

QQLA Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting

Date: January 12, 2016

Location: Seabourne's home

Chair: Don Taft

Members Present:

South Pond: Don Taft, Mary Lou Knight, Bill Seabourne, Carrol Yorzcck, Marita Tasse, Judy & Skip Nielsen, Doug Vizard, Trish & Brian McCleary, Meg Noyes, Scott Pickens

North Pond: Dan & Cindy LaPorte

Meeting called to order: @ 6:55 pm

Minutes approved: electronically in December and posted to web.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Treasurer's Report: approved
- Membership: in progress; memberships coming in.
- The 2015 Fundraiser is complete.
- Newsletter: The next Newsletter is planned for February

QUABOAG-QUACUMQUASETT ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

After extensive review of our historical information the board anticipated the following reports would be presented to our political leadership including: Sen. Ann Gobi, Rep. Todd Smola and Rep. Donald Berthiaume. This had to be postponed as Rep. Berthiaume's father passed away today and we are experiencing a strong snow storm at this moment, making travel difficult. The QQEC will reschedule asap.

SWWTP: Don

Informal update: Don reviewed that QQLA has raised and spent \$180,000 of personal membership funds over the last 8 years to protect these two beautiful bodies of water. He noted that these lakes are prime recreational use areas, including public boat ramps, public beach, outstanding fishing and YMCA youth overnight camping and swimming lessons. QQLA manages the weed treatments and provides community support to the towns ie: porta-potties; trash barrels; benches; personal donations to the towns food banks etc. Currently our waters are endangered by multiple small sources but our main concern now is the fact that the Spencer wastewater treatment plant is operating without a current permit and has done so for over 2 years. This is our opportunity to weigh in during the process. Don shared QQLA's supporting data that raises serious concerns for the nutrient overload to our lakes and watershed areas.

Skip stated that the current relaxed winter allowance of nutrients should not occur due to frequent spring overflows into South Pond.

Trish stated all our "bullet points" could be clearer.

Doug stated we should call the lost water "waste water".

Trish said we have great photos.

Skip noted that a nutrient load takes 1-4 weeks to leave North Pond but 2 years to leave South Pond.

FLOW BARRIER: Skip

Skip reviewed the 2006 DEP study "Total Maximum Daily Load" (TMDL) for nutrients allowable in our lakes and the DEP suggestions for improvement briefly with the board. QQEC discussed the historical timeline for the flow barrier over the 25 years of its successful operation. Skip expressed appreciation for the town of East Brookfield as owner/operator of the barrier and stated the support of QQLA for locating a new owner/operator, as per the request of East Brookfield, when a new bridge and flow barrier are built in 2019.

Trish suggests we ask Sen. Gobi how she can assist us in our goals. As chairperson of the state's environmental committee, Sen. Gobi is in an influential position as QQLA strives to protect both lakes and their natural resources.

VOTE: Skip raised the motion that we table the public discussion of the 18" height addition to the flow barrier as it is not a priority at this time. Meg seconded this motion and the board was in favor.

Skip and Don will set up a meeting with the DOT responsible for the new bridge and flow barrier.

OLD BUSINESS

Retain Atty. McGregor:

VOTE: Don motioned that we retain Atty. McGregor for his fee of \$2500 to assist us in preparing for the public hearing for the SWWTP's permit. Marita seconded this motion. Discussion followed and Skip noted that he has spoken with a lawyer in Worcester who is interested in meeting with QQLA regarding the SWWTP.

Brian motioned that we table the vote for McGregor's \$2500 for now and meet with the new attorney first. Seconded by Meg and all in favor. The vote was tabled.

Winter Social:

January 30th at Meg's house. Pot Luck and Yankee Swap.

Welcome Packets: Meg is chair, she will have a few available for new comers at the winter social. Dan & Cindy LaPorte would like one for a new neighbor.

Thanksgiving/Christmas donations: Don would like to send a note of appreciation to donors; also to longtime lake residents who have moved away. Marita would assist Don.

COLAP: (congress of lakes and ponds) Don, Cindy & Dan and Randy attended the last meeting. **VOTE:** motion by Skip and seconded by Bill to retain our membership and pay dues. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

ESS: Don has asked for their 2016 map and treatment plan.

Annual meeting: Don will ask for potential speakers and educational tables. The Y camp's schedule is changing and our meeting may be one week later.

New Board of Directors Organizational Chart: Judy has begun to create a new structure that may reduce the workload on our incumbent president. Chart distributed for information and discussion tabled until next meeting.

Logo: Joe Klimavich offered a logo that many on the board liked for its clarity and simplicity. Others like a more nature influenced design. Marita will participate in a committee to bring logo ideas back to the board. Meg will work with Marita and they will ask Trish's son and Barbara Klimavich if they have time to work on this project.

Photo Sales:

Marita asked for a vote to support her in ordering new framed photos of each lake for sale at the annual meeting. **VOTE:** motion made by Bill and seconded by Carroll to give \$600 to Marita for purchase of 15 photos. All in favor.

Board Of Directors membership loses:

Ann Mathieu, from North Pond, passed away suddenly over the holidays. She was in Florida with her son. We will miss Ann's long time support of QQLA. **VOTE:** Don motioned to make a \$50 donation in Anne's name to the Brookfield Historical Society where Anne was an active member. Brian seconded this motion and all were in favor.

Pat Seabourne has resigned from the board where she has been our treasurer for 8 years. Pat has done an excellent job in her role as treasurer, data organizer and major supporter of all lake events. Her presence on the board was significant and valuable. Thank you and best of luck to Pat.

**Our next meeting will be held at Brian & Trish McCleary's,
98 South Shore Drive on Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30pm**

Adjourned @ 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Nielsen
Recording Secretary