next 50 years we will have to produce 50 times more food than we have in the last 10,000 years combined. So why not edible landscaping? Charlie engaged the listeners with his ideas of parsley for ground cover, intermixing veggies with flowers, using blackberries as a hedge or growing dwarf or semi-dwarf fruit trees along your lake shore. Low lying shrubs may include blueberries, cranberries, currants, and gooseberries. Don't forget that you can eat day lilies, use purple asparagus for eating then let it go to seed as a beautiful barrier. Charlie's dynamic presentation included lists of the kinds of plants and trees that produce the best results for Vermont. For more information go to [www.garden.org/ediblelandscaping](http://www.garden.org/ediblelandscaping)

Lake reports: See separate handout.

Judy Davis and Amy Picotte introduced messages for use in motivating lake shore property owners to restore buffer vegetation and protect water quality. A Fish and Wildlife Grant is helping to get the word out about using native vegetation to protect shoreline. Phase II is buffers for Blue Lakes and Phase III is Blueberries for Blue Lakes. An edible landscaping project is to roll out in 2013. Only 17% of Vermont Lakes rates in good condition on shoreland buffers. Amy presented a *Dilemmas and Diplomacy* power point. Using diplomacy to effectively manage relationship and giving positive feedback to motivate behavior are the key messages for those dilemmas. People change their behavior based on what they perceive and what they observe. Using a pyramid with neighbors being on the bottom or largest section, region and state in the middle and federal being at the top or smallest section, neighbors have the most influence on behavior. So reach out to your neighbors about protecting shoreline. Amy explained that the LakeWise Program is set up to offer technical assistance to landowners for water runoff and shoreland. When person has met the level of good protection, they will be awarded with a LakeWise sign to display. Be friendly, talk to someone, (good communication builds trust) be a good neighbor, make a border, and make property attractive.

New business: It was announced that the US Post Office can arrange mailings for specific routes, such as those serving your lake area, in order to limit mailings and reduce expenses . See your post office for details.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30PM

Respectfully submitted,



Jackie Sprague