

LAKE ANASAGUNTICOOK ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS' MEETING  
MINUTES  
MAY 26, 2007

Officers present: Biff Atwater, President; John Convey, Vice-President; Judy Hamilton, Treasurer;  
Directors present: Terry Swanick, Daryl Boness, Buzz Croston, Joe Cloonan and Jack Atwater;  
and guests: Tom Hamilton and Rick Ray.

Corrections were made to the minutes of the last meeting and then approved.  
Judy passed out the interim treasurer's report.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Fund Raising**

Judy is on a committee of three doing a map of Hartford. They may ask LAA for financial help.

#### **Invasive Plants**

Buzz Croston showed a plant he has found in the lake close to shore, widely distributed. He thinks it may be Hydrilla or Variable Leaf Milfoil. Someone will get it to Scott Williams soon to have him identify it.

#### **Loons**

Buzz said that he had seen three loons on the lake just after the ice went out. Rick has put out one floating platform. Daryl suggested putting two more out. Rick asked for help in determining where to place the second platform. The buoys around the Canton water intake, used to help to protect a loon nest in that area, have deteriorated and are probably not of much help now. Rick will contact Don Hutchins of the Water District about restoring the buoys.

#### **Water Quality**

Tom Hamilton reported that he did a water clarity test yesterday. The result was 4.6 meters (about 15.1 feet). The same as last year. The water is warmer now than at this time last year. It was 12.8/12.9 degrees C (about 55F). It is now 16.2 degrees C. Tom suspects this is due to the hot weather. Tom passed out a composite chart showing D.O. (dissolved oxygen) and temperature at various depths.

#### **Comprehensive Planning Committee, Hartford**

Judy Hamilton announced that there will be a natural resources hearing Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting to follow at 9:00. LAA Directors and Officers are encouraged attend and spread the word to all people interested in the lake to also attend.

#### **Roads**

There will be workshops on frontrunners, used for crowning gravel roads to control erosion, on June 16, 9 – 1 at Sebago, on the 21<sup>st</sup> in Oxford, and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> in Wilton.

The current Canton road commissioner is Craig Gammon and Jeremy Johnson is expected to take over the Hartford position this July.

#### **Website**

Terry Swanick reported that all is well; there wasn't much to report.

## **LakeSmart Program**

Judy reported that funding is needed to do more. Each officer and director or should encourage his/her neighbors to take part. Joe Cloonan handed out flyers on the program.

## **Nominating Committee**

Judy suggested that the immediate past retired directors be asked to form a nominating committee for vacant officer and director positions. Judy offered to be Committee Chair. Jack will make a motion at the annual meeting to amend the bylaws.

## **NEW BUSINESS** **FRONTRUNNER**

Joe Cloonan stated that he is trying to get a map of the gravel roads in the lake watershed. We may have to do our own survey to get complete information. We could ask whether the towns would help. He mentioned the Pinewood Drive erosion as an example of the importance of preventing erosion on gravel roads in the watershed. Jack Plumley, Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) for Hartford and Canton is trying to work with FEMA or MEMA (Federal or Maine Emergency Management Agency) to dig out the sand that washed into the lake from the Pinewood Dr. The Gagnon's are the owners. Restoration was started in April. Daryl pointed out that this is a good time to do the removal because the water level is so low.

Buzz stated that flow is very low in Thompson Brook. Rick said that MEMA is opening funding to private individuals. There was a general discussion on dredging. The state is working along Route 140 to remove sand from the ditches; some of their time was spent removing sand washed down from the Pinewood Dr.

Judy suggested that we target the road commissioners and truck owners regarding the use of frontrunners to crown the gravel roads in our watershed. Joe moved that we do this, and try to have the road commissioners and truck owners attend one of the workshops. Buzz opined that the towns should be paying the expenses. Joe indicated we should survey the roads first, and then try to get funding. Buzz said that the frontrunner(s) could replace the road graders currently used. Judy has talked to the Hartford candidate for road commissioner; Rick will talk to the Canton one. Jack said that federal money is available for conservation projects such as our watershed survey and remediation demonstration projects. Joe moved that we appropriate \$100 to fund attendance at the workshops; the motion was passed unanimously. Joe wants to submit a Request for Proposal (RFP) for road improvements. Joe wants someone to identify the needs and possible sources of funding. He wants volunteers to investigate the needs and possible funding sources. Jack and John both volunteered to help with this. John Convey pointed out that there are no roads in Hartford that meet current standards. It would be very expensive, too big a job, to bring them all up to the standard that has been established. Judy says we could focus on private roads for the time being. John questioned whether there could be a liability issue if we worked on private roads. Joe suggested that we need to take a two-fold approach: investigation of needs, and negotiating with the towns on the financial aspect of the project. Daryl suggested that we not limit the scope to roads, but may want to investigate other sources of pollution, such as septic systems and fuel tanks. Joe agreed but felt that roads are the biggest source of pollution. Joe, John, Jack, and Rick volunteered to work on this project. They will keep the rest of the Board and Officers informed of their progress.

## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

Biff passed out copies of FY 2008 Grants for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects Request for Proposals (a 40 page document). The purpose was to show how complicated and detailed a Proposal or Request for Aid is and that we have not gathered the information to begin preparing a

proposal. He suggested that a small group get together to work-up a “master grant request” that we could adapt for Proposals in the future.

### **LakeSmart PROGRAM**

Christine Smith, of LakeSmart is ready to do more survey's of people's private property, to make suggestions for preventing pollution from one's property and giving awards for levels of good achievement. It was agreed that to get a greater percentage of participation of watershed residents, that we should make personal contact with residents. If this is not possible, we should leave literature with them on the subject of LakeSmart. Rick will cover Staples Hill. He will also approach the Water District Board on the subject. Jack and Biff Atwater will cover from the old Pinehaven resort to the end of the lake along the west shore, and John Convey will contact the residents of Pine Shores. Jack agreed to obtain 100 LakeSmart brochures and distribute them to the above-mentioned volunteers. It was agreed that we should also put articles about the program in the two local newspapers, i.e. Hartford and Canton.

Biff suggested that we distribute COLA brochures along with the LakeSmart literature.

### **BOAT RAMP**

Mike Mickeriz owns the boat ramp. He says the state will buy it and the adjacent area if they can agree with him on the price. It is said that he owns 400 feet of shoreline. One lot with the trailer is currently for sale and includes access to the beach. Some question if the sale to the state is possible because the trailer lot is being sold with beach access.

The existing boat ramp is greatly deteriorated. The state has money for boat launches with adequate parking area, but do we wonder if the lake needs a public boat launch? Biff suggested that we do nothing for the moment, but just keep ourselves apprised of developments.

### **501(c)(3) STATUS**

Jack and Judy reported no progress on this issue. Daryl mentioned a related issue: conservation easements. When and if we do apply for 501(c)(3) status, we may want to preface it by having language in our by-laws indicating our interest in and support of conservation easements. Joe said that it would not help in getting 501(c)(3) status approved.

The group took a break.

### **MAINE VOLUNTEER LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM (MVLMP)**

Scott Williams, of MVLMP, has asked for an annual contribution from LAA.

### **PHOSPHORUS LAW**

A “phosphorus” law has been passed by the Maine legislature. It bans the use of and/or sale of any fertilizers containing phosphorus but no legal enforcement provisions. The effective date was not known. It was suggested that we put an article in the Hartford News, Canton Crier, and the LAA newsletter. Judy would like to receive copies of any articles that are place in the newspapers. It was also suggested that copies of the phosphorus brochure be passed out along with the LakeSmart literature.

### **LAKEFIELD HEIGHTS**

Mike Mikeriz, owner of the former Pinewood Camp property, is planning a 9 or 11 lot development called Lakefield Heights. The lots would be the minimum size allowed. The Hartford Town Office has been given a proposal on it. The preliminary application was completed, but has not yet been approved. Scott Williams and an engineer are to review the plans. Their recommendations

will then go to the Hartford planning board. The planning board may approve it, approve it with conditions, or deny it. The most common action is approval with conditions. Joe asked how the conditions of the approval, if the project is approved, would be enforced. Joe suggested that the developer be requested to post a bond, to be used for remediation in the event the finished project had defects that needed to be corrected.

## **RECOGNITION OF 20 YEAR MEMBERS**

Having bestowed upon them the appellation “Loon Members” already honors ten-year members. After some discussion on the merits of various species of wildlife in the watershed, it was decided that 20-year members would be allowed to use the title “Eagle” members. Judy and Biff, with Tom’s help, will create something to suitably honor those who enter this category. Judy also suggested that we have a new generation of T-shirts made, with the new name, Lake Anasagunticook Association, imprinted thereon. She suggested that they be given free to the Eagle members, but sold to others as a fund-raiser.

## **INVASIVE SPECIES**

Biff and the Conveys had attended a workshop on this issue, run by the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection). They passed out brochures on the subject.

Jack asked whether there is a wash station in the vicinity of our lake. A couple of locations were suggested, but did not seem to be “official” wash stations.

Daryl mentioned the apparent conflict between the two state agencies, one offering funding for boat launches, another trying to prevent transfer of invasive species from one lake to another.

It is an interesting point of the law that violators of the boat permit law must be IN HIS/HER boat in order to be cited for violation.

Buzz said that the revenue from the invasive plant stickers is going into the general fund, not being used specifically to fund the program against invasive species.

Biff pointed out that a warden could be sent to our lake if someone requested it.

Joe said that the Rangeley Lakes are an excellent example of how to run an inspection program for boats entering lakes. Mooselookmeguntic Lake also has a good program.

Buzz said that there are about two boats launched into our lake per day on weekends in May and one per day on weekdays. Later in the season, it might be ten per day on weekends. The July 4 weekend has the heaviest use in the year.

Rusty Knight has taken the inspection training and has volunteered to do inspections at our lake. Biff will contact him to set up an inspection program. Judy suggested that we also involve Mike Mickeriz, since he owns the launch property.

Buzz Croston said that he has seen large water snails in the lake something he had never seen before. Biff suggested that he send one to Scott Williams of VLMP along with the unidentified plant that Buzz found, but Buzz had put the snail back into the lake. Buzz thinks that mussels are disappearing from the lake also, due to silt. He thinks there are only about one-third as many as there used to be.

## **CANTON DAM**

Judy had spoken to Dana Murch, DEP’s Supervisor of Dams. There will be a public information meeting this coming Wednesday (May 30) on the subject of the dam being opened by direction of the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Five of our directors plan to attend. Judy has asked Peggy Poskus (Bear Pond Improvement Assn. officer) to attend. She has also asked that a representative from Hartford attend. It was suggested that the Lake Association should have a plan. Eminent Domain is a very difficult way to settle issues of this sort; it was tried in 1996, was very difficult, and did not succeed. However, Dana Murch now thinks that Eminent Domain is the way to solve the problem.

Mike Ranhoff has advocated building a cofferdam upstream from the current dam. This would keep the lake level at a reasonable level and eliminate the problem of the dam being a danger to the public. Judy said that property owners between the dam and the cofferdam might complain.

The Sabbatus Lake dam, owned by the same owner, has had a new dam built upstream from it, and is now owned and controlled by the Sabbatus Lake Association.

Joe has spoken to Mike Ranoff, a member of the LAA about this subject. He has asked Joe to keep him updated.

A cofferdam could be built upstream of the present dam, built of 3-ton sandbags. Mike Ranoff has researched it and is having a firm draft the permit that would be required. He has verbal approval from the property owners on both sides of the lake outlet where the cofferdam would be built. An engineering firm in Turner that has been retained has done projects of this sort before.

Joe said the problem could have been solved with enough money. The state does not want to run the dam. The cost of the coffer dam is estimated at \$5300. It may need to be removed in the future.

Joe thinks that in the future the Water District should control the dam, one reason being that federal funds are easier to obtain when a dam is owned by an agency like the Water District. The cofferdam may require maintenance.

Mike Ranhoff and Paul Bernier are taking action toward preparing for a cofferdam.

The level to be agreed upon to be aimed for with the coffer dam would be three and a half feet above the natural low water level of the lake.

Biff asked whether we, the LAA, would be liable for future damage if we take a position on action to restore the lake level.

Polly Bussiere had suggested the cofferdam would act partially as a fish screen, so maybe our fish screen fund could be used to help fund the cofferdam. The membership would have to vote on this. Perhaps we could also use money we have set aside for the dam issue.

Rick said he would like the dam to have flow control in the future.

Tony Fletcher feels a permanent dam could be put in 100 feet upstream from the current dam in the future.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Biff said that membership outside the Board of Directors is weak. Maybe we could solicit more members as we go door to door with the brochures mentioned above. Judy will assign each director a certain number of shoreline residents to contact.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is changed to Friday evening, June 29, due to a scheduling conflict with the Hartford Natural Resources Hearing.

FINAL COMMENT; Joe said there has been an oil spill near Lakeshore Drive; DEP is trying to pump it out. He suggested we look into the problem of fuel storage tanks.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.