

Lake Anasagunticook Association

MINUTES

August 15, 2005

Annual Meeting

Officers in Attendance: Joe Cloonan, President

John Convey, Vice President

Beth Convey, Secretary

Judy Hamilton, Treasurer

Directors in Attendance: Jack Atwater, Daryl Boness, Polly Bussiere, Buzz Croston and Terri Swanick

Members in Attendance: Kirt Bittrolff, Ray Bussiere, Donna Cloonan, Bill Gray, Tom Hamilton, Terry Hinkley, Virginia & Norm Kelly, Mike McClusky, Pete McClusky, Ann Poland, Dick Powers, and Jean & Dick Williams

Water Quality

Tom Hamilton brought charts of the CLARITY readings of Lake Anasagunticook. These readings were started in 1980 and Tom Hamilton has made the readings since 1988. The CLARITY chart indicates that the lake has steadily become clearer through the years. Tom also brought readings made of DISSOLVED OXYGEN in 2004 and 2005 for comparison. The amount of DISSOLVED OXYGEN, which is greater at the bottom, has been decreasing earlier in the season. This may be due to the fact that the ice has been melting earlier. Tom Hamilton would like to buy a

DISSOLVED OXYGEN METER, this would speed up his reading and make them more efficient. Tom explained that the cold water fish live at the bottom of the lake, as the water temperature increases, the oxygen decreases, the bottom fish will swim higher and higher and the upper layer of water gets lower and lower. As the two layers meet, the cold water fish will not survive. Then anabolic bacteria will start decaying at the bottom which releases phosphates and phosphates are a living factor for algae growth. See Motion section.

2004 Annual Meeting Minutes

The minutes were read and approved. - 1 -

Treasurer's Report/Budget

Judy Hamilton indicated that the complete Treasurer's Report will appear in the October Newsletter. This will indicate the addition of dues paid and all the revenue made at Lake Days on August 13, 2005, as well as, the status of unencumbered funds (total assets and balances). Several members and directors of LAA discussed the possibility of having unencumbered funds applied to another account. Joe Cloonan suggested that we include in the By-Laws a provision to provide for the releasing of specific fund dollars to unencumbered funds.

2004/2005 Appropriations not yet expended: BMP Project for Church St. \$500.00

2005/2006 Special Projects: (All expenditures were voted on and approved).

501(c) (3) fee \$150.00

Dissolved Oxygen Meter \$500.00

05 Church Street Project \$500.00

Donation for Dam Repairs \$100.00

Frontrunner rental \$100.00

Treasurer's Report was approved.

Dam

Joe Cloonan indicated that there has been ongoing work being done at the dam on an order issued by MEMA (Maine Emergency Management Agency) Art Cleaves, the Director, has been very helpful and supportive to Canton and the lake relating to a number of issues including the flood problem but also the issues we have had with the dam. His focus is primarily on safety of the dam but it impacts on the water level and water management plan. If you don't have a safe dam, or one that does not operate effectively, it will not maintain the water level. As a result there was some work done under the order. Part of that has been the removal and repairs made to one of the four gates. That significantly reduced the water loss over what we experienced in prior years. It has been a huge improvement of anything done at the dam for the past 10 years. Joe Cloonan had discussions with Art Cleaves, he told him what the LAA was planning to do, once again, to try to work with the dam owner. To show him that the LAA is willing to

help out and extend a sense of our appreciation and benefit by making a token contribution towards any expenses he incurred in the repairs of the dam.

Art Cleaves thought that was great and saw that as being helpful to his efforts as well. We are not sure how the dam owner will see this but Joe is sure that this is

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something the LAA should seriously consider doing. Joe believes that if the LAA had been asked a year ago if we would donate \$100.00 to get the gate repaired no one would have objected. See Motion section.

501(c)(3) fee

Joe Cloonan explained what the 501(c)(3) fee is for. Right now we have non-profit status only in the State of Maine. Its a special provision under the Maine Law, were you can become a non-profit corporation. A 501(c)(3) would create a federal non-profit classification. The 501(c)(3) fee - refers to an IRS tax code - you go to a more formal filing procedure they grant you status that gives you a couple of things. People who donate money in the future - are able to make deductions from their Federal Income Tax which they currently could not do. This would also be an advantage to land easements and a property tax benefit. John Convey indicated that the 501(c)(3) fee was not an annual fee at PSHA. See Motion section.

Frontrunner

Joe Cloonan specified that the Frontrunner is part of a State program that has to do with maintaining camp roads. The Frontrunner is a piece of equipment the State has purchased which has the ability to grade or crown gravel roads, the #1 threat to water quality. The Frontrunner is available from the State for a \$50.00 maintenance fee. The LAA would like to rent the Frontrunner in the Spring and in the Fall, we would like to get a Committee together so that we can identify all the gravel roads, within the watershed, so we can make sure we have all the roads graded to minimize erosion into the lake. See Motion section.

Beach/Stairs

Polly Bussiere stated that the Canton Beach portapotty had been overturned twice and she informed the Sheriff's Department, so they are aware of the vandalism. A cherry picker or a monument lifter is needed to place the granite steps and Mr. Doloff may be able to place the steps this Fall. The beach continues to be cleaned up by Ray Bussiere. The waste baskets will be removed the Sunday of Labor Day, so campers will not see any baskets and they will not throw the waste all around the basket as done in past years.

A member suggested that buoys be placed around the swimming area of Canton Beach to keep the boats from coming into the area. Polly Bussiere indicated that this was not the responsibility of the LAA. The Canton Recreation Department should be responsible for the buoys and she will contact them. John Convey stated that the Hartford Recreation Department puts in and takes out the buoys for the

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swimming area at the Hartford Beach, as well as, cleaning their beach and paying for the portapotty.

The cleaning and disposing (leaving on the beach) of baby diapers was discussed. It would be difficult to stop this unhealthy act.

Newsletter/Website

Terri Swanick stated that the Website currently costs \$5.00 a month. Terri requested an extra \$5.00 a month, which was granted, to improve the Website so that more information could be provided. Currently the site - lakeanasagunticook.org - shows Membership Projects, Calendar, Newsletter, Membership Application, Volunteers & Job Opportunities, Links/Chat Room, and Contacts. The annual LAA Minutes, as well as, links to the Canton and Hartford Town Offices will also be added. Any suggestions or comments should be sent to webmaster@lakeanasagunticook.org. The nominal additional cost is within the expenditures of the Association.

By-Laws

Biff & Jack Atwater, as well as, Dave Bowen are on the By-Laws committee. Judy Hamilton also has an interest in the By-Laws. Jack Atwater brought to our attention certain areas of the By-Laws that could become controversial. Jack would like any suggestions, or help on any of the following controversial issues.

One item is - the \$10.00 membership dues - is it good for just two people or is it good for all your relatives. If you have a whole bunch of relatives over the weekend, can you bring them all to vote at the meeting.

Another item is what happens with all the money in the treasury if the organization dissolves. Who would be authorized to spend the budgeted funds. It says in our By-Laws that the money should be divided among non-profit organizations. Biff Atwater improved on this by adding that maybe the money should be given to the Androscoggin River Conservancy. Should we give back the money to the members that have been paying their dues over the past 10 years?

Also, how to move money from unencumbered funds. Such as the Fish Screen Fund, etc.

Jack Atwater would like to include all these items in the Newsletter. Jack would like comments and/or involvement by LAA members on this subject to be addressed to him and Judy Hamilton.

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Lake Days

Jack Atwater reported that Lake Days - our annual picnic held at Hartford Beach - was great. The raffle was a success thanks to contributions made by many generous donors. Tim Kirwan donated several Anoraks, T-shirts, golf ball bags and some other items. We made \$205.00 from the raffle. Jack Atwater thanked us all for the donations and our attendance. Jack also thanked Judy Hamilton for helping

with the raffle and Meg Powers and her two daughters for organizing all the games. The Panda Bear (made and donated by Judy Hamilton) is to be raffled this

morning.

Jack stated that one of the highlights of Lake Days was the informative boat trips by the Maine Lake Conservancy. Daryl Boness mentioned how the boat trip showed us how the quality of the lake had improved. Jack Atwater thought it was an excellent experience, learning about the organisms in the lake, half way, the bottom and the top. Polly Bussiere thanked John Convey for organizing the trips. Two Selectmen from Canton attended and one from Hartford.

John Convey commented on the interest displayed, in educating people, by Ship Bright and Rex Turner, the men who ran the boat trips, were extraordinary. Both men showed us the quality and the importance of the lake and how the lake has a direct impact on wildlife, the value of our property and the tax base for our community.

Jack Atwater also mentioned how the organisms - plankton - also impact the food chain such as fish and loons. More and more mercury has been found in our fish and loons because of the power plants in the Midwest.

Lake Map

Joe Cloonan said we have 100 Lake Anasagunticook maps for sale. The cost is \$12.00. This is a fund raiser for LAA so he would appreciate our help in selling the maps. If anyone has any comments or suggestions on the map, please let Joe Cloonan or Judy Hamilton know.

LakeSmart

Judy Hamilton indicated that LakeSmart is a teaching program that helps us recognize property in a LakeSmart fashion. They look at everything on your property that drains to

the lake to prevent erosion. They look at planting vegetation to soak up run off, pumping septic systems, stabilizing ditches and driveways and minimizing impervious services (pavements, patios and compacted lawns). They

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schedule a visit with the homeowner to evaluate your property and make suggestions for improvements. Currently, we have four homeowners on Lake Anasagunticook that received the LakeSmart Achievement Award.

We are the 2nd most LakeSmart award winners in Maine. We would like to be #1. Please sign-up to get your property evaluated. LakeSmart applies to properties away from the lake as well - anywhere within the watershed. Joe Cloonan thinks its like getting a free consultation from a landscaper. If you have issues, questions or

problems they will look at it and they will evaluate your property. They are there to help you and give an objective opinion. You may get an award for one or all of their four categories. This program helps in protecting the lake.

Boat Inspection/Funding

Joe Cloonan said that we are working with the Androscoggin River Watershed Council to provide some funding so we are able to begin boat inspections at Lake Anasagunticook. Sarah Ray and her sister have been trained as boat inspectors. As the boats come in, they inspect the boats and inform the owners what precisely they are doing. They make sure there are no invasive plants or other species on their boats and trailers prior to launching.

A log book is kept on all boats inspected. They have a list of all lakes in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut that have invasive species. The boat owners are asked where they are originating from, the list is checked, as well as, the milfoil stickers prior to entering the lake. The boats are also inspected when they exit the lake. We have enough funding to pay for one person. Those who want to volunteer are welcome. Daryl Boness indicated that the Androscoggin River Watershed Council was the organization that has the grant. Daryl believes we should consider becoming members of the Council which is \$30 or \$50 (see Motion section). Daryl Boness offered to attend the meetings and conference as they would pertain to the conservation in our watershed. Daryl has material from the last conference he attended and he will send it to our Webmaster. Polly Bussiere thinks by becoming members it would be beneficial to us and, possibly, we could get a speaker for our next meeting. See Motion section.

Conservation Easements

See 501(c)(3) fee above - which would allow us to accept conservation easements if we so desired. Daryl Boness questions the implication of the Association taking on that responsibility in terms of enforcing it. Joe Cloonan explained that we will

address the issue and study it further when the time comes for us to become a

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repository. Judy Hamilton suggested members to sign up and become involved in this issue. The Androscoggin Land Trust will review and consider accepting conservation easements.

Comprehensive Planning

Judy Hamilton mentioned that she and John Convey are on the Comprehensive Planning Board (CPB). The CPB have asked for volunteers from the two lake association - Bear Pond and ours - (we need a minimum of 3 members from each lake to work on the taskforce) to advise the CPB on ordinances, issues, suggestions or anything on how to protect the lake. We are looking for 2 more volunteers. A lot

of the work will be done by e-mail. The initial meeting will be held on September 1 - at the Hartford Town Hall - at 6:00 PM with the Selectmen - prior to the Selectmens Meeting.

Motions

Motion to buy Dissolved Oxygen Meter for \$500.00 - approved.

Motion to donate \$100.00 to dam owner for repairs - approved.

Motion to pay \$150.00 for 501(c)(3) fee - approved.

Motion for \$100.00 rental fee for Frontrunner - approved.

Motion for \$30.00 - \$50.00 fee for membership Androscoggin River Watershed Council - approved.

Vote for Board of Directors

Officers:

President Joe Cloonan

Vice-President John Convey

Secretary Beth Convey

Treasurer Judy Hamilton

Directors:

1 Yr. Term 2 Yr. Term 3 Yr. Term

Biff Atwater Daryl Boness Buzz Croston

Jack Atwater Carolyn Gray Terry Smith

Terri Swanick Terry Hinkley Tim Kirwan

The slate of officers and directors was accepted.

Meeting was held at Canton Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 AM and concluded at 11:58 AM

A second raffle was held after the meeting

Submitted by: Beth Convey, Secretary -7-