

Minutes for Annual Meeting of Q.Q.L.A.

10:30 a.m., August 15, 2021

Location- Camp Frank A. Day, dining room

Members present

Board members: Susan Swanstrom, Bill Seabourne, Mary Lou Knight, Don Taft, Meg Noyes, Carrol Yorzyk, Doug Vizard, Marita Tasse, Skip Nielsen, Randy Weiss, Carlene Weiss, Connie Montross, Jeff Clark, Sue Sasdi, Dawn Aguilar, Michele Mandela, Stephen Lockney

Guest speaker: Peter Markow

Q.Q.L.A. members and public

Introductory remarks- last year's minutes approved, treasurers's report, welcome to new Board members and status of Board membership

Bill Seabourne called the meeting to order at approximately 10:30 a. m. and welcomed all. He thanked Steve Lockney for the use of the dining room for the meeting and for the breakfast prepared by the staff at the Camp. He also welcomed Dawn Aguilar and Michele Mandela as new Board members from North Pond. He and Don Taft noted that there was now balanced membership on the Board from both North and South Pond and from each town. Carlene reported that there had been approximately \$14,000 in income and \$11,000 in expenses for the preceding year.

Updates

Status of weed treatment program

Doug Vizard reported that North Pond had been treated. Skip Nielsen clarified that the channel had been treated but that the high water had hampered a full treatment of that area.

Spencer Wastewater Treatment Plant

Doug Vizard reported that the SWWTP had met its specifications in its most recent report; the July figures were not yet available. He informed the meeting that in 2022 the SWWP would start to construct the modern treatment plant, thus abandoning the leaky system.

Bridge

Bill reported that after the bridge is completed (an October deadline but with possible completion in September), the regular operation of the weir would resume, allowing a pathway between the two lakes.

Alum treatment application- 319 grant

Skip Nielsen reported that QQLA had applied again for the 319 grant from the state, stating that the decision should come in late September. He noted that in the past the grants had gone to mitigate conditions in lakes that were in very bad condition. He noted, however, that there were several strong letters of support this year, including from Senator Anne Gobi. He also stated that should the grant be denied again, QQLA would consider other options such as more private funding for a reduced and/or treatment in stages.

Furthermore, he explained how the alum (aluminum salts) treatment works in anoxic bodies of water, binding to the phosphorus in the sediment and preventing the seasonal recycling of nutrients (at the end of both the summer and winter seasons). He also reviewed the appropriate treatments for both North and South Ponds- some of which are different due to the nature of the bodies of water. He noted that North Pond is too shallow for an alum treatment and is not an anoxic body of water. North Pond has benefitted from continuing educational efforts to prevent run-off from the watershed and the use of fertilizers, and the current and future improvements to the Spencer Sewage Treatment plant. Don added that the water turns over in North Pond every 8 days while the time for turn-over in South Pond is 300 days, another contributing factor in determining appropriate treatments.

Brookfield Beach

Jeff Clarke reported that the Town of Brookfield was in the process of forming a new committee to address issues at the South Pond beach. Such a committee would include new members such as Jeff and others who have helped placed the buoys in the water in addition to members from the former committee, which had been disbanded. He reported that the Town had allocated \$2500 towards any expenses related to the beach.

Don noted that the Town of Brookfield and Camp Frank A. Day did test for levels of e-coli. During a period of heavy rains and run-off, the beach was closed. He did respond to one member about the levels for all of South Pond, noting that these readings applied to only those tested areas of South Pond; it was not known if other areas also had high levels of e-coli.

Membership

Carlene reported that there were 34 new members for a record total of 161 members.

Social events

Don reviewed several past and upcoming social events:

1. The spring clean-up was a great success, enlisting a strong showing from North and South Ponds. In addition, any member who wishes to help maintain a section of a road in an informal "Adopt-A-Road" program should contact Don who will note that person's participation and efforts to keep a road clear of litter.
2. The Spring Fling this year was a barbecue at the Hamilton Rod and Gun Club. He noted that he hoped that Oakholm would be a site of a future Spring Fling, as in the past.

3. The 4th of July boat parade on South Pond featured a spirited water-gun fight but no celebration on the beach.
4. Mary Lou and Don conducted a boat count on South Pond while Randy has done so on North Pond.

Additional ponds' updates: testing, boat ramp issues, harbormasters, water safety

Don has been working with the State and the Town of Brookfield to address the use of the boat-ramps on South Pond; the new one was purposed for car-top boats and canoes and not motorboats.

The Board of Health of Brookfield will continue to do weekly e-coli testing and inform Don of the results

The harbormaster of Brookfield is Nick Domo; the harbormaster of East Brookfield is Doug Blood.

Randy noted that North Pond has had low levels of e-coli when testing has been done.

Don reminded members to call the Brookfield or Sturbridge police if they are concerned about safety issues on the water.

Newsletter and photography contest

Randy noted that the current issue focused on fishing and a past issue presented aspects of the history of this area. There is no set publication schedule for the newsletters. Both issues have been very well-received! The members applauded his contributions with regards to the newsletters, the photography contest, phone book and continued service in many ways. Randy asked members to send him ideas for the topic of the next photography contest.

Presentation by Peter Markow on his book, On the Shores of the Quacumquasit

Peter Markow spoke about his recent book, On the Shores of the Quacumquasit- a history of the ponds' region from Colonial times to the present- which focuses on the first 100 years of Camp Frank. A. Day. He presented information from the first two chapters that address the history and peoples of the area before the Camp was founded. He was the waterfront director at the Camp from 1976-1989. To order a copy of the book, please contact him at pmarkow116@comcast.net. One can also contact Stephen Lockney about copies.

Photography contest

Randy announced the results for the photography contest in the categories of wildflowers and garden flowers.

Raffle

Michele Mandela announced that Meg Noyes was the winner of the 50/50 raffle. Meg donated her winnings (\$135) to QQLA. The members applauded Meg!

Adjournment

Don Taft adjourned the meeting at 11:42.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Montross

Co-recording secretary

QQLA