

Carl Foote

From: Carl Foote [carl.foote@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2009 7:22 AM
To: Linda Kay (lkay@berkshireschool.org); Katherine Levitan (LennieLit@aol.com); Jim McGrath (jmcgrath@pittsfieldch.com); 'Dick & Holly Stover-280'; 'Jack & Pat O'Brien200-220'; Matt Melillo (teesiem@comcast.net)
Cc: Jeff Simon (jsimon@gscwm.org); Mark Watkins
Subject: RPA Meeting Minutes - June 8th, 2009

Present: Linda Kay President (Richmond Shores), Katherine Levitan – Vice President (Whitewood), Carl Foote – Treasurer (Branch Farm), Jack O'Brien (Branch Farm), Jim Mooney (Boys & Girls Club), Matt Melillo (Richmond Shores), Jim McGrath (City of Pittsfield Parks), Holly Stover (Branch Farm).

Absent: Town of Richmond Representative, Lakeside Representative (Mary?), South Pond Representative (Dot Walchenbach), Girl Scouts Representative (Jeff Simon, John Hultman).

Jack O'Brien has been calling Lakeside to suggest they send a new representative.

Carl Foote volunteered to be acting secretary to record the minute of the meetings. Matt volunteered to help even though his computer is out of commission.

Members Update: A moment of silence has held for Lois Kelly. Holly volunteered to write thank you notes to all that have contributed in her memory, a list to be supplied by Carl Foote. A suggestion was made to provide some type of memorial and later decided to create a plaque attached to a new bulletin board to be installed at the boat ramp.

Mark Watkins name was brought up and we voted to offer him a paid opportunity to write our next fund raising letter. also it was mentioned that we hope to meet him socially over pizza. A recent email from him indicated that he is kayaking on the lake.

Treasurer's Report: Berkshire Checking \$282.01, Berkshire Savings \$15,591.97, Taconic donation from John Haas \$500. We received \$625 in memory of Lois Kelly.

Jim Mooney suggested that some of the savings should be moved to a short term CD. Carl Foote will look into that.

Sticker Campaign: Linda Kay provided the created stickers from the Richmond school in 2008. The group selected the one by Jenny Begley. Mr Foote provided with the list of winners from last year; First place - Sophie Randolph, Second - Jeremy Begley, Third Matt Renzi. Funds were approved to produce the 2009 stickers for June and July distribution.

T-Shirts: Matt Melillo volunteered to have 50 t-shirts made for sales locally with the selected sticker emblem. \$500.00 was appropriated for this purchase.

Lake Treatment: A general discussion evolved on this years treatment and communication with Lycott. It seems the schedule did not get communicated as well as prior years when we did post signs announcing the dates. Jim McGrath suggested that the "Bid for Treatment" should be sent out in January of 2010. Mr Garlow did this in the last cycle so this should be discussed with the new town administrator, Matt Kirwood.

Zebra Mussle Meeting: Jim McGrath reviewed the meeting content from the Saturday meeting. The Zebra mussel is present in northern CT, Lake George, along the Hudson and Vermont. The population is spread as boats are moved from lake to lake, like the fishing derbies. The main focus of the meeting is to educate the boat owners to properly wash and dry out their boats before moving from one lake to the next. He said it is unclear what the effect that the mussels will have on a lake, possibly a clearer water environment which may effect the fishing.

It was suggested that an article should be written for the Richmond Record, or have pamphlets passed out as

fishing licenses are purchased.

Information Kiosk: Mr Melillo made the motion to purchase a new kiosk, Mr Foote seconded the motion. Linda Kay will purchase the new one. It was also decided to attach a plaque in memory of Lois Kelly.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 13th, 5:45 PM Richmond Town Hall

July 6th, 2009

Present: Linda Kay President (Richmond Shores), Katherine Levitan – Vice President (Whitewood), Carl Foote – Treasurer (Branch Farm), Jim Mooney (Boys & Girls Club), Matt Melillo (Richmond Shores), Jim McGrath (City of Pittsfield Parks), Holly Stover (Branch Farm), June Pang (Whitewood), Susan Benner (Whitewood), Judy Nardacci (Independent), Herb Zwelg (Richmond Shores), Lenore Lapin (Richmond Shores), Jim Evans (Whitewood), Leonard and Emilie Allen (Whitewood), Matt Kerwood (Town Administrator).

Absent: Lakeside Representative (John Mead), South Pond Representative (Mary Miller), Girl Scouts Representative (Erika Keeley), Jack O'Brien (Branch Farm).

Linda opened the meeting at 5:45 PM

Treasurer's Report: Berkshire Checking \$692.01, Berkshire Savings \$16,152.96, Linda handed Carl invoices for the stickers and Weed treatment by Lycott. Carl reimbursed Linda \$152 for the Stickers, sent \$25 to Jenny Begly for the winning design, and will pay Lycott \$1,000 for our part of the weed treatment. On July 21st Carl transferred 10,000 to a 6 month CD at Berkshire Bank.

Stickers and T-Shirts: Matt Melillo ordered T-Shirts sizes 10 small, Med large, and Xtra large. Ordered off white gave him whites. Will sell at Bartletts, Prime Outlets(?), 6.50 profit in each shirt, will try to make deal to buy whites. He is setting up booth at church 9 to 4 Sat 7/18. Need volunteers.

Zebra Mussle Meeting: Matt Kerwood, town administrator, went on boat to test for zebra mussels, no results reported yet. Need to put in black plastic squares to test for them. Spoke to Jack Hickey, but there may be some delay due to health issues. Jack Kickey is a volunteer from LAPA West. Also Jim Philips, a biologist from Westfield. Jack O'Brien provided the pantoon boat. Jack H took 2 sets of samples, 1 from the deep hole, and 1 near the boat ramp. Mr Phillips will over see the microscope review.

Laurel Lake ramp closed due to infestation. State has not granted any other lakes permission to close. Pittsfield Mayor Roberto has applied to close Pontusac and Anota but was not allowed. Volunteers are being trained to educate boaters. Richmond Pond ramp was closed but was reopened at a later date. We surmise there are no zebra mussels. Richmond residents need to be educated as to decontaminating own when removing from pond. Motor boats use the water for cooling and therefore may be damaged from the Zebra mussels. Also it was noted that signage at the boat ramp gets vandalized. The Richmond town beach will not be closed.

A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7/15 at the Pittsfield city hall hosted by the Department of Recreation (DCR) and our group is invited to attend to get educated and learn how to move forward. A representative from Fish and Wildlife will be there. The meeting was aired on PCTV 7/22 and Matt Melillo presented a strong argument to close all lakes now before our lakes become infested. The Fish & Wildlife rep only authorized a 45 day closing on Laurel lake and authorized local towns the authority to turn away boaters who have previously been on Laurel Lake. There was a strong emphasis for educating boat owners on proper cleaning and building a boat monitoring volunteer group to watch each boat ramp. The DCR rep presented a slide show to educate the group on Zebra mussels, showed an infestation map of the US, discussed how they move from lake

to lake by boats, any water gear(fishing equipment, diving gear) and even on the wings of wildlife (our wonderful Canadian Geese and ducks).

Jack O'Brien has been communicating with John Mead(Lakeside Christian Camp) and Erika Keeley(Girl Scouts).

Matt Melillo described the scuba diving requirements and heavy fine system in Bonaire and suggested a similar heavy fine and requirements system must be established for boating in the Berkshires. All towns must establish cleaning stations through out the state, to examine boats and receive a "Clean Tag". Boats should be cleaned professionally!

Jim McGrath spoke of printing more signs, contacting homeowners to educate our neighbors and lake visitors. Jim volunteered to provide training.

Matt suggested that a sign be posted at the head of the boat access road warning that the ramp is closed.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 23rd, 5:30 PM Richmond Town Hall

July 23rd 2009

Present: Linda Kay President (Richmond Shores). Katherine Levitan -Vice President (Whitewood), Carl Foote - Treasurer (Branch Farm), John Mead (Lakeside Christian Camp), Glenn Kelly (Independent), Jim Mooney (Pittsfield Boys & Girls Club), Jack O'Brien (Branch Farm), Matt & Tessie Melillo (Richmond Shores), Judith Nardacci (Independent), Erika & Leonard Allen (Whitewood), Lenore Lapin (Richmond Shores), Bob Race (Lake Onota Preservation Org), Mary Miller (South Pond Farm), Marie Metlay (South Pond Farm), Jim McGrath (City of Pittsfield), Matt Kerwood (Town of Richmond), Holly Stover (Branch Farm).

Absent: Girl Scouts Representative

Linda opened the meeting at 5:30 PM.

Matt Mellilo provide the Zebra Mussel overview and summary from the meeting in Pittsfield.

Jim Hickley, LAPA West, installed ZM testing floats with Jack O'Brien in 7/23.

Bob Race - provided comments stating the monitoring program has been partially successful.

Katherine Levitan had spoken with Stockbridge Selectmen George Shipley. Lee Lyman basically suggested to close the boat ramp.

General conversation discussed:

establishing boat washing stations, providing certificates which be the permit to launch boats in monitored lakes.

Point made that Quabbin ramps are closed, which is the water supply for Boston.

Katherine spoke with the town attorney Elizabeth Goodman. It is suggested that RPA can request a temporary moratorium to close the boat ramp until a formal monitoring plan is established.

The plan is to approach the town selectmen with this request! Katherine made the motion and Matt second it to approach the town selectmen.

Matt suggested that we concentrate on the larger picture to post washing procedures and to educate all lake users.

A Richmond mailing was discussed.

A Kiosk has been purchased for the boat ramp.

It was announced that Jack Hickey is the "point man" being the president of LAPA West. LAPA West should be strategizing with the state to:

1. Established scheduled open and closed Ramp periods.
2. Regulated and funded wash stations, like a carwash, or a parking lot, away from lake runoffs.
3. Jack Hickey is also the director of the BRPC Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Suggestions were made to approach the governor during an 8/11 and an 8/13 town meeting in the Berkshires.