

MINUTES, LAKE ANASAGUNTICOOK ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) MEETING
APRIL 26th, 2008

Present: Biff Atwater, Brenda Adams, Judy Hamilton, John Convey, Buzz Croston, Rick Ray, Bill Gray, Leslie Boness, Joe Cloonan, and Jack Atwater. (10 members)

The meeting was called to order shortly after 9 a.m.

Corrections were offered to the minutes of the last directors' meeting and approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Judy Hamilton

The treasurer's report was submitted by Judy Hamilton. Due to the new dues structure, there has been an increase in receipts. Judy will send a report by email to the directors, giving the receipts and expenses of the LAA. Judy suggested that directors check the website frequently to keep abreast of issues.

Gravel Roads

Joe Cloonan

Joe presented an update on the subject. He suggested that Jack Plumley, Code Enforcement Officer of both Canton and Hartford, be invited to attend a future Board of Directors' meeting. Joe reported that the gravel road just above the boat launch

LakeSmart Program

Judy Hamilton

Judy requested another director take over LakeSmart for the LAA. No one volunteered. Adam Paul, having done evaluations last time, is ready to do it again.

Newsletter

Biff Atwater

Biff announced that the spring newsletter will be postponed, but will be issued at the end of May. A suggestion that a column from old timers including interviews or articles be added.

It was suggested that Mary Pierce be asked to contribute. She is related to the Rays. Other possibilities are Adelaide Ray and Ginny MacFarland. Also Mrs. Lucille Brennan was suggested. Mary Pierce has written a whole book on the Ray family. It was suggested that interviews to be conducted with any of these people be taped or notes taken rather than asking them to write or type their recollections.

Invasive Species & Workshop

A new publication on invasive species was passed around. There are several dates available in April, May and June. for workshops this year We have been asked to sponsor one. They last for 5 ½ hours. We could do one in conjunction with the Bear

Pond Improvement Association, the Worthley Pond association, the Webb Lake Association, or the Roxbury Association. Roberta Hill, at MCIAP is the contact. We may be able to use the Hartford town hall. . John said he attended one some time ago and that it was confusing. Rusty Knight, a Lake Association member, has said that he would be willing to attend. Because it may be difficult to come up with 25 to 30 people to attend a workshop from our association we may have to recruit people from nearby associations. It was suggested we contact both the high school biology departments (Hartford and Canton) and the Scouts to recruit young people to attend.

With enough trained inspectors this could lead to a renewal of the boat inspection program.

Miscellaneous

It was asked whether the boat ramp is open; Judy said that she has heard that it is closed. It was reported that the town of Hartford does not want to take responsibility for it. Mike Micheriz owner of boat launch, has said that the state had shown interest in being involved in the boat launch, and would add a parking lot, but that they haven't been able to agree on a price for the land.

501(c)(3) status

The website needs some changes because there are items in it that conflict with our goal of achieving 501(c)(3) status. Mike Poulin, who has been acting as a voluntary advisor on the 501(c)(3) application said that the website should emphasize that the LAA is a public, not a private organization. The federal government recommends that we have a conflict of interest policy.

The LAA, needs to have a record of what amounts directors have donated over the past four years. The list will become a public document.

Mike recommended (through Leslie) that we include activities on the application that we have done and are doing, not what we might do in the future.

The LakeDay Raffle can be considered a door prize. There is a question about how to handle the contributions that are given for the raffle. Are we handling them properly to comply with 501 etc?

The grants we received for the watershed survey and the demonstration projects for erosion prevention went directly to the Oxford Co. Soil & Water Cons. District.

Note: If the income of the LAA is greater than \$5000, and the 501(c)(3) status is approved, donors will be able to deduct their donations. We will need to file with the Maine AG Office for tax exempt status with the state.

There were questions about whether it is worth all the effort to become a "501(c)(3)" organization. Also suggested that we invite Mike to the May meeting.

There was discussion about the dates for our fiscal year. If it changed, numbers from year to year will be hard to compare but with the Annual Meeting in August the books need to be closed and budgets planned. More discussion took place with no resolution. Recommendations need to be made at the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Donations

There was discussion about a policy to handle donations to a Town that would be used for acquisitions or maintenance of Town property. It was felt that either Town can accept donations to maintain or acquire.

The question of how to handle our “fish screen” fund (now to be a dam fund) and our general fund arose, i.e. how portions of one or the other might be donated to the Core Group for use toward a new dam. The directors voted to establish a criteria or policy as to how a request for funds should be considered. It was recalled that the LAA membership, at its annual meeting last year, gave to the BOD authority to release the dam funds to the Town of Canton or the CORE group by majority vote if criteria was met

A recess was taken, highlighted by delicious snacks and drinks

It was suggested that we not ask Mike Poulin for too much, since he was doing extensive work for the LAA pro bono and is doing the same for the Core Group for a Permanent Solution to the Dam Problem.

The discussion reverted to the issue of funds to be potentially transferred from our dam fund to the Core Group. It was stated that the BOD should respond to a request for donation of funds when one comes directly from the town or CORE Group for a specific amount to be used for a specific purpose.. Further, it was acknowledged that once we have criteria or guidelines a transfer of funds may be done by a majority vote of the BOD.

Dam Situation

It was explained that the Town of Canton had offered the dam owner \$60,000 for all three properties he owned near the dam. He refused, saying that a company he owns named R.J. Fortier Hydro Powers, Inc. now owns the dam.

A new (spillway) dam would have no water level management plan (WLMP). To institute a WLMP would require a hearing by the DEP.

The Core Group is now focusing on a temporary dam. It was stated that Mr. Fortier has agreed to cede flowage rights for a dam at one location. There are regulations, which limit a temporary dam to a height of four feet. Dian Mooars' property would be an ideal location, but the only practical location now would be 165 feet downstream from there.

A method of constructing a temporary dam using vinyl bags was discussed along with why one property owner along the stream objected to the temporary dam.

Apparently the person is nervous about liability issues. Another property owner wants a legal document assuring that no permanent dam could be constructed which would cut them off from water access to the lake. It was mentioned that flowage rights might be obtained from Fortier, but that no such agreement has yet been signed. There has been talk of taking the flowage rights by eminent domain, but this is a very uncertain path to follow.

It was mentioned, that apparently, Mr. Fortier has submitted a permit application to the CEO of Canton to build condos near the dam site. It was asked whether the temporary dam would have to be removed every year or at some other time interval. Apparently, the permit for the temporary dam would state how often it would be required to be removed.

It was suggested that any funds we donate be used to “fill the gap” as necessary after other funds have been donated. Further it was suggested that we wait to receive a request from the Core Group before committing ourselves to a donation of a given amount.

NEW BUSINESS

“Electronic” Meetings of the BOD.

The question was raised about holding our board meetings by telephone conference call? Answer: We may do so only if our bylaws so allow. If so, it must be done in a way that all members can hear each other. (See further discussion below)

Discussion followed about the following item to become part of our bylaws:

“Meetings of the Board, while preferably held “face-to-face”, may from time to time be conducted by telephone or electronic conferencing, only if members can all hear each other. The chair shall call on each member to verify that each has a chance to speak. “

Discussion followed with suggested that as many members as possible of the BOD be actually present at every meeting. Using it as a way to achieve a quorum and as a way to allow a maximum number of people “attend” in addition to the quorum. Agreement was reached to table the issue until the next meeting.

Fund Raising and Donations for a New or Temporary Dam

Questions as to whether we need to discuss fund raising now were discussed. There was also discussions about the level of fund raising and whether or not it would be perceived that the LAA would be the only organization responsible for fund raising. The CORE Group would like an idea about how the LAA BOD would go in raising the balance of funds. More discussion ensued, including a suggestion that if the Hartford Beach were to be opened up to other townships, Canton should be included.

The next directors’ meeting will be on or about May 24 of this year.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm. 15 minutes ahead of allocated time.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Atwater