

RPA Meeting Minutes 2020
(Notes in order from most recent to oldest)

Richmond Pond Association – Minutes
Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 7:00 pm, via Zoom online

Welcome - Ken welcomed all in attendance and noted that this is our last scheduled meeting of the 2020 season. A major agenda item will be identifying winter research projects & project teams. Also noted was the addition of one agenda item, regarding the disposition of Parcel #142 at Richmond Shores.

Approval of minutes of 9-22-20– Doreen asked for a motion to approve the minutes from 9-22-20; motion approved.

Financial report – Carl reported that as of 10/25 we have a total of \$64,468 in all accounts with \$21,961 in the Dam Maintenance account and \$5,502 in the Canal Restoration fund. Carl also reported that we have had \$9,501 donated thus far this fiscal year, i.e. since July 1st; this is ahead of the donations from last year.

Approval of meeting dates for 2021 – Ken asked for a motion to approve the meeting dates and times. The meeting dates are 4/27, 5/25, 6/22, 7/27 picnic?, 8/24, 9/28, 10/26, all 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. Ken indicated that we will likely start in spring with Zoom meetings at 7:00 pm, but transition to in-person meetings at Town Hall once that is deemed safe & appropriate, with the exception of the July meeting, which may return to picnic format late afternoon at Camp Russell if that's possible & appropriate. Christian volunteered Balderdash as another possible site for the picnic. A request has been submitted to Town Hall to reserve these meeting dates & times, for advance planning purposes. A motion was made to meet at 7 pm for the Zoom meeting but change the time to 5:30 pm when we transition to meeting at the Town Hall. Motion approved. Ken will check to make sure the 5:30 time is available at the Town Hall.

Applicant(s) for at-large position on RPA board – Ken announced that Kerry Hamilton has applied for the vacant at-large position on the RPA board, initially created to include representation from those who don't live on the pond. Kerry lives up above Bartlett's on View Drive, & her application had been shared in advance with all board members. Kerry was introduced and she spoke about her background and her interest in Richmond Pond which led her to be interested in serving on the board. Following a few questions, a motion was made, seconded and voted on to appoint her to the board.

Major developments at the pond:

Status of pending sale of Lakeside Christian Camp & RPA follow-ups– Ken related that John has been informed that the bid submitted on behalf of Lakeside4 Christ was not selected as the winning bidder by Converge Northeast. Ken reached out again last week to both the listing realtor & Converge Northeast, & while both responded, they both indicated that no information could be released until the closing on the property, which will probably take some time. The realtor indicated that as soon as the closing has occurred, Ken will be informed. Ken intends to then do a reach-out to the new owner on behalf of the RPA, to learn what we can about their plans for the property. Ken will then notify RPA board members & website subscribers.

Kitty asked if it is too early for the RPA to start talking with the Town about boating limits as was done when South Pond was being developed. Laura will investigate to see if there is any information available about the limitations placed on South Pond Farm as it was being developed. Because the camp is in Pittsfield, we will need to know the parameters for building. Doreen will work with Laura on this, including checking on South Pond Farm deed restrictions. Ron suggested that the realtor should be aware of restrictions related to the Wetlands Protection Act. Ken will speak to Jim McGrath about this, as Jim is the Pittsfield contact.

Ken shared that John Mead has resigned from the RPA board, and read his resignation letter, which was received on 10/23. Ken suggested that the RPA adopt a resolution thanking John for all that he has done over the years which might read as follows: “The Richmond Pond Association expresses its sincere gratitude for John Mead’s long-term and active service on the Richmond Pond Association board, representing Lakeside Christian Camp and Conference Center. We will miss the vibrant presence of Lakeside’s campers enjoying the pond, as the property transitions to new owners. We wish John well in his future endeavors.” A motion was made and seconded to adopt & share this resolution with John.

The RPA By-laws, which specify the board of directors, in paragraph 2.02.01, include the following language: “One director shall be nominated by each of the following organizations to represent such organization, or such successor organization or other organization as the directors may determine from time to time.” One of these is currently listed as “Northeast Baptist Conference (Lakeside Christian Camp and Conference Center).” Ken suggested that, since Converge Northeast, which owns the Lakeside property on behalf of the Northeast Baptist Conference, is selling the property, we should hold that position vacant & wait until the property is sold and the buyer is known, after which the RPA should invite the buyer to designate a representative to serve on the RPA board.

With regard to interim management of the property and its dam and the annual draw-down process, John has informed Ken that George Rudd, Lakeside’s property manager who still lives on-site, will continue to perform these functions at least until the new owners assume control of the property. John has shared George’s contact information with Ken, and Ken called George

today to introduce himself. George's contact information has been shared with the board and Danielle. Christian suggested that the money in the RPA's dam maintenance fund should be spent elsewhere since the new owners will need to take responsibility for the maintenance of the dam. This will be discussed again once the buyers are known.

Status of permits for Balderdash special events for 2021 – Ken has spoken with Danielle and learned that there is no action yet, as it awaits development & adoption of an entertainment policy. Christian has not heard anything also. This is on the agenda for the selectman's meeting October 28th. Christian related that CSX has placed a concrete barrier on the railroad's property to discourage the public from crossing the railroad tracks to or from the boat launch area. He noted that he has seen people walking around & over the barrier and wonders how effective this is.

Cleaning of Camp Russell detention basins– Since Danielle was not present, Ken reported that she is still awaiting information from Boston in regards to the Town's obligation to clean the detention basins.

Parcel #142- Endorsement of recent recommendation by the Conservation Commission requesting that the 0.44-acre Parcel #142 at the northern corner of Shore Road & Town Beach Road be turned over by the Town to the Conservation Commission to be preserved in perpetuity as conservation land. Ken shared screen shot of parcel. Ron Veillette was the one who made this recommendation on behalf of the Conservation Commission because he felt that this parcel was a natural barrier which needed to be protected.

Ken shared that Richmond Land Trust has already expressed support of the action. Ken asked abutter Peter Miller about his opinion and Peter thought this would be a very positive outcome for this piece of land. Ken suggested a motion as follows: "The RPA endorses the recent recommendation by the Conservation Commission requesting that the 0.44-acre Parcel #142 at the northern corner of Shore Road & Town Beach Road be turned over by the Town to the Conservation Commission to be preserved in perpetuity as conservation land." This motion was made, seconded and passed.

Identification of Winter Research Projects & their Project Teams & Convener:

Canal restoration plan development – Doreen relayed that the RSCA will work to create a group to aid in the plan for the canal restoration and to coordinate the efforts. Ken and Carl both volunteered to be a part of this group. Carl has been the contact person with Solitude and has asked for an updated estimate for the cost of hydro-raking. Ken has spoken with Laurie Rock of Action Sports & Travel, regarding weed pulling by their scuba divers. She would like to see the canal to get a sense of what is needed to determine the cost. Ken plans to meet with her this Thursday at 3 pm. Doreen will ask Brian to join them. Ron was asked for his input on what is the

most realistic plan for the canal. He felt that weed pulling was most realistic and that a permit from ConCom would be needed. Ken asked Ron if he could have someone from ConCom meet with them on Thursday. Ron will do this.

History of Richmond Pond book project – Ken reported that the project is moving ahead, and the current draft table of contents is on the RPA website. He has consented to serve as its editor. Gloria Morse of the Richmond History Commission has already done some research, & Ken has communicated with an individual who will provide information on Camp Allegro. Louise will provide pictures from Camp Marion White. Ken will distribute the list of writers/contributors so far and is seeking more. He also asked for volunteers to help with proofing and editing, & plans to create an “editorial board” & share a style sheet for writers. Kerry volunteered to help with this, and Troy Book Makers, our publisher, will be another resource.

Goose management plan 2021– Laura spoke about the plan for 2021. In March/early April, she will contact property owners around the Pond to get a handle on who will participate in goose management in 2021. We hope that prior years’ experiences will encourage participation. We will also review finances and set an appropriate budget, including an estimate of cost allocations to the participating owners. Then she will contact Eric Johnson of Wild Goose Chase NE to set up times when the dogs will herd the geese. Laura volunteered to stay on as liaison between the RPA and Wild Goose Chase.

Over the summer, there were still many geese at Balderdash. Ron relayed that open lawn attracts the geese and more plantings can help discourage them. Experiences at the Town Beach and South Pond Farm have been positive, as there were fewer geese in these areas. Doreen asked if there was a long-term plan in place to measure if the program is effective. Right now, there is no expected end date for hiring goose control.

Initially, we were told that it might take 5 to 6 years to teach geese to go somewhere else. Since the dogs only patrol limited areas, the timeframe may be different for us.

Writing of 2020 Annual Report(for website) – Doreen will write the annual report.

Update & endorse Beach & Tributary Testing Plan, adding cyanobacteria – Ken mentioned that this protocol has never been formally endorsed by the Town, so seeking Town endorsement should be a component of this project. A summary of the current protocol is posted on the Lake Management page of the RPA website. Components of the 2/28/20 cyanobacteria management recommendations from Ken Wagner should be incorporated. Ken asked for a volunteer to update the document. There were no volunteers.

Odds & ends:

- **Drawdown begins November 1st** – to be managed by property manager George Rudd. The drawdown is to be about 2 inches a day until 2 feet is reached. John Mead had been checking on the permit for the drawdown from Pittsfield and Ron will check with the Town of Richmond.
- **LAPA-West (Lake & Pond Association of Western MA) takes over as successor organization to the state-wide COLAP (MA Congress of Lake and Pond Associations)**, with accrued advantages – At the 10/15/20 joint meeting of MA COLAP & LAPA-West, the following motion was adopted: Direct the new COLAP President (Lee Hauge of Pontoosuc) and Clerk (Mark Siegars) to draft revised Articles of Organization and By-laws for the organization which will do the following: Change the name to LAPA West, and change the focus to the Western Mass region. The revised Charter and By-law documents shall be presented at a meeting of the officers and directors before the end of 2020. Additionally, annual dues were set at \$50 for Lake Associations/Districts (formerly \$100) and \$10 for individuals. A slate of officers (all from LAPA-West) will fill all the positions identified in the COLAP by-laws. LAPA-West inherits the treasury of COLAP (slightly above \$10,900) and will also inherit its 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.
- **Goose & duck hunting seasons** – Ken shared the hunting season dates for the Berkshire zone. Regular goose season is 10/12 to 11/14, daily bag limit of 2, and duck season is 10/12 to 11/28 & 12/7 to 12/26, daily bag limit of 6.
- **Pancake Breakfast fund raiser** – Holly encouraged participation in the pancake breakfast, which will be Saturday, 11/21, 7:30 am to 10 am @ Richmond Consolidated School. Tammy Jervis offered to do this at the school to help this fund raiser to continue. This is the 13th year and the proceeds go to benefit the Richmond Food & Fuel Fund. This will be a “Grab & Go” event, \$5 adults, and \$3 children under 12. The process is to go to rear of school to order, pay & pick up.
- **Website & Facebook updates** - Ken has updated the book project on the website. Carl reports no updates on Facebook.
- **The Town is planning a Halloween event.** Ken did not have any information other than to contact Danielle if you would like to volunteer to help with this event.
Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

ATTENDEE LIST

Directors present (voting): Ken Kelly (president, independent cottages), Carl Foote (treasurer, Branch Farm), Susan Benner (vice president, Whitewood), Doreen Donovan (secretary, Richmond Shores), Miles Garfinkel (At-Large), Laura Rosenthal (South Pond Farm), Kerry Hamilton (newly elected At-Large, Richmond resident)

Ex-officio present (non-voting): Ron Veillette (alternate, Conservation Commission)

Alternates present: Kitty Levitan (Whitewood), Louise Brogan (Branch Farm)

Guests present: Christian Hanson (Balderdash), Peter Miller (Richmond Shores), Gloria Morse (Richmond Historical Commission), Holly Stover (RPA founder & Richmond resident)

Directors Absent: Dan Joslyn (Camp Russell)

Ex-officio absent: Danielle Fillio (Richmond Town Administrator), Jim McGrath (City of Pittsfield), Dan Scorpa (Richmond Conservation Commission)

Alternates Absent: Kais Abderrahim (Camp Russell), Joe McGovern (Camp Russell), John O'Brien (Branch Farm), Jessica Baumgarten (South Pond Farm Association), Brian Grebeldinger (Richmond Shores), Barry Kellogg (Richmond Shores), Tim Mason (independent cottages), Al Nardacci (independent cottages)

Richmond Pond Association – Minutes
Tuesday, September 22, 2020, 7:00 pm, via Zoom online

Welcome – Ken opened the meeting at 7:03. Neal Pilson asked if he could make a statement about the Special Town meeting on September 23rd. at 6 pm. He clarified what would be voted on at the meeting and answered a few questions from the attendees.

Approval of minutes of 8-25-20– Doreen asked for a motion to approve the minutes from 8-25-20. Motion approved.

Financial report – Carl reported

- As of 9/21 we have a total of \$63,288 in all accounts with \$21,954 in the Dam maintenance account and \$5,502 in the Canal Restoration Fund.
- The last Wild Goose Chase NE payment was made for \$910 for a total of \$6,710. Our approved budget for this program is \$6,000. He suggested that RPA pay the final bill, as all participants have paid their committed share minus \$20. Carl asked for a motion for RPA to pay the final bill, motion approved.
- The annual financial report to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was mailed on 9/21, which is due 90 days after our fiscal year close date of 6/30. He and Ken worked on this for a good 24 hours or more.
- Carl also reported that we are ahead of fund raising compared to last year, with \$8,676 donated thus far, compared to \$7,635 by this time last year. All the dues have been paid except South Pond; Laura is following up with this. Because of the changes in dues paying members, Carl felt that we may need to study amending the dues structure for next year if there are fewer payers.

History of Richmond Pond Book Project- Ken presented the funding proposal for History of Richmond Pond Book Project and reviewed the Table of Contents. He had emailed the proposal to all board members earlier today, but few had yet seen it, so he shared most of it verbally.

The concept: A “collector’s” history book with photos, reasonably priced (\$20), to be developed, published & sold locally. RPA would sell sponsorships to defray part of the publishing cost. Consistent with RPA’s educational mission, RPA would provide “front money” for publishing, to be reimbursed at least partially by book sales. Editor is yet to be determined. See separate document - 6th draft of Table of Contents – for content summary.

Project Group – Initially Gloria Morse & Ken Kelly.

Progress to date: The Richmond Pond Association & Richmond Historical Commission have both endorsed the project. Initial lead researcher has been Gloria Morse, Chair, Richmond

Historical Commission. Much related information & photos are already on the RPA website. Text & photos can be readily lifted into the book. The RPA boat tour script cites highlights of the pond, & could be a summary page. Gloria has researched some aspects already, focusing on deeds around the pond. Holly Stover has details on the development of the town beaches, public boat launch, etc. It has been determined that Richmond Public Library has few related holdings.

Ken explored self-editing & publishing the book using Shutterfly, but too many skill sets would be needed, especially with no editor yet. Working with an experienced publisher of small press runs like Troy Bookmakers, with readily accessible staff, would have many advantages over Shutterfly. Shutterfly's cost for 100 books, size 8x11, 91-100 pages, hard cover, color throughout (though many of the photos will be B&W), would be \$54.77/book, or \$5,477 for the 100 copies.

Ken reached out to Troy Bookmakers with tentative parameters about our proposed book, initially suggesting a press run of 100 books; he's received two quotes, assuming different press runs. The second quote, for 250 books, was suggested by the publisher; it brings the resulting cost per book (\$17.10) down almost to less than half the per book price (\$36.20) of a press run of 100. Comparing the two press runs, for only \$630 more, we'd get an additional 150 copies, at only \$4.20 per book! Another reason to opt for the larger press run is if we only initially ordered 100, & later realized a need for additional books, the cost per book for that second run would be much higher, so much so that the sale price would be much higher per book. See the two proposals below; they can readily be amended as the book's content and format take shape.

Total project cost - \$3,620 for 100 copies or \$4,275 for 250 copies
Resulting per book cost - \$36.20 for 100 copies or \$17.10 for 250 copies

The publisher would not charge us tax, as we're "out of state" & tax exempt; bookstores selling books would have to charge tax, but it's unclear whether direct sales by RPA would have to charge sales tax at point of sale.

Paying for an ISBN barcode, listing in Books In Print, & copyrighting the book appear to be advisable steps, could result in additional sales, & are not that expensive. This \$100 cost is included in both quotes.

Marketing strategy – Build anticipation for the book via announcements about & articles in the Richmond Record, in the weekly Richmond e-News, emails to the RPA website subscribers list, updates using the RPA Facebook page. Explore selling them through Bartlett's, Balderdash & The Bookstore (Lenox), with book signing events at Balderdash & The Bookstore, once COVID-19 parameters allow. Feature & sell them at the annual RPA all-town picnic at Camp Russell. Market the book additionally through the 4 community associations (& bring copies to their annual meetings), announce & sell at entrance to Richmond Annual Town Meeting, & selected

other Town committee meetings & events. Sell them at monthly RPA meetings. Explore selling them at Richmond Town Hall. Consider a process for advance orders & credit card sales. Arrange with printer for sales through Books in Print. Donate a book each to Richmond Library, Lenox Library, Bartlett's & Balderdash. It was suggested that a book also be donated to Pittsfield's library (Berkshire Athenaeum). Christian suggested a fund raiser at Balderdash that could include sharing of the history and stories of Richmond Pond.

Next Steps:

Funding vote – While originally targeted for April 2020, given uncertainties related to COVID-19, the vote was postponed until fall. If RPA volunteers are to commit to the substantial work necessary to research & prepare the book over the winter, they must know in advance that funding is available for the project. Also, time is of the essence – some known historical resources are reaching an advanced age and may not be accessible for interviews much longer, hence the need for a vote at this time. Interim “editor” Ken Kelly therefore proposes the following motion for approval on 9/22/20: “The RPA allocates up to \$3,500 for the publishing & marketing of up to 250 copies of a book on the History of Richmond Pond, to be developed by Richmond Pond Association & Richmond Historical Commission & other volunteers, with a target publication date of April/May 2021, and the expectation that book sale revenues will reimburse a major portion of this commitment.” A motion was made to fund this project. It passed with Ken abstaining from the vote.

Finding an editor – While Troy Book Makers has supplied a short list of editors who have assisted other projects, they appear to charge \$50 to \$100/hour. Using one of them could quickly price the book out of reach. Ken asked if there is someone around the pond willing to take on the leading editor role, or share it with him. No volunteers at this time.

Requests for information – The editor(s) would request different RPA board members to do a reach-out to staff of one of the following – staff of the pond's current camps, the staff or historians of the pond's former camps, & the officers of the four pond community associations. Each will be asked to provide summaries of their histories & interesting anecdotes, in Word format, & photos, for possible inclusion. Some of this has already happened. In the short run, content should be emailed to Ken Kelly

Applicant(s) for at-large position on RPA board – Ken shared his overture to Skip Lieblein, new resident of Rossiter Road, who was referred by Neil Pilson; he has former experience with another pond. He has not heard back from him. No one else at this meeting has had any applicants interested in the at-large seat.

Major developments at the pond:

Pending sale of Lakeside Christian Camp: John provided an update on the status of the pending sale of the camp and the efforts of the recently formed Lakeside4Christ organization to have a bid submitted on their behalf. All bids were due September 18th. The broker is looking at all the bids and the strongest bids will be sent to the Trustees of Converge Northeast for review. He thinks that the sale may be finalized by the middle of October.

John shared that at the time of last month's RPA meeting, the family that was tentatively considering entering a bid on their behalf had not yet committed to do so, so he was unable to name them when he asked for a letter of support from the RPA for the anticipated bid by a purchaser on behalf of the Lakeside4Christ. John shared that when he subsequently learned that they had committed to submit a bid, he shared with Ken that they were the family of founders and owners of Hobby Lobby.

Ken then consulted with the RPA executive board, which collectively decided that since Hobby Lobby was potentially such a polarizing entity, they needed to inform the full RPA board & ask for a second vote about whether to endorse their bid. Ken so informed John, who decided to withdraw his request for a specific endorsement from the RPA. Ken then reworked his letter into a "generic" letter to the Converge Northeast board, shared it for review by the RPA executive board, made some edits, & then sent it to the Converge Northeast Monday morning. Ken felt time was of the essence as the bid submission deadline was last Friday, September 18, & the Converge Northeast board could begin reviewing bids this week.

Ken then read his "generic" letter that had gone to the Converge Northeast board. It encouraged them to select a bid from an entity that would preserve the character of Richmond Pond as outlined in the RPA's mission statement. Ken has also shared that letter with John, with permission to share it with others if he so chooses. We expect to hear nothing more until Converge Northeast has selected a winning bidder and publicly announced their decision. There was positive feedback expressed as to the tone and content of the letter.

Fall status of Richmond town beach – Ken related that the information he has from Danielle is that the beach remains open until September 30, though vehicle access is now being closed at 3:30 pm daily due to staffing and less people at the beach. When the vehicle access gate is closed for the season, pedestrian access via the side gate will remain throughout the off-season.

Camp Russell summer camp evaluation (its last day was August 21) – Dan reported that this had been the best camp year they have had considering all that was required to open. The campers were safe and had fun

Dan confirmed that the property manager has turned off the pond-side flashing floodlight (on the shoreline shed).

Cleaning of detention basins at Camp Russell – Holly and Linda Kay shared the history of the grant that helped pay for the 2007 construction of the detention basins on Boy's Club property. Linda Kay wrote the grant for the creation of the detention basins. The grant needed to be matched by the Town, which it was. The Town at that time made a commitment to maintain the basins. The Town Administrator at that time of the grant felt that Camp Russell did not have the resources to perform long term maintenance of the basin. The basin on the Boy's Club is not working, which is allowing run off from other parts of the water shed. It has been lost to follow up as the administration for the Town has changed over the years.

Ken shared the following, as Danielle was unable to attend, Danielle has requested the related documentation from the state, & will need to review it once received. There is a tentative meeting scheduled with Holly & others for 9/30, involving key players to firm up what needs to be done and by whom. But if documentation has not been reviewed, that will need to be postponed.

Neal reported that the Town cannot find the file. Linda will provide him with the state link that will allow the Town to access the grant information.

Ken reported that the Richmond Shores Civic Association has been consistently maintaining the catch basins in the Shores for which they are responsible. Carl reported that Branch Farm has been maintaining the rip-rap swale outflow from Camp Russell's catch basin that is adjacent to the Branch Farm access road. The care of the pond is a group effort and all that goes into this is not always apparent.

Cyanobacteria testing results - Carl shared with the treasurer's report that the Cyanobacteria study final report was received on 9/21. The analyst collected samples on 4 days in August primarily from our deep hole of 54 feet. The intent of the study was to check the water quality for the bacteria and compare the numbers to the state limits. Our lake numbers came back very low. The study cost the RPA \$384.30. Carl will share the report with whoever would like a copy.

Canal restoration plan development – After Doreen reported that no one else had volunteered to serve on or chair the effort, Ken expressed a concern, as expressed at a previous RPA meeting, that until someone from Richmond Shores commits to form & lead this project group or task force, serious consideration by RPA would not be moving forward for developing related logistics or seeking funding and a contract for hydro-raking of the canal.

Doreen expressed her concerns of the RPA wanting to put the responsibility on Richmond Shores as this is a pond problem not a Richmond Shores problem. She voiced frustration that

there were not any members volunteering to help. The RPA offered to help once someone volunteered to head the effort, but Doreen felt that a better outcome would happen if more were involved to start.

Barry Kellogg pointed out that this is an entire pond issue, not just a Richmond Shores issue. There was agreement to that conclusion. Brian Grebeldinger reminded RPA that this is a long-term project and Richmond Shores wants to work with RPA to help move this project forward.

Goose management plan evaluation & likely plan for 2021 – Laura reported of those properties, who fully participated in goose management this year, the herding was successful in reducing the size of flocks which visited their beaches around the Pond. People who signed up for the weekly updates enjoyed the photos that Eric shared. Other lakes in the area saw an increase in the number of geese on their shores. When we started this program, we anticipated that goose herding would be a multi-year project. Over time, the geese will learn that trained border collies can show up at any time at Richmond Pond, so they're better off finding another location. We expect to hire Eric Johnson again next year and include Whitewood in his rounds. Right now, geese appear to be migrating. We see them flying over and onto the pond and congregating temporarily rather than spending long days enjoying our land area. Christian reported that his Balderdash property has seen an increase in goose activity. He counted 100 geese on his property.

Balderdash plans for fall & next year–Christian relayed that their plans are uncertain for next year because of the changes with the pandemic. He has an application to move the events from outside to inside the barn. He hopes this will help with noise control. Ken reported for Danielle that the Board of Selectmen will be reviewing renewal of Balderdash's special permit at their first meeting in October. Neal also reported that they will have the results and recommendations from the independent sound engineer who monitored the noise levels at Balderdash.

Odds & ends:

- Drawdown begins November 1st – John – John has indicated that he & the property manager will manage the drawdown, unless ownership changes hands prior to drawdown completion. He will orient the new owner about the process. John is checking to make sure that related permits are in effect.
- Early goose & bear hunting seasons – Ken - Early goose hunting season runs from 9/8 to 9/25, with a daily bag limit of 15 & possession limit of 45. Regular goose season in the Berkshire zone is 10/12 to 11/14 with a daily bag limit of 2. Early bear hunting season runs from 9/15 to 9/26; there are two more bear seasons 11/2 to 11/21 and 11/30 to 12/12. Hunters are reminded that hunting within 500 feet of any dwelling or building in use is prohibited. Wearing of blaze orange in the woods is recommended for all in the fall, including by dogs.

- Website & Facebook updates – Ken & Carl report no significant updates.
- Other - Format & timing for October 27 meeting – Meetings at Town Hall are limited to 9 persons, based on COVID-19 spacing requirements. As we usually draw more than that, Ken recommended that we stay with Zoom for our final meeting of the season. There was agreement to do so.

The next meeting (last scheduled meeting of the season), by Zoom – Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at: 8:29 pm

ATTENDEE LIST:

Directors present (voting): Ken Kelly (president, independent cottages), Carl Foote (treasurer, Branch Farm), Susan Benner (vice president, Whitewood), Doreen Donovan (secretary, Richmond Shores), Miles Garfinkel (At-Large), Dan Joslyn (Camp Russell), John Mead (Lakeside Christian Camp), Laura Rosenthal (South Pond Farm)

Ex-officio present (non-voting): None present

Alternates present: Brian Grebeldinger (Richmond Shores), Al Nardacci (independent cottages), Barry Kellogg (Richmond Shores), Tim Mason (independent cottages), Louise Brogan (Branch Farm)

Guests present: Linda Kay (Richmond Shores), Linda Edelstein, Christian Hanson (Balderdash), Holly Stover (RPA founder & Richmond resident), Neal Pilson (Richmond Town Selectman), Peter Miller (Richmond Shores), Scott Kelly, Jon Adelman (Richmond Shores), Alex Rosenthal (Richmond Shores)

Directors Absent: None

Ex-officio absent: Danielle Fillio (Richmond Town Administrator), Jim McGrath (City of Pittsfield), Dan Scorpa (Richmond Conservation Commission),

Alternates Absent: Kitty Levitan (Whitewood), Kais Abderrahim (Camp Russell), Joe McGovern (Camp Russell), John O'Brien (Branch Farm), Ron Veillette (alternate Conservation Commission)

Pond Association - Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 7:00 pm, via Zoom online

Welcome – Ken welcomed all in attendance and made an announcement on a dog that has gone missing. The owner is Deb Plantier of Richmond Shores and the lost dog is Gigi. Gigi has been missing since Sunday afternoon from Richmond Shores. (Photo shown) She's around 33 pounds with black and brown coloring. She's 3 years old and a rescue. She's unfamiliar with this area and is running scared. She does have a microchip. She's very friendly but shy. If seen, please call Deb at 1-413-441-9257 or 1-413-698-2641. A few attendees have seen the dog and will contact Deb. (Update – A successful outreach & Gigi was back home by Wednesday evening.)

Approval of minutes of 7-28-20– Doreen asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the RPA meeting on 7-28-20 with one amendment in the listing of attendees; Dan Scorpa should be listed as Ex-officio absent, not as Directors absent. The minutes were approved as amended.

Financial report – Carl reported donations to date in the current fiscal year (since July 1st) are \$8,000; related fund-raising costs for the solicitation mailing were \$780. The total in all accounts is \$63,740, including \$20,000 in the dam maintenance fund and \$3,500 in the canal restoration fund. \$2,000 is to be added to each of these earmarked accounts this fiscal year, & a motion was made & approved to do so.

Total payments to Wild Goose Chase, NE are at \$5,470, billed to the RPA through August 4th. All participants have paid their share. Total budget for the goose management program was set at \$6,000. No bills have yet been received from the Town of Richmond for RPA support of the boat ramp monitoring program.

Officer elections– Doreen reported that all four current officers are willing to continue to serve in those roles for another year, if reappointed – Ken Kelly, president; Susan Benner, vice president; Carl Foote, treasurer; and Doreen Donovan, secretary. Other nominations or self-nominations were invited for president, vice president, treasurer or secretary. Hearing none, a motion was made and approved to reappoint all four for another year.

Election to an At-large position on RPA board – Paula Patterson and Miles Garfinkel submitted their resumes in application for an At-large position on the RPA board. Ken summarized a communication that had been sent out in advance of the meeting to all RPA directors, ex-officio members, & alternates, describing the history of the recently created at-large positions on the board, their intent, related wording in the by-laws, & details of the two recently received applications from Paula & Miles.

Following discussion by the executive board, they decided to fill only one of the at-large positions at this time – for two reasons, (1) The two at-large voting positions were created to provide opportunity for folks who don't live on the pond, but are pond users, to have regular input on pond matters. Both were initially filled by persons who did not live on the pond, but have now been vacant for a full year. While our By-laws provide more flexibility in who may fill these positions, holding one of the positions open, while more proactively seeking an applicant who doesn't live on the pond, seems appropriate to honor the intent of these at-large positions. (2) The other reason is to avoid a potential over-representation of one community on our board, as both applicants live in Richmond Shores; appointing both applicants would result in 3 voting representatives from the Shores community; all other communities only have one.

Each candidate was given the opportunity to make a statement & field questions. A vote was then taken (by voting directors only), resulting in the appointment of Miles Garfinkel to the board.

Major developments at the pond:

Status of Richmond town beach – Danielle reports that the beach is still open as it has been. This is the last week for lifeguards as they are heading back to school. She did not have any updates on Labor Day weekend as that is on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen to discuss tomorrow night. (**Update** - The Selectmen decided at their 8/26 meeting that the Town Beach would be closed following Labor Day. But at their subsequent meeting on 9/2, in response to a request, they reconsidered and decided that the Town Beach would remain open during September.)

Monitors at the boat ramp – Danielle also reported that two more monitors have been hired, enabling all shifts to be filled. Monitors can stay on until Labor Day, September 7th. Danielle was unsure of when the kayak launch dock would be removed. She will get back to Ken when she has the answer. She did not know how long the Porta-potty remains at the boat ramp, as these are owned by the State.

Pending sale of Lakeside Christian Camp – John provided an update on the status of the camp and asked for a letter of support from the RPA for the anticipated bid by a purchaser on behalf of the Lakeside4Christ organization to acquire the camp & continue its activities as a Christian all-season camp & retreat facility. John provided draft wording of such a letter to Ken this afternoon, & this was shared. John's concern is that the Lakeside4Christ organization will be bidding against developers with more money and feels that a letter of support could help the current ministry's bid to buy the camp.

Discussion followed about the appropriateness of a specific letter of support for one organization, especially with no knowledge of who other bidders might be, or whether a more general letter of support that might apply to other bidders, may be appropriate. Discussion included whether to act on John's request today, or to table it & schedule a special RPA meeting prior to the September 18th bid submission deadline, to discuss & potentially act on a letter of support that might be more general in nature.

Ken shared that he'd talked by phone yesterday with the lead realtor for the listing agency, and while the realtor shared that they've received lots of interest in the listing – exceeding their expectations, he could not share any information about numbers of inquiries, numbers of potential buyers scheduling tours, or categories of prospective buyers. The timetable remains as previously announced; a “call for offers” is planned the 2nd week of September, with bids due on September 18th by 5 pm.

Discussion from those in attendance voiced their support to keep this a Christian Camp with John's organization as they have been good stewards of Richmond Pond. A motion was made to write a supportive letter on behalf of Lakeside4Christ. This motion was approved, with John abstaining from the vote. The RPA executive board will draft a letter and have John review the draft before its submission.

Camp Russell summer camp evaluation (its last day was August 21) – Dan was not in attendance, so there was not an update. It was mentioned that Dan will be requested to turn off & leave off their annoying pond-side flashing floodlight (on the shoreline shed).

Weed treatment & pond closing on August 24 – Carl posted Pond Closing fliers around the pond the Thursday before the treatment. Residents were also notified in advance about the Monday pond closing in multiple other ways, and boat ramp monitors were present all day to deter launching. Solitude provided the 2nd treatment on Monday, including the entire canal. One observer reported that a complete coverage of the canal was done, expressing gratitude for the treatment. This treatment also addressed the invasive Spiny Naiad from the town beach to Richmond Shores. Carl reported that the native stringy tape-weed is surfacing around the pond, clogging our props and challenging our swimmers. The yellow haze on the quiet pond seems to be the seeding from the tape-weed. The lack of heavy rain and the low tributary flows are not washing the surface collection to the shores & downstream. The RPA voted last year not to try the marginally effective special tape-weed treatment, but to “let it be.”

Tributaries testing – Carl reported that on 8/18 all four tributaries and the outlet were tested for E.coli, Nitrates and Phosphate. All readings were in the acceptable ranges.

Canal restoration plan development – Doreen presented the idea of forming a subcommittee to work on a comprehensive plan for the canal. The hope would be to have representatives from the Town, ConCom, RPA and RSCA. No one volunteered at the meeting, from any of these organizations, though Doreen mentioned that Linda Kay had expressed a willingness to serve on it. In response to a question, Dan Scorpa felt that he was too busy, but would talk with others on the Conservation Commission.

Carl spoke to the Solitude representative the day of the weed treatment; she will provide the contact information for the person at Solitude who would respond to a request for an updated cost estimate for canal hydro-raking. Ken did encourage all with questions about hydro-raking to view the hydro-raking video on Solitude's web site.

Initial test results for cyanobacteria blooms; related communication plan – Carl reported that cyanobacteria testing is ongoing on Thursdays in August. Samples are taken by a contractor in the deeper part of the lake at about 27 feet. The phycocyanin levels are extremely low at 0.10 parts per billion. The samples are collected along with samples from Pontoosuc Lake & Lake Onota under the guidance of Ken Wagner, for Jim McGrath (Pittsfield) and the RPA. Richmond Pond is looking healthy.

The Board of Health has expressed interest in Danielle putting together a meeting to have these cyanobacteria-related planning discussions. Any decision (to close the pond) really needs to come from the Board of Health. The Select Board would most likely want to hear their recommendations, but Danielle believes that the Board of Health has the authority to shut down public locations that are a public health safety. If we would like to designate someone from the RPA, they can attend the BOH meeting. If the RPA is looking for a different sub-committee of the Board of Health, we would have to organize it slightly differently.

Ken emphasized that a collaborative communication plan should be developed, perhaps modeled after the beach testing protocol, on how to notify residents & others about a pond closing, should it become necessary. Richmond & Pittsfield Boards of Health, Richmond Select Board, Town Administrator & RPA should have input to the plan.

Goose management progress & status – Laura reported that Wild Goose Chase is currently taking a break from weekly visits. Overall, Richmond Pond has had smaller flocks of geese than prior years and so beaches and shores, while certainly not goose-free, have been less contaminated. At this time of year, all the geese are flying, so herding them can be a bit more challenging. Also, none of our properties have reported excessive goose problems in the past two weeks, so Eric Johnson has been more “on call” rather than a weekly schedule. We have also run up costs to the budgeted amount. However, if anyone around the Pond needs additional border collie visits, Laura can call Eric back to address the situation. Whitewood plans to participate next season. One person attending expressed concern about the increase in the duck population.

Swimming safety – Susan report that there are not any new updates, but if anyone knows the swimmer who is swimming across the pond at dusk to tell her that her light is not bright enough. Susan also reviewed guidelines for swimmer safety - have a float attached, have a safety boat accompanying, or swim only in the safer areas by the shore.

Cleaning of catch basins at Camp Russell – Ken relayed that Danielle had asked if there is a request for the town to clean something, she would ask that it be sent to her in writing and she will share it with the Highway Superintendent. It appears there has been some issue with who is responsible for what. Ken asked Holly if there is some sort of agreement somewhere stating who is responsible for the cleaning. She did not know, but will reach out to Linda Kay, who may know.

Marijuana indoor & outdoor cultivation @ EOS Bittersweet Farm – Laura doesn't have any real updates on the pot farm, but Richmond Record did a nice article about it in the August issue, and she's been encouraging people to read it.

Odds & ends:

· Format & timing for September & October RPA meetings – The format for the next two meetings will continue to be held through Zoom and at 7:00 pm.

· Book on the history of Richmond Pond – Ken announced that there is a volunteer from Whitewood to help with at least that segment of the book. He also relayed that a vote for funding this project needs to be done at either the September or October meeting in order to move this forward.

· Website & Facebook updates – Carl reports that there are not any new updates on the Facebook page; Ken has added new pictures and updates to the RPA website.

· Noise concerns – Ken had called InterPrint a few weeks prior with concerns about noise from their plant. This has improved. Ken will send a suggested letter he drafted regarding the Pittsfield Airport noise to the Board of Selectman. Miles shared a statement from himself and 25 other residents of RSCA voicing their disappointment with the BOS in their response to the noise level from Balderdash, which has included encouraged yelling & beating of drums. RSCA residents have called and emailed the Board on numerous occasions asking for help with this issue. Those concerned also feel that there has been inadequate help from Balderdash, as the problem continues. Neal Pilson invited Miles and others to attend the BOS meeting tomorrow night at 6 pm. The noise from Balderdash is on the agenda with thoughts of having a professional service measure the noise level.

Jet-skis - Ken recently paddled around the Pond and observed that there are 5 jet-skis at different properties. If inappropriate behavior is witnessed, please take a picture and report the incident to Danielle, Ken &/or the MA Environmental Police.

The next meeting, by Zoom – Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

ATTENDEE LIST

Directors present (voting): Ken Kelly (president, independent cottages), Carl Foote (treasurer, Branch Farm), Susan Benner (vice president, Whitewood), Doreen Donovan (secretary, Richmond Shores), John Mead (Lakeside Christian Camp), Laura Rosenthal (South Pond Farm)

Ex-officio present (non-voting): Danielle Fillio (Richmond Town Administrator), Dan Scorpa (Richmond Conservation Commission)

Alternates present: Brian Grebeldinger (Richmond Shores), Al Nardacci (independent cottages), Barry Kellogg (Richmond Shores), Jessica Baumgarten (South Pond Farm Association), Kitty Levitan (Whitewood), Louise Brogan (Branch Farm)

Guests present: Miles Garfinkel (Richmond Shores), Holly Stover (RPA founder & Richmond resident), Neal Pilson (Richmond Town Selectman), Linda Edelstein (Richmond Shores), Paula Patterson (Richmond Shores), Joann Blauer (Richmond Shores), Jon Adelman (Richmond Shores), Scott Kelly (independent cottages), Peter Miller (Richmond Shores), Fran Schneit (Whitewood)

Directors Absent: Dan Joslyn (Camp Russell)

Ex-officio absent: Jim McGrath (City of Pittsfield), Ron Veillette (alternate Conservation Commission)

Alternates Absent: Kais Abderrahim (Camp Russell), Tim Mason (independent cottages), Joe McGovern (Camp Russell), John O'Brien (Branch Farm)

Executive profiles – A company is only as strong as its executive leadership. This is a good place to show off who's occupying the corner offices. Write a nice bio about each executive that includes what they do, how long they've been at it, and what got them to where they are.

**Richmond Pond Association – Minutes - Annual Meeting
Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 7:00 pm, via Zoom online**

Opener – Ken welcomed all the attendees to Zoom and started the meeting with a quote that a recent donor to the RPA, who lives in Richmond Shores, included in the envelope with her donation check to the RPA. - **"The pond is my sanctuary - my haven. It must be protected."** Ken said this is what RPA is all about. It is our sanctuary, our haven, & we exist to protect it. And the pond has been especially important to us during the restrictions & fears that COVID-19 has thrust upon us this year. So a great big thank you to the pond, for its serenity, its wildlife, its recreational value, & how important it has been to us, especially this year.

Share tips on participation in Zoom - Ken reviewed the etiquette for the meeting via Zoom with the attendees

Acknowledgement of RPA board members participating – Doreen acknowledged the board members and the alternates who were present at the meeting.

Financial report – Carl reported that our fiscal year ended June 30th and he is drafting the annual financial report that is due to the state on October 31st. The good news is:

1. Total funds have grown from \$43,660 in 2019 to \$59,195 at FY end June 30th, 2020.
2. Contributions in FY 2019-2020 were \$19,712 versus \$11,905 prior year; thank you Balderdash!
3. Expenses were about the same at \$8,500.

Since our last meeting, in June we have spent:

1. Wild Goose Chase, \$2,470. All partners have been invoiced to reimburse RPA for their share.
2. Fundraising mailing to 1,010 addresses on 7/17; ZIP n Sort, \$778.
3. The Richmond Record annual advertising, \$290.

As of 7/28, we have already received \$1,946 in donations in response to the solicitation letter.

Approval of minutes of 6-23-20 – Doreen asked for a motion to approve the minutes from 6/23/20. This was seconded and the minutes were approved.

Major developments at the pond

Pending sale of Lakeside Christian Camp – John reported that there will be an open bidding process for the sale of the camp. The most attractive bids will be presented to the trustee, Converge Northeast, and they will decide on whom to sell to. It will not necessarily be the highest bidder, but could be a competitive bidder who they think may enable the spirit of the camp to continue. John was asked about potential buyers. He knows that the Boys and Girls Club

and Milltown Capital have expressed interest. John also mentioned the Lakeside4Christ initiative, which is also interested in buying the camp and keeping it as a Christian camp. They have their own website; its link is on RPA website News page & on Lakeside's website.

Ken added that the organization that owns the Lakeside property, Converge Northeast, has given the exclusive listing to Ellis Realty Advisors (Norwell, MA). Anyone potentially interested in purchasing the property are to contact them. Contact info is on RPA website & Lakeside website. Ken's recent communication with the listing realtor (Colin Moynihan) indicated they plan to "take the property to market" the first week in August.

John also reported that there has been a problem with trespassers on the property coming in from the water. There are No Trespassing signs posted, but if residents see trespassers, please call John.

Status of Richmond town beach – Danielle reported that the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health have been monitoring the public beach on the weekends and intermittently during the week. They observed that the people present were following the social distancing guidelines. There is still a lot of garbage left behind. This seems to happen after the lifeguard leaves at 5 pm. The town administration wants to keep the beach open past 5 pm so that residents can come after work, but continued littering may jeopardize this.

Monitors at the boat ramp– Danielle reported that the Town has hired another boat ramp monitor. He will work Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am-2pm. The other monitor continues to work Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Their pay is \$15 an hour.

Camp Russell summer camp– Dan reported that camp is going great. They are keeping the children in the same groups, all are wearing masks and hand washing is done frequently. There are 90 campers this year due to following the state guidelines, compared to 364 last year. There were a few openings available for the last two sessions.

Weed treatment(s) – Carl reported that the Pond was treated 6/11, post-treatment assessment on 7/15. While the related report had not yet been received, the results reported by email from Kara of Solitude stated, "There wasn't much spiny naiad, just a bit near the launch The channel was relatively clogged with various growth per usual and I got to chat with those channel neighbors who wanted to talk about things. I'd say if we do treat the naiad, we should do the channel as well to keep water flowing since it has been relatively drought-like."

Carl also reported that he'd paddled the pond on Saturday, starting at Branch Farm on the south side, then counter-clockwise. Tapegrass was observed on the bottom. When he got past the town

beach, more growth was seen. When you get to Richmond Shores by the boat launch the water turns murky and the tapegrass is flowering on the surface. Once you pass the canal the murkiness resides but the tape grass is thick. He saw spiny naiad in front of the canal, but did not go into the canal. Then he reached Camp Russell and no more surface weeds were seen. There does not seem to be much water flow coming out of the canal at this time, even though we had a few downpours this week. Carl will contact Kara about re-treating the canal. And there was a large downed weeping willow about 100 feet from the Nordeen Marsh bridge. Brian has spoken with the homeowner and he is working on removing parts that are in the water. Brian also asked Ron Veillette about removing debris that was washed into the canal last year. Ron will come and look at it. He will also investigate if a permit is needed to place weed mats on the canal floor to help stop weed growth. Ron asked if the water samples are tested for Phosphorus; Carl said that they are.

Planning for possible cyanobacteria blooms – Jim reported that Pittsfield initiated testing of Onota & Pontoosuc Lakes for cyanobacteria by Shannon Poulin of Westfield State in mid-June, & thus far all samples have been OK. She reportedly also tested Lake Garfield & Lake Buel last year. The 9-page 2/28/20 description of cyanobacteria by Water Resources Services, Inc. (Ken Wagner) was shared back then as a resource, & indicates that these blooms are most likely in September, & also likely in August or July. A summary model strategy was to have been developed by Pittsfield & then shared with the other lakes & ponds in the Berkshires; but no separate protocol has been developed. On 5/31/20, RPA received a communication forwarded by LAPA-West from Bay State Health, about a cyanobacteria testing vendor identifying Ms. Poulin as a testing resource. Jim has asked Shannon to include Richmond Pond in her weekly testing. Carl will work with Jim on this.

There is a concern that there may be a repeat bloom in Pittsfield lakes, as the conditions this year are favorable to this. Jim also said that it is important to know the type of bloom it is (only some are toxic) and be proactive about the messaging to the community.

Canal restoration plan development – Brian relayed that he and Andy & Linda Kay met with Kara Sliwoski of Solitude Lake Management after she did the post-treatment weed assessment. Kara agreed that the inlet and canal needed additional treatment for native weeds and that treatments should be part of the weed maintenance program. She was going to reach out to the Town and ask if it could be treated soon. She also said that the years that the inlet and canal were not treated contributed to the poor condition that we are currently experiencing. Ken mentioned that permitting requirements with Richmond & Pittsfield could delay treatment, especially for native weeds. Ken recommended that RPA's canal project group should begin the process of getting quotes for hydro-raking and the permits that would be needed.

Goose management progress– Laura has been working with Eric Johnson from Wild Goose Chase NE. She reports that herding began 2 times a week and will be 3 times a week in August. The time of day varies. There are now 70-90 geese counted on the Pond, though they are not here all the time, as they can now fly. There have been no reports of E.coli outbreaks at the pond's beaches. The program seems to be helping us keep the pond as a balanced preserve. Contributors

to the goose management program are the Town of Richmond, South Pond Farm, the Levy parcel and Camp Russell. RPA pays the rest of the balance. Susan is going to recommend to Whitewood Association that they start to participate. Dan Joslyn questioned the effectiveness of the hazing at Camp Russell and Laura informed him that the property manager there had asked Wild Goose Chase to leave the property and not return. Dan will follow up with this. Paula Patterson and Joann Blauer of Richmond Shores shared concerns about the increased goose activity on their property and the aggression from the geese. They questioned why Richmond Shores was not participating in the program. The Shores had voted against participating last year. Brian did inform them that the RSCA annual meeting is August 2nd and they can come to voice their concerns.

Swimming safety– Susan addressed the issue of some deep-water swimmers not wearing buoys or bright caps or being accompanied by a paddler when they are swimming; they are difficult to see. Ken also mentioned that he’s twice encountered a cross-pond swimmer who swims at dusk without floats or accompaniment from the boat launch to the opposite shore & returns at dark – a very dangerous practice. That person has ignored even shouted warnings from Ken. Please warn boaters to motor slowly & be highly alert for such swimmers as dusk & dark approach, to avoid a tragedy. Having information at the boat ramp to remind swimmers to use the safe areas along the shore line for swimming, having a safety boat and a swim buoy in place for safety could be helpful, even though swimming at the boat ramp is prohibited.

Book on the history of Richmond Pond – Ken has posted a summary description of the project, with draft table of contents, on the RPA website. He has also reached out to each of the 4 community associations to identify a lead person to draft content for the book. Thus far, there are volunteers from Richmond Shores & Branch Farm. More writers are needed for the various segments, and a funding vote to support the project should be taken this fall if it to become a reality.

Website & Facebook updates - Ken has added 2 new pages to the website, as drop-downs from the MORE page of the menu bar – Pond History Book Project & Boat Tour of the Pond. Also, the NEWS page includes updates on the town beach & Lakeside Christian Camp. Ken encouraged joining the website subscribers’ group; just send him an email. Regarding Facebook updates, Carl reports that there is not much going on this page, this is not getting a lot of attention; postings are encouraged.

Marijuana indoor & outdoor cultivation @ EOS Bittersweet Farm – Laura recounted, as reported at last month’s RPA meeting, that the South Pond Farm community has cause for concern (about odors & lighting) because they learned recently that there is a marijuana farm being built at 1107 Barker Road, just north of the Richmond/Pittsfield town line. The name of the cannabis enterprise is EOS Bittersweet. From what she knows, there will be a cultivation building and 2 greenhouses. They will also be growing outdoors. She is not sure when the farming will start and

it is unknown if the smell and the lights will be a problem. There will be an article about this in the August issue of *Richmond Record*.

Odds & ends-

- RPA Meetings - Format for this year's remaining meetings will be Zoom.

- Airport noise assessment: The new airport manager Daniel Shearer started 6/15/20. Ken took an informal poll about the airport noise, compared to last year. Five thought the noise had improved, while 6 thought it was worse and one thought it was the same. There has been military aircraft training coming from the airport. This happens once a month and the noise is extremely loud. Barry Kellogg questioned if this should be a priority for RPA or if this is an issue for the Town. Ken voiced concern for the wildlife, but Mark Lessner, whose cottage is under the nest, has not seen any negative effects on the eagles.

- MA-COLAP - Ken reported on the dissolution of MA COLAP (Council of Lakes and Ponds). Its membership has been incorporated into LAPA-West. RPA is a member of LAPA-West.

- Harassment by jet skis - Jessica relayed that she was harassed by 2 jet skiers when she was paddling on the pond. Ken said that there are related regulations on mass.gov - Personal Watercraft Safety Law Summary. He advised her to look there. Neal suggested that if this happens again, since the jet skiers come from the boat ramp, to ask the boat ramp monitor for license plate numbers and report to the State Police. This could result in a fine to the owners.

- Catch basins - Brian updated the RPA that Richmond Shores had their catch basins pumped recently and wondered if there was any movement with the basins at Camp Russell being pumped. Apparently nothing has been done at Camp Russell with maintenance of the basins. Holly Stover also stressed the importance of this being done. This will be added to the agenda for August.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm. The **next meeting, by Zoom – Tuesday, August 25**; will include officer elections. (NOTE – After the 7/28 meeting, the meeting time for August 25 was set – it will be **7:00 pm**.)

ATTENDEE LIST

Directors present (voting): Ken Kelly (president, independent cottages), Carl Foote (treasurer, Branch Farm), Susan Benner (vice president, Whitewood), Doreen Donovan (secretary, Richmond Shores), Dan Joslyn (Camp Russell), John Mead (Lakeside Christian Camp), Laura Rosenthal (South Pond Farm)

Ex-officio/non-voting: Danielle Fillio (Richmond Town Administrator), Jim McGrath (City of Pittsfield), Ron Veillette (alternate Conservation Commission)

Alternates present: Brian Grebeldinger (Richmond Shores), Tim Mason (independent cottages), Al Nardacci (independent cottages), Barry Kellogg (Richmond Shores), Jessica Baumgarten (South Pond Farm Association)

Guests present: Miles Garfinkel (Richmond Shores), Christian & Donna Hanson (Balderdash), Holly Stover (RPA founder & Richmond resident), Mark and Faye Lessner (Branch Farm), Neal Pilson (Richmond Town Selectman), Linda Edelstein, Scott Kelly, Steve and Paula Patterson (Richmond Shores), Joann Blauer (Richmond Shores)

Ex-officio absent - Dan Scorpa (Richmond Conservation Commission)

Alternates absent: Kitty Levitan (Whitewood), Kais Abderrahim (Camp Russell), Louise Brogan (Branch Farm), Joe McGovern (Camp Russell), John O'Brien (Branch Farm)

**Minutes - Richmond Pond Association
June 23, 2020, via Zoom online meeting**

Opener – Ken welcomed all to Zoom and Doreen took roll call; there was a quorum.

RPA Business:

1. Approve 5/19/20 meeting minutes – A motion was made to approve the May 19th minutes. The minutes were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report – Carl reported that the balance in all accounts is \$60,263, with \$19,934 of this in the dam maintenance account and \$3,501 in the canal restoration account. We currently have the following commitments:

Microbac water testing lab 370

Chubb directors & officers insurance 1,465 (two years coverage)

Town of Richmond ramp monitor program 8,000

Dam maintenance budget 2,000

Canal restoration budget 2,000

Total commitments 13,835

3. COVID-19 State of Emergency Update - Per Ken's communication with Danielle, cottage rentals are now allowable, though 14-day quarantine by anyone coming in from out-of-state is still encouraged but not required. The town beach hours are 11 to 5 pm, with lifeguard staffing that started 2 weeks ago, except on Mondays. Boat launch monitoring staff is a problem; currently there is only 1 person hired & worked two 8-hours shifts this past weekend & will likely continue that, perhaps adding hours on Thursdays. More staff is needed and all were asked to share this with our communities. Out-of-state boat launching is not being enforced, given our proximity to state line.

4. Pond-related results of Richmond Annual Town Meeting Wed., 6/17 – Ken reported the following: Town beach lifeguards & equipment \$15,600 approved; boat ramp monitors \$20,600 initially proposed, but only \$7,500 recommended & approved, plus \$8,000 from RPA – that amount should be sufficient per Danielle's communication with Ken. \$15,000 weed treatment approved; goose management \$600 approved.

5. Camp Russell summer camp plans – Dan was not present to report on the opening of the camp. But it is known that they are working with the Richmond Board of Health on opening plans under updated parameters. The hope is to open the camp on July 6th.

6. Lakeside Christian Camp status update– John was not present to provide any updates. Ken shared his communication yesterday with Tim Ponzani, District Executive Minister for Converge Northeast, who indicated that the camp had not yet been listed for sale but that should be firmed up in a week or so. As discussed at our last meeting, the dam at the camp is out of compliance with some items noted in the last state inspection, and realistically these remedies will not happen this summer.

Priority Projects:

Shared Goose Management Plan – Progress report – Laura reported that Eric Johnson of Wild Goose Chase NE planned to be at Richmond Pond Sunday evening (June 21), Wednesday evening (June 24) and early Friday morning (June 26) to herd any geese that are on the shores of Richmond public beach, Camp Russell (at the Pond and pool), the Levy property, South Pond Farm, and Lakeside Camp.

On June 13, Eric found families of geese at Lakeside Christian Camp in the evening, as well as at South Pond Farm. He herded them by kayak with a dog running on the shore. The geese eventually moved on. He also found geese at Richmond Town beach and Camp Russell. He used the same herding technique. On June 17, he found a family of geese near the town beach, which then they swam towards Richmond Shores although someone was clapping his hands to scare off the geese. A group of 30 geese joined the group, probably coming from the South Pond Farm / Levy's part of the Pond. He saw about 75 geese that morning. Some of the goslings are very young so those groups have to get to land more quickly than the families with older offspring. The hope is that the geese will find safety down the canal rather than the beaches.

Since there is still a lot of goose evidence on the beaches, we decided to increase the goose chasing to three visits this next week, both morning and evenings. Right now, the geese are very comfortable on our shores, and the goal is to discourage that as well as disrupt their cycle of going from one grassy hillside to another around the Pond. Laura is emailing interested parties the dates of the goose herding visits.

Cyanobacteria protocol model – Jim was not present, so there was not an update.

Announcements/Updates:

· Weed treatment conducted on 6/11 – Carl shared that Solitude performed weed treatment on June 11th for invasive weeds on the west side of the lake from the town beach to Richmond

Shores including both segments of the canal. Both invasives - curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian milfoil - were seen. A late July survey will be done to determine if an August treatment will be needed. Doreen asked about the efficacy of the weed treatment in the canal, as the canal continues to be weed-choked. Carl suggested that she meet with Solitude when they come to do the assessment in July. She is agreeable to this. Ken clarified that Solitude's treatment only impacts the invasives, and suggested contacting ConCom to ask whether permits are required for homeowners or others to rake native weeds out of the canal.

- Tributaries & beaches – water sampling results – Carl reported that on June 16th Ken and Carl took water samples at Clark's Brook, Richmond Shores Bridge Street, Whitewood Brook, Tracy Brook (on Levy property) and at the dam on Lakeside property. All readings for E. coli, Phosphates and Nitrates were tested in the safe zone. The E.coli at Clark's Brook was 137 and was 161 at Tracy Brook which is nicely below the 235 safe swimming threshold.

- Memorial options for Jack O'Brien – Carl updated the group on discussions about memorial options with the O'Brien family. Ken shared the current cost of a bench that would exactly match the two already at the boat launch area; it would be \$725 including in-ground mount, by Frog Furnishings, plus \$235 shipping, for a total of \$960. This is quite a bit more than they cost 4 years ago, according to the vendor, primarily resulting from the recently imposed tariffs. Additional discussions are needed about locations, permissions, installation plans & costs or whether to shift to a plaque or similar approach, as RPA & other pond-related entities honor those who have positively impacted the pond. Carl suggested that just a brass plaque be created & mounted on an existing bench. Carl also had chatted with John O'Brien of Crescent Creamery about this idea, as well as having the family construct something on the lake side of Jack's cottage so his large family would see it on their visits & stop & reflect on everything Papa Jack has done. This will be discussed more at the next meeting.

- Book on History of Richmond Pond – Ken has communicated with the prospective publisher regarding preferred formats for submission. He is continuing to reach out to seek commitments for segment writers, with limited results thus far. This has been slow progress but the target still is for a late spring 2021 publication date.

- Airport update – New manager Daniel Shearer started 6/15; Danielle reported to Ken that the airport noise-related communication action is on the agenda for Richmond Select Board meeting tomorrow.

- Format/location for RPA 7/28 “annual meeting”– Discussion was held as to where the annual meeting was to be held. Balderdash was suggested but decided against primarily due to Covid-19 concerns. It was felt that the safest way to hold our meetings during this period would be by Zoom. A motion was made, seconded & approved to hold our July & August meetings by Zoom.

For next year, it was suggested that it would be nice to hold meetings at other locations around the pond, like town beach, Lakeside Christian Camp, &/or Balderdash.

Any update items, of interest to all, from camps, community associations & others:

· Marijuana farm- Laura reported the South Pond Farm community has cause for concern because they learned recently that there is currently a marijuana farm being built on Barker Road, just north of the Richmond/Pittsfield town line. The name of the farm is EOS Bittersweet. From what she knows, there will be a cultivation building and 2 green houses. They will also be growing outdoors. Susan was able to find the notice which was in the Pittsfield Gazette July 2019.

Next meeting – the “Annual” meeting, Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 5:30 pm Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM. (NOTE - The start time of the annual meeting was subsequently changed to 7:00 pm.)

Directors present (voting): Ken Kelly (president, independent cottages), Carl Foote (treasurer, Branch Farm), Susan Benner (vice president, Whitewood), Doreen Donovan (Richmond Shores), Laura Rosenthal (South Pond Farm)

Ex-officio/non-voting: None

Alternates present: Louise Brogan (Branch Farm)

Guests present: Peter Miller (Richmond Shores)

Directors Absent: Dan Joslyn (Camp Russell), John Mead (Lakeside Christian Camp)

Alternates Absent: Kais Abderrahim (Camp Russell), Barry Kellogg (Richmond Shores), Joe McGovern (Camp Russell), John O’Brien (Branch Farm), Ron Veillette (Richmond Conservation Commission), Jessica Baumgarten (South Pond Farm), Brian Grebeldinger (Richmond Shores), Kitty Levitan (Whitewood), Tim Mason (independent cottages), Al Nardacci (independent cottages)

Ex-officio/non-voting Absent: Danielle Fillio (Richmond Town Administrator), Jim McGrath (City of Pittsfield), Dan Scorpa (Richmond Conservation Commission)

MINUTES - Richmond Pond Association
Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 5:30 pm, via Zoom online meeting

Opener – Doreen welcomed all to the RPA Zoom meeting and clarified the voting process. Roll call was taken.

RPA Business:

1. Approve 4/28/20 meeting minutes - A motion was made to approve the April 28th minutes. The minutes were approved.

2. Treasurer's Report & approval of 2020-2021 budget – Carl referred to the draft FY 2020-2021 budget that was recently emailed to all board members & alternates. He reported total assets of \$60,217, broken down as follows: dam maintenance fund \$19,972; canal restoration fund \$3,501; and all other bank accounts \$36,744. The distributed budget sheet from yesterday now has 3 additions to expenses: expected invoices for the Directors and Officers insurance of \$743, the ESS Nordeen Marsh/lake level monitoring program year 3 of \$3,200, and LAPA-West dues of \$100. Total income to date in FY 2020 is \$23,923, which includes the \$7,000 donation from Balderdash. Expected expenses to date are about \$20,417. This suggests a net income of \$3,504. The proposed FY 2021 budget projects \$11,060 in revenues, \$22,146 in expenses (including the one-time contribution of \$8,000 toward boat ramp monitors), for a net loss of \$11,086. This would leave us with a balance of \$53,131 at the end of FY2021. A motion was made to approve the proposed FY 2021 budget with the mentioned amendments. The FY 2021 budget was approved.

3. COVID-19 State of Emergency & Re-Opening phases – Danielle was not present so Ken relayed her responses to the email he had sent her. The Governor's declared State of Emergency is still in effect. Each phase will last at least 3 weeks, possibly longer depending on numbers and testing.

a. Impact on cottage rentals to locals and people from out of state – Previously announced restrictions remain in effect under phase 1. However they are working to get that changed prior to phase 2.

b. Date when boat ramp monitors start - Not known at this time.

c. Town beach “soft” opening - Also not known at this time.

d. Official town beach season opening date - Not known at this time.

Ken did cite the current Massachusetts guidelines for beaches shown below.

(Excerpts from 5/18 memo from Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, subject: Beaches Guidelines for Managers – “All beach visitors shall comply with COVID-19 Order 31: Order requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible:

“...any person over the age of 2,... to wear a face covering or mask when they cannot maintain 6 feet of distance between themselves and others... Masks are not required to be worn while swimming. No groups larger than 10 are allowed to gather.”)

e. Lifeguards begin when, during what days/hours - Not known at this time.

f. Boat launching by out-of-state registered vehicles prohibited - Danielle is trying to figure out the logistics of enforcing this. Neil Pilson reported that he has seen boats with New York license plates at the boat ramp but there is little assistance from law enforcement and the environmental police. He felt that it is impractical to try and enforce this. Jim McGrath felt that it is more important to hire a boat ramp monitor to make sure the boats coming into Richmond Pond are clean and have not been in waters where zebra mussels are present.

4. Richmond Town budget recommendations for pond-related items - Town beach lifeguards, boat ramp monitors (20,600 – 8,000 = 12,600), weed treatment, goose management (\$600), to be voted on at Annual Town Meeting, Wed., June 17, 7:30 pm @ Richmond School – All recommended budget items have been voted in favor by the Select Board and will be put to a Town meeting vote.

5. Camp Russell summer camp plans– Dan reports that they are moving forward with plans to open the Camp on June 29th though they are studying social distancing strategies & waiting for the regulations from the State and ACA. The Camp will not open if it cannot do so safely. If they open, there may not be swimming in the lake; they’d use the pool, & they would participate in the goose management plan.

6. Lakeside Christian Camp update – John was not present to report on the dissolution of the camp so Ken reported on the dam. Based on the 2017 inspection of the dam and a subsequent legal notice in 2019 from the MA Office of Dam Safety, concerns identified during the dam inspection were to be remedied no later than 8/5/20. Related documents have been shared by John with Rev. Tim Ponzani, District Executive Minister of Converge Northeast. While some of these items have been addressed, others have not, and according to Rev. Ponzani, the dam is now in legal non-compliance. One impact of this may be that the camp would have difficulty being

put on the market or sold until the dam is back in compliance with state-listed parameters. And given the need to develop engineering plans, have them approved by the appropriate boards, put the projects out to bid, and schedule & complete the work, all within parameters impacted by COVID-19, there is no way all this can be accomplished by 8/5/20. Converge Northeast is working on this, including re-engaging the engineer who conducted the dam inspection, & will keep the RPA posted on their progress. Neil questioned if there were any documents showing who was legally responsible if anything happens to the dam. That was not known.

Priority Projects:

Shared Goose Management Plan – Finalize/approve 2020 plan, including cost-sharing – Laura reported that a letter of agreement between Wild Goose Chase, NE & South Pond Farm, Inc. (on behalf of RPA) has been finalized, clarifying the terms of the service, in compliance with the goose-herding parameters outlined by Andrew Madden of Mass Wildlife. The contracting agency is South Pond Farm, Inc., and Laura is serving as the RPA’s communication liaison with Wild Goose Chase, NE. Any concerns are to be relayed to Laura, who will serve as RPA’s point-person with the vendor. Anticipated partners to be serviced by the intervention are the Town of Richmond (town beach & boat ramp areas), Lakeside Christian Camp, South Pond Farm Condominium Assn., the Levy property and Camp Russell. Camp Russell has agreed to fund a higher portion of the total cost (up to \$1,200) since Wild Goose Chase will herd geese away from both their beach and their swimming pool area. Total expenditures, as outlined in the FY 2021 budget just approved, are not to exceed \$6,000 for the goose management service. Laura will review vendor billings (@ \$65/half-hour) for accuracy & forward them to RPA for payment. The RPA will pay the vendor directly and then get reimbursement from the participating properties. The RPA should end up funding about half the total cost. A motion was made & approved to endorse RPA participation in the project.

Cyanobacteria protocol model - Status of protocol development & incorporation into Water Testing & Communications Protocol – Jim shared that Ken Wagner of Water Resource Services, Inc., had participated in a 2/28/20 discussion with City of Pittsfield officials & others regarding the development of a cyanobacteria protocol. Ken Wagner then wrote a 2/28/20 detailed (9-page) “white paper” summary of the group discussion & related information about cyanobacteria, monitoring processes, public interaction, & possible management options. Ken Kelly will share this paper with anyone who would like to read it. Jim recommended that next steps appear to be limiting phosphorus inputs to lakes, & development of recommended cyanobacteria monitoring & sampling protocols for Onota & Pontoosuc Lakes, hopefully within the next month. Protocols would likely include related educational outreach including consistent agreement on public signage to be used. This would then be shared with the Town of Richmond, RPA & other LAPA-West lake & pond associations.

Ken mentioned the related brochure recently developed & distributed by the Richmond Conservation Commission, which includes recommendations on suggested native vegetative borders & minimizing lawns.

Susan would like to start a more proactive educational initiative for property owners around Richmond Pond that addresses how fertilizers with phosphorus can lead to a bloom, with information to be posted at community association kiosks along with sending something to residents. Jim reported that there is information on the City of Pittsfield website that addresses this. He will send the link to Ken to put on the RPA web page.

Holly spoke about the retention ponds at Camp Russell which she believes is where most of the phosphorus into the Pond comes from. They have not been cleaned and are full. The Town is apparently responsible for their cleaning.

Announcements/Updates:

- **Status of weed treatment vendor contract & estimated weed pre-treatment assessment & weed treatment dates** – Carl reported that the contract with Solitude Lake Management has been signed by the Town of Richmond, & pre-treatment assessment & treatment of invasive weeds will proceed as planned. The pre-treatment assessment should happen this week, with the weed treatment of invasive weeds to be scheduled in June.
- **Directors & Officers Insurance** – Ken reports that the contract was received, with insurance effective 5-1-20; we will be billed soon.
- **Book on History of Richmond Pond** – Segment writers are being solicited and Ken will be in touch with the volunteers.
- **Airport noise** - The RPA comments previously submitted to the Airport have been shared with Danielle, for sharing with the Richmond Select Board, but Ken is not sure whether the latter has been done.
- **RPA's all-town picnic/annual meeting planning for Camp Russell** – Dan shared that Camp Russell will not host any special events this year outside of the day camp. Given the restrictions of Covid-19, there will not be a picnic sponsored by RPA this year.
- **Balderdash opening plans** for routine operations, special events – No report.
- **Two at-large vacancies on the board** – Ken reported that no one has yet expressed interest in filling an at-large seat; there would be a quorum impact if one or both are filled.

Any update items, of interest to all, from camps, community associations & others?

Nordeen Marsh- Ken and Carl reported that the 3-year monitoring study by ESS Group on water levels of Nordeen Marsh & Richmond Pond has concluded. Resulting data document that water levels in the Marsh are not affected by the water levels (drawdowns, refills) in the Pond.

Walkers & Joggers – Susan requested that walkers & joggers on Lake Road Ext., Branch Farm Road, Camp Russell & Richmond Shores keep their dogs on leash & pick up after them. Ken

added that anyone walking or jogging through Camp Russell should always refrain from doing so when campers are present. Related signage may be advisable.

The dam's history - Holly shared some history about the pond's dam. It was installed in 1865 to power local mills. In the mid-1950's, the earthen dam, then owned by Camp Allegro, breached. They asked for help with repairs, but received none from any source. The Lakeside Christian Camp property owner is legally responsible for the dam, & the state controls water levels (draw-down permits, etc.)

Next meeting – Tuesday, June 23, 2020, 5:30 pm – likely via Zoom technology

ATTENDEE LIST

Directors present (voting): Ken Kelly (president, independent cottages), Carl Foote (treasurer, Branch Farm), Susan Benner (vice president, Whitewood), Doreen Donovan (secretary, Richmond Shores), Dan Joslyn (Camp Russell), Laura Rosenthal (South Pond Farm)

Ex-officio/non-voting present: Jim McGrath (City of Pittsfield)

Alternates present: Brian Grebeldinger (Richmond Shores), Kitty Levitan (Whitewood), Tim Mason (independent cottages), Al Nardacci (independent cottages), Jessica Baumgarten (South Pond Farm), Louise Brogan (Branch Farm)

Guests present: Miles Garfinkel (Richmond Shores), Leslie Breeding (Richmond Shores), Holly Stover (RPA founder, Town of Richmond), Peter Miller (Richmond Shores), Alex Rosenblum (Richmond Shores); Neil Pilson (chairman, Richmond Select Board)

Directors Absent: John Mead (Lakeside Christian Camp)

Ex-officio/non-voting Absent: Danielle Fillio (Richmond Town Administrator, Dan Scorpa (Richmond Conservation Commission)

Alternates Absent: Kais Abderrahim, Barry Kellogg (Richmond Shores), Joe McGovern (Camp Russell), John O'Brien (Branch Farm), Ron Veillette (Richmond Conservation Commission)

MINUTES - Richmond Pond Association

Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 5:30 pm, via Zoom online meeting

Opener: Ken welcomed all to the Zoom meeting and introduced the newest alternate Tim Mason, property mgr. of Levy property. He also clarified the voting process (7 primary directors only). Danielle shared usage tips on conducting and participating in the Zoom meeting.

RPA Business:

1. Impact of corona virus on the pond, cottage rentals, & RPA – Danielle reported that the boat ramp would not be closed and will be staffed by boat ramp monitors this summer, but all races and fishing derbies have been cancelled. There are signs up that the town beach is not open; it will remain closed at least until May 18, in support of the social distancing parameters of the Governor's and the Richmond Department of Public Health's declared state of emergency. The locked gate to the beach was vandalized. This is a problem because there is not staff to monitor. The Town of Richmond has been following state guidelines since 3/15; this includes an order that all forms of short-term lodging rentals, including Airbnb's, are restricted to medical personnel and other essential COVID-19 workers. If such a renter becomes ill with COVID-19, they must quarantine in place for at least 14 days and may not leave until cleared by public health authorities. This will continue to May 18th as set by the governor of Massachusetts.

2. Lakeside Christian Camp closure – John Mead reported that the closing came as a surprise. There is hope of selling the camp to another Christian entity. John will stay on part time for 9 months to manage transition matters. They are currently getting bids for dam repairs and these bids will be shared with Ken, as partial funding for repairs may be requested from RPA.

3. Approve 10/22/19 meeting minutes– The minutes were approved without any changes.

4. Treasurer's Report– Carl reports that there is \$60,000 in all accounts, including \$19,900 in the dam maintenance fund & \$3,500 in the canal restoration fund. Donations to date this fiscal year = \$19,732 (unusually high & include the fall 2019 Balderdash donations). Expectations are that donations in the 2021 fiscal year (July to June) will fall well below the usual \$10K, given COVID-19 hardships.

5. Boat ramp monitors - Cost = \$20,600; The Town of Richmond, anticipating COVID-19 related budget stresses, has requested that RPA assist with funding the cost of the boat ramp monitors this summer. Carl shared that RPA had financially supported the boat ramp monitor program at \$8,000 per year in 2012 and 2013. Motion by Carl to allocate \$8,000 toward summer 2020 boat ramp monitor expenses. This was approved with a unanimous vote.

Priority Projects:

Shared Goose Management Plan – Laura reported that South Pond Farm will be the contracting agency for Wild Goose Chase NE. Cost = \$6,000 maximum; the vendor's charges will be \$65/half hour; minimum visit \$130; normal visit = 2 hours @ \$260 x 3/week - \$780/week. RPA would pay half of the expenses & collect contributions from PIPOs; vendor invoices will be reviewed by Laura & forwarded to RPA for payment. Partners (PIPOs - primary impacted property owners) are expected to include RPA \$3,000 or slightly more, Town of Richmond \$600, South Pond Farm \$600, Levy property \$200, (Lakeside Christian Camp – a hardship waiver, to benefit the pond), and Camp Russell \$600 or \$1,200.

There is still uncertainty if Camp Russell will be open this year. Dan has discussed the cost of participating in the goose management program with his Board and a decision has not been made. Their cost would be higher if they wanted their swimming pool area included. A vote to approve a contract was deferred to the May RPA meeting. Ken reminded all of the brochure recently distributed by the Richmond Conservation Commission encouraging planting & maintaining native vegetative shoreline barriers, minimizing lawns, etc. as additional goose management strategies.

Reports on Winter Research Projects:

- Cyanobacteria protocol model; incorporation into Water Testing & Communications Protocol. Ken reported that the City of Pittsfield had begun developing a cyanobacteria testing and communications protocol, but work on it was suspended when the city's response to COVID-19 consumed planning energies. Ken shared that Jim plans to rejuvenate development of a protocol, so this item was deferred to the next meeting when hopefully Jim can be in attendance.
- Development of a canal restoration plan – Doreen reported that a core group from Richmond Shores developed an initial list of parameters that should be included in a plan for addressing the canal. This list was shared with Ken, who provided several suggested clarifications for incorporation. Next steps are to insure that the canal is treated in the designated areas from Nordeen Marsh to the inlet and to be assessed for retreatment if necessary. Long term would be to investigate hydro-raking and raising funds if this project was to become a reality.
- Book on History of Richmond Pond – Ken reported that in 2019, after developing a draft Table of Contents, both the RPA & Richmond Historical Commission endorsed the project. After researching options, a publisher specializing in small book runs, Troy Bookmakers, Inc., has been identified. Two cost estimates for designing, formatting & printing a hardcover book of 100

pages, including multiple B&W photos, were provided. Printing of 100 copies would be \$3,620 (or \$36.20/book). Printing of 250 copies would be \$4,275 or \$17.10/book. The extra press run of 150 books would cost only \$630, at \$4.20/book. A detailed cost breakdown of the parameters of the estimates has been received, & a draft marketing strategy with a sale price of \$20 has been developed, with a target publication & sale date in late spring 2021. A sponsor or sponsors would be sought to defray part of the cost, but RPA would be asked to front the publishing cost of \$2,620 to \$3,275, to be partially or fully reimbursed by book sales. A funding commitment from RPA would be sought this summer or early fall. Volunteer writers for each segment of the book are now being sought, & those interested can be provided with much more detail; volunteers are encouraged to contact Ken.

- RPA Annual Report – Has been posted on RPA website & submitted for inclusion in the Town’s Annual Report; formal approval is deferred to our May meeting.

Announcements/Updates:

- Status of weed treatment plans & Town budget support – Because the annual Town meeting has been postponed until June, there was discussion on how the Town would fund the weed treatment. In the past this has been approved at the annual Town meeting in May. The pre-assessment from Solitude is usually done in May and the treatment in June. Danielle will look to see if there are any funds available now to fund the pre-treatment. Carl and Danielle will work together with the vendor to clarify financing & timing of the project.

- Develop Watershed Management Plan - Danielle reinforced that this should be a ConCom initiative. Jim will get the related maps to Ron as a starting point.

- Educational initiatives – On hold, per COVID-19 school restrictions. Susan would like to restart the program in the early fall and focus on the younger students from K-3rd grade.

- Filling of 2 at-large vacancies on the board – These are still open.

- Directors & Officers Insurance (cost & coverage’s) – Ken received a quote of \$743/year (\$733 + \$10 for splitting the cost of 2-year policy). Why do we need a D&O policy? Ken shared the following from the vendor, Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.: “Your organization and its board of directors, executives, employees, club members and volunteers should be included as insured on both your General Liability coverage and Directors & Officers (D&O) coverage, and it is important to understand that these policies offer very different types of protection. (General liability responds to allegations of bodily injury or property damage.) A D&O policy defends against allegations of mismanagement including misappropriation of funds, errors or omissions

in management decisions, neglect, breach of fiduciary duty, etc. The Conserve-A-Nation D&O policy also includes a separate coverage section designed to respond to allegations of sexual harassment, discrimination and other similar claims. Further, without a D&O policy in place, your board members can be held personally liable for certain decisions they make or actions they take as fiduciaries of your organization and it is unlikely that their personal liability or personal umbrella policy will protect against this type of claim.”

(It was noted that SPF & RSA both have D&O for their boards, & attorney Alex Rosenblum, who was participating, recommended that RPA should have it; it’s a cost of doing business, to protect our volunteers.) Motion – To approve contracting for D&O Insurance @ \$743/year. Motion passed unanimously.

- Airport noise & sharing of RPA comments with interim airport manager, Anita Akor – Ken recently sent his fall 2019 letter to the new airport manager in regards to airport noise impact on the pond. She responded immediately, thanking him for updating her of our concerns.

- RPA’s all-town picnic/annual meeting planning for Camp Russell (on 7/28) – Dan & Susan will discuss this at a later RPA meeting when more is known about summer activities on the pond.

- Potential support for Richmond School Food Program free lunches - Linda Kay had sent an email to Ken and Holly Stover suggesting that RPA consider donating the funds that RPA would normally expend on the all-town picnic to the Richmond Free Lunch Program if the picnic is canceled. (Ken had responded to Linda & Holly that expending RPA funds for a program completely unrelated to the pond & the RPA’s mission would not be an appropriate use of RPA funds.)

Linda was not present for this meeting, but Holly did speak to the value of the free lunch program, as well as the related food & fuel support activities of the BCAC (Berkshire Community Action Council), and the need to educate our community of what is available for assistance. She & Danielle confirmed that there is funding for the school’s free lunch program until the end of the school year, but funding may be needed if it’s to continue over the summer. While encouraging individuals to donate to the Town or BCAC in support of a summer lunch program was discussed, Holly thought it was wise to wait and see what the Town and the school will do to help support this program, so no action was taken.

- Balderdash – Opening plans for routine operations & special event plans - Deferred

· Richmond Annual Town Meeting postponed to Wed., June 17, 7:30 pm – Richmond School. The Richmond Town Caucus will be held Saturday, May 9, 11:00 am, at Richmond School, with participants staying in their vehicles, listening to a radio broadcast of the session, & raising their hands for nomination & other vote counts.

· Reminder – PFD's must be worn Sept. 15 to May 15 by kayakers, canoeists & SUP users; must always be worn by water-skiers, personal watercraft users & youth under 12.

Next meeting – Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 5:30 pm – likely via Zoom technology

ATTENDEE LIST:

Directors present (voting): Ken Kelly (president, independent cottages), Carl Foote (treasurer, Branch Farm), Susan Benner (vice president, Whitewood), Doreen Donovan (Richmond Shores), Dan Joslyn (Camp Russell), John Mead (Lakeside Christian Camp), Laura Rosenthal (South Pond Farm),

Ex-officio/non-voting present: Danielle Fillio (Richmond Town Administrator)

Alternates present: Brian Grebeldinger (Richmond Shores), Kitty Levitan (Whitewood), Tim Mason (independent cottages), Jessica Baumgarten (South Pond Farm), Al Nardacci (independent cottages), Louise Brogan (Branch Farm)

Guests present: Miles Garfinkel (Richmond Shores), Chris Thomson (Richmond Shores), Leslie Breeding (Richmond Shores), Holly Stover (RPA founder, Town of Richmond), Peter Miller (Richmond Shores), Matt Palardy (former boat launch monitor), Alex Rosenblum (Richmond Shores)

Ex-officio Absent: Jim McGrath (City of Pittsfield), Dan Scorpa (Richmond Conservation Commission)

Alternates Absent: Kais Abderrahim (Camp Russell), Barry Kellogg (Richmond Shores), Joe McGovern (Camp Russell), John O'Brien (Branch Farm), Ron Veillette (Richmond Conservation Commission)