

Minutes for Q.Q.L.A. Board of Directors Meeting

1/19/2021, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom call

Moderator: Bill Seabourne

Members present:

South Pond: Meg Noyes, Doug Vizard, Marita Tasse, Bill Seabourne, Judy Nielsen, Skip Nielsen, Don Taft, Mary Lou Knight, Connie Montross, Jeff Clark, Steve Lockney

North Pond: Susan Swanstrom, Annette Lazili, Randy Weiss, Carlene Weiss

Status of resubmission of 319 grant (2021 Nonpoint Competitive Grants-319 program, MASSDEP, federal funding)

The 6:30 meeting started with Doug's update on the application for the 319 grant. Doug stated that Carl Nielsen from ESS and the Town of Sturbridge would apply again in June for the grant for the alum treatment. Doug stated that the grant application will pledge 21% more funds than the first application, thus raising the possibility that more area could be treated. The first application was denied due to, in part, the lack of promised funding.

Bill continued as moderator after Doug's comments.

Minutes from 11/16/2020, Co-recording secretaries:(Connie and Judy)

Minutes from 11/16/2020 meeting previously approved electronically.

Treasurer's report

Carlene emailed the members a copy of the report. Susan moved to accept the report, Steve seconded the motion and the report was accepted. After some discussion of the issue of finding a new accountant to do the Q.Q.L.A. taxes, Marita offered to take last year's report to John Cormier and see if he could do the taxes, and if so, for how much. Jeff stated he could help if necessary. Last year Q.Q.L.A. gave a \$250 gift certificate to Maureen Mayotte, the accountant who did the work pro-bono.

Weed treatment

Doug stated that the timeline and areas for the 2021 weed treatment would be similar to those of the 2020 treatment. However, one factor to be considered would be possible regrowth in North Pond. (Please note that per a subsequent conversation between Bill and Carl, Carl Nielsen of ESS hopes to get the mapping done in late May/early June and the treatment done in late June before the 4th of July weekend.) However, another factor affecting the timeline is the water temperature.

Status of the flow barrier and the bridge project

Doug confirmed that, since it is winter, the flow barrier is down and therefore closed. He stated that the bridge project was on time although he did not know a projected date of completion.

Status of the monitoring of SWWTP implementation of the terms of the NPDES permit (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit from May/2019)

Q.Q.L.A. has been monitoring the implementation of the terms of NPDES system permit for the SWWTP to make sure that the SWWTP complies with those terms. As such, Randy shared two graphs about the flowrate of the influent and the levels of phosphorus. Doug noted

that the SWWTP does not have to report the phosphorus and that it would be expensive for QQLA to do such a test.

Membership

Carlene reported that she was still receiving dues after sending out the last membership letter; at the time of the meeting, she had received dues for 90 members. She will send out a reminder letter, possibly in February. Different ways of increasing membership were discussed. A “meet and greet” event, after the risk of COVID is gone, would be a way to talk to new neighbors, give them a welcome packet and increase membership. Bill also suggested having members contact residents in their neighborhoods via phone or in person eventually. He suggested that the membership committee divide up the streets into a manageable number for members so each person would only have to contact a few residents. This initiative will probably be deferred to the spring.

Fundraising

Bill stated he would send out one letter in the spring and most likely send a second in the fall, with the hope that the 319 grant were approved.

Update on Poker Paddle

After some discussion of whether QQLA would be able to host the tournament because of the danger of COVID and when to schedule it so as not to interfere with an East Brookfield event, it was decided that Bill and Randy would try to get a permit, allowing for the fact that Mass. would also have to decide to permit such events when it is safe.

(Please note that Bill subsequently found out that the East Brookfield Centennial Events would be postponed to 2022.)

Beach Committee

Marita offered to check with Molly Tasse about the next meeting of the South Pond beach committee since Jeff is away for this month. The topic of the South Pond beach committee will be on the next meeting's agenda.

Communication with other Lake and Pond organizations

4 Rivers Group

Randy reported that there was no action needed to be taken right now.

COLAP (Congress of Lake and Pond Associations)

Doug reported that he had a continuing membership with COLAP and that attending the annual meeting was worthwhile.

Sturbridge Lakes Advisory Committee

Marita noted that the SLA Committee had not met. Chris Mazeika is another South Pond member. (Past minutes are available on the Town of Sturbridge website). Marita noted that in the past she had worked on the boat safety course.

Outreach

Connie agreed to try to find contact information on other lake and pond associations in the area in order to foster communication and mutual support among lake associations.

Educational outreach

Randy noted that past issues of the newsletter have sections focused on educating the readers on topics such as the flow barrier. The next newsletter will focus on the history of this area, including the history of Native Americans. He is also compiling an archive.

Several members discussed the presence of Native American settlements; Susan mentioned such a settlement at the current Oakholm site.

Social events

Bill suggested that the agenda items about social events be considered at the next meeting.

Camp Frank A. Day

Steve Lockney reported that there would be no day program at the Camp this summer but that there might be one of two types of residential programs:

1. A program at 60% capacity with 100 campers. He noted that this option would assume that the Camp would be considered in the stage 3 for vaccinations and not in stage 4, where the Camp is currently assigned.
2. An overnight program for families, should the 60% capacity option not be possible.

Next meeting

The next QQLA meeting will be at 6:30 on Tuesday, March 2nd via ZOOM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Montross

Co-recording secretary

