

Country Pond Lake Association

74 Wilders Grove Rd.

Nov 18, 2019 7 pm

Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Bill, Jeannie, Tobi, Jen, Greg, Linda

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

Motion to accept minutes for last meeting made by Bill, 2nd Tobi

Treasurers report:

Reported expenses for the last month were \$105.95 for non-paid volunteer Lake Host, Tyler's gift card and \$20 for the cost of two extra Lake Host uniforms.

Deposit made from raffle basket revenue \$594.00

The summary of 2019 funding and expenditures was reviewed. The total expenses for 2019 were \$3,256. Total funding in 2019 was \$5,005 leaving an ending bank balance of \$2,332. Subtracting the reserves for insurance and Lake Host program leaves a balance of \$1,092 available for 2020.

Kingston Conservation Commission agreed to cover VLAP testing costs for our 2020 season. Greg will arrange for the six invoices to be sent directly to the Town of Kingston. Kingston also includes two other lakes in their budget process for this purpose.

It is our hope that the Town of Newton will budget a provision to assist us in funding for the Lake Host program. This is vital for prevention of invasive aquatic plants and animals that can change recreation in Country Pond and the Newton Town Beach. We will submit a petition to the Selectmen asking for a warrant article to be on the next ballot.

Committees:

VLAP: Results of the last water testing are typical of previous reports.

Weed Watchers: Tobi posted a new video on our frequently visited CPLA Facebook. We discussed the spiny naiad, found just north of the Lone Tree Scout camp. Amy Smagula from NH DES confirmed identity of this invasive plant. She will schedule a survey this fall or next spring.

Lake Host: There are \$300 of unused payroll funds with NH LAKES that will be carried over to the 2020 season. The high number of volunteer hours that CPLA contributed to the program will qualify CPLA for an increased Grant amount for 2020.

For 2020, CPLA plans to increase efforts for recruiting and training volunteers. We want to make training more convenient for anyone willing to be an inspector by hosting local training sessions. Staffing focus will again be for filling weekend slots. This will put a much higher burden on the Lake Host Coordinator, so CPLA has decided to make it a paid position in 2020.

Communications: An update was sent to members and friends summarizing the watershed management land tours with the Horsley Witten consultants and NH DES.

Old Business:

Watershed Plan: The next step is for the consultant to get feedback from the towns on the types of runoff controls that should be used in their plans for addressing runoff problems on town owned properties (catch basins, swales, rain gardens, etc). Once the consultant has this information, they can produce a report that lists the sites that were identified in the land tour, a proposed project for fixing the runoff, the cost for the project, the estimated reduction in

phosphorus that will be achieved and any foreseen difficulties in implementing the project (land owner consent, permits, obtaining funding, etc).

Lake Host Funding: The lake host program is estimated to need \$3,000 in payroll funds in 2020 which is a considerable increase over the \$530 that was expended in 2019. In order to meet this goal, CPLA plans to petition for a Newton warrant article to provide a portion of the needed funding. Funding will also come from member donations and a NH

LAKES grant: It will be necessary that some CPLA Board members (Newton residents) will attend the deliberative session to clarify any questions the Newton residents may have.

New Business:

Local Outreach: On November 4th, Greg made a presentation to the 8th graders at the Sanborn Middle School who are studying the science of cyanobacteria. He was joined by Amanda McQuaid, Beach Program Coordinator for NH DES and Evelyn Nathan of the Kingston Conservation Commission. The presentation was well received and many questions from the students were answered.

Cyanobacteria Advisories: After the November 4th presentation, Greg had a short discussion with Amanda regarding when official beach advisories are posted and what could be done by CPLA before lab results confirming a cyanobacteria bloom are obtained. The NHDES policy is that official beach advisories are not posted until a water sample has been tested. This usually happens within 24 hours but can take longer over a weekend. After October 6th, NHDES does not post advisories since the swimming season has ended. However, since cyanobacteria blooms can occur well into the fall season and that there is still a potential hazard to pets and livestock, this policy is being reviewed and will likely change. CPLA's concerns are that the official advisory comes too late or not at all in the fall and it would like to advise the community earlier when a potential health risk exists. The proposed solution is for CPLA to send Amanda a photo of a reported cyano bloom, obtain a water sample for analysis and report the potential cyano bloom to the community through social media. The Board approved this procedure for reporting blooms in the future.

Cyanobacteria Bloom: On November 1st a water sample from Country Pond was sent to DES for testing. It tested positive for cyanobacteria. Results were received several days after the suspected bloom had disappeared. Due to the policies in place at the time, an advisory was not issued.

Cyanobacteria Monitoring: For organizations that wish to perform their own monitoring and testing for cyanobacteria, there is a new cyanobacteria monitoring program offered through the EPA. The program utilizes visual observations of the water body's surface and sampling of the suspected blooms. Field samples are examined with a microscope to produce photographic results which can be remotely analyzed. Results are collected and shared in a public database. Amanda commented that due to the many types of cyanobacteria, it is easy for false positives to occur. Overall there is a benefit to earlier detection and more frequent testing. The cost for the monitoring kit is \$815.

CPLA 2020 Budget: Greg presented a proposed 2020 budget. The budget includes the same programs as in 2019 plus an additional VLAP sampling at ice out and the expansion of the Lake Host program. The budget relies on funding through membership donations, fund raising activities, a grant from NH LAKES and the Newton warrant article. The Board members voted unanimously to accept.

Next Meeting Date will be Monday, December 16, 2019 at 2 Ridge Road, Newton

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm