

**Lake Anasagunticook Association**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**August 12, 2007**

Officers: William "Biff" Atwater, President  
John Convey, Vice President  
Beth Convey, Secretary  
Judy Hamilton, Treasurer

Directors: Brenda Adams, Jack Atwater, Joe Cloonan, Daryl Boness, Buzz Croston, Carolyn & Bill Gray, Terry Hinkley, Tim Kirwan, Terry Smith, Terri Swanick

Members present: Brenda Adams, Biff & Mary Atwater, Jack Atwater, Joanne Bartlett, Daryl & Leslie Boness, Polly & Ray Bussiere, Joe & Donna Cloonan, Barbara Conley, John & Beth Convey, Buzz Croston, Donald Daigle, Molly Elliott, Ron & Irene Garry, Bill & Carolyn Gray, Dr. Thomas & Judy Hamilton, Herb Harding, Shawn Henderson, Terry Hinkley, Dr. Carroll & Sandy Howes, Harold Jones, Tim Kirwan, Robert & Joan MacNeil, Mike McCluskey, Pete McCluskey, Jeff & Kathy Murray, Ralph Neer, Ann Poland, Dominick Ranucci, Rick & Diane Ray, Tom Ryan, Wayne & Hilda Schultz, Mike & Terri Swanick, Margie & John Taylor, Alex Thibodeau, Rob & Mitzie Turnbull, Jean Williams

Meeting commenced at 10:15 AM

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Preliminary Treasurer's Report was approved. The Final Treasurer's Report will appear in the October issue of the Newsletter.

Eagle awards were presented to those individuals who have been members for 20 years with LAA. These were also charter members among those who started the Canton Lakefront-owners Association in 1988; later changed to Canton Lake Association and now Lake Anasagunticook Association. They are: Jack & Gisele Atwater, Ron & Irene Garry, Tim & MaryEllen Kirwan, Robert & Joan MacNeil, Cecil Mahoney, Ann Poland, Dick & Meg Powers, Dominick Ranucci, Wayne & Hilda Schultz and Margie & John Taylor.

### **Beach Railing Report**

Jack Atwater informed the LAA that after Polly Bussiere and her committee had installed the granite steps at the lake there was a request for a railing. Jack got a quotation of \$660 for an aluminum railing. Polly Bussiere was concerned the aluminum railing would not last on that side of the beach. Harold Jones referred Jack to a metal shop in Jay. Jack will investigate the cost of installing a steel railing. Jack asked if someone could drill holes in the granite for the railing.

### **Lake Smart**

Judy Hamilton stated that eight or nine property addresses had been submitted for evaluation to Heidi Linscott of Oxford County Soil & Water. These individuals will be contacted by Heidi Linscott and their properties may get recognition and/or awards from LakeSmart. Judy suggested more individuals get their property evaluated by LakeSmart.

### **Lake Day Results**

Judy Hamilton remarked on the success of Lake Day. We made close to \$400 and LAA was still selling raffle tickets before this meeting. At the end of this meeting a bookcase in the shape of a boat, a quilt and a first edition print will be raffled.

### **Web Site**

Terri Swanick reported on the many articles, blogs and latest information on the dam on the web site. Terri suggested we all go to the web site and send any comments or questions deemed important. The web site address is [www.lakeanasagunticook.org](http://www.lakeanasagunticook.org). The address appears in the Newsletter.

### **Invasive Plants**

John Convey contacted VLMP and their representative, John MacKenzie who gave an outstanding presentation on invasive plants yesterday at our Lake Day function. John Convey compared invasive plants to emphysema - once you get it - it's too late. Once invasive plants are established in a lake there is no cure and the lake will die. He mentioned the seminar on invasive plants which will be held by VLMP in the spring of 2008 and urged all to sign up so that we may be better informed on the dangers of invasive plants.

### **Water Quality**

Tom Hamilton performed his last reading of Lake Anasagunticook on August 3, 2007. Tom prepared graphs showing the water temperature at different depths, the dissolved oxygen in meters, as well as, secchi disc readings from 2004 to 2007. The graphs are included in this report. Tom stated that the water was clearer this year than last year. The quality has not gone down - as far as clarity is concerned. The clarity is within the range we have had for the last 20 years. The only concern with the low water level is that the warmer water tends to get closer to the bottom. Then the water at the bottom will not have enough oxygen and this promotes bacteria growth which in turn releases phosphates. Phosphates are the main factor for algae growth. Warm water at the bottom of a lake, depletes oxygen which causes bacteria and this in turn releases the phosphates that create algae. There is no evidence of that happening now but it is a concern with low water level.

Biff Atwater apprised LAA that Tom Hamilton had been recognized by the VLMP for his 10 year services of monitoring the lake. LAA also recognized Tom with an award and a dinner certificate at a restaurant of his choice.

### **New Business**

#### **Lake Condition Report**

Polly Bussiere updated the LAA members of the latest conditions on the lake. In May members found out that the dam gates would not be closed. Then a few concerned citizens planned to install a temporary dam. Members went to Augusta trying to get funds to accomplish this task. The application for the temporary dam was returned and it has not been installed. There are over 700 sandbags waiting to be placed. If we should get an OK the sandbags are ready to go in. We are unable to do anything yet. Polly

mentioned how the members have been unable to override DEP, General Libby, etc. DEP informed members that the dam owner, Ray Fortier, has flowage rights to the lake, therefore a temporary dam can not be placed.

A CORE Committee, involving residents of Canton and Hartford has been formed with the sole purpose of obtaining a permanent solution to the dam problem. The committee consists of nine members. Judy Hamilton, Malcolm Ray, Rob Turnbull, Rick Ray, Lisa Cummings, Mike Poulin, Dave Bowen, Debi Hutchins and Polly Bussiere. The Core group meets every Tuesday at 6:30 PM at either the Canton or Hartford Town Hall.

Judy Hamilton presented a petition, written by the CORE Group, and stressed the importance of signing it, requesting MEMA and the Attorney General to fine the dam owner, Ray Fortier for not complying with their orders. The petition showing all the violations are posted on our web site. We are hoping the State will support us. Eminent Domain would be the CORE Committee's last resort. We just want to bring financial pressure to the dam owner so our lake will return to the water management levels. Everyone would like a temporary dam, if feasible, just as a temporary measure. A contractual agreement is needed with Mr. Fortier for a temporary dam. The temporary dam application was not denied - it was returned because it did not have flowage rights or the right to flood upstream and the lake - rights that go with the current dam only.

Motion was made and approved to thank the CORE Committee for all their efforts in trying to solve the water level and dam problem.

#### **Fish Screen Fund to Dam Fund**

Polly Bussiere made the following motion:

I move that the balance of the LAA Fish Screen Account (\$1,581.96) be transferred to the lake association Dam Fund thereby closing the Fish Screen Fund. And further, any donor to the Fish Screen who disagrees with this motion may contact Treasurer, Judy Hamilton, before the end of this calendar year for a refund to their donations.

Motion was accepted with the provision: Any donor could receive his or her money back should they wish, by the end of the year.

### **LAA Dam Funds Available to CORE Group**

Judy Hamilton made the following motion:

I move that we make available to the "Core Group for a permanent Solution", by a majority of the lake association Board of Directors, moneys in the lake association Dam Fund. The Board of Directors will have discretionary authority for the association in determining the guidelines under which such transfer of funds may be made.

Motion was accepted with the provision: Board members serving on both committees shall recuse themselves from votes of transferring funds from the Dam Fund to the CORE Group Fund under advice of an attorney.

### **Liability Insurance for the Board of Directors of the LAA**

John Convey made the following motion:

I move that the lake association purchase liability insurance to cover our Officers and Directors for an annual premium of \$774 available through the Maine Congress of Lake Associations (Maine COLA).

Motion was accepted with the provision: Allow the Treasurer to pay the bill every year for the Liability Insurance of the Officers and Directors of LAA.

### **Michael Ranhoff and Paul Bernier**

Judy Hamilton thanked Mike Ranhoff and Paul Bernier for trying to find a temporary solution for the dam. Judy recommended that any individuals who would like to give them special recognition and help reimburse them for their legal fees, make a donation. LAA also thanks the property owners on the brook: Diane and Rick Ray, Brenda Adams, Diane Mooar and Robert Turnbull.

### **Election of Officers & Directors**

The following slate, with the addition of Rick Ray and Shawn Henderson, who were nominated from the floor, was proposed and unanimously accepted.

#### **One Year Term as Officers:**

President: William "Biff" Atwater  
Vice President: John Convey  
Secretary: Terri Swanick  
Treasurer: Judy Hamilton

#### **Three Year Term as Directors:**

1. Brenda Adams
2. Polly Bussiere
3. Terry Hinkley
4. Rick Ray

Two Year Term as Directors:

1. Jack Atwater
2. Joe Cloonan
3. Bill Gray
4. Shawn Henderson

One Year Term as Directors:

1. Leslie Boness
2. Buzz Croston
3. Terry Smith
4. Mike Poulin

Biff Atwater thanked Daryl Boness, Carolyn Gray, Tim Kirwan and Beth Convey for their past services.

Biff reminded all to sign up for the Invasive Plants seminar.

Lake Day will be at Hartford Beach on August 9, 2008 and the Annual meeting will be held on August 10, 2008 at the Hartford Town Hall.

The winners of the raffle were:

Irene Garry    Boat Bookcase  
Polly Bussiere    Quilt  
Margie Taylor    Original Flag Print

Thanks to all.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM at Hartford Town Hall.

Beth Convey  
Secretary