



LAA Board Minutes - 28 April 2019

President Tim Kirwan called the meeting to order at 1:39 pm. A quorum was present at the Canton Town Meeting Room. In attendance were: Vice President Mike McCluskey; Treasurer Biff Atwater, Secretary Diane Ray (via phone); Directors. Elaine Ferland, Tony D'Ambrosio, Marilyn Bittner, Cindi Phillips, John Blancato and Mel Barron; member Mary Atwater was also present. Apologies if anyone was missed.

Treasurer Report (Atwater) 4 new members-please pass names and addresses to Diane for inclusion on the membership directory and newsletter list and welcome to the lake invite to LakeSmart

- Money on hand:
 - \$5485 in savings
 - \$1293 in checking
 - \$850 expected in dues
- VLMP grant for the watershed survey was approved – will cover cost of expert help and lunch
- Request for \$200 from Town of Canton was submitted to the Select Board and Budget Committee

Membership Anniversaries were discussed:

- 10 year LOON Award Certificate
- 20 year EAGLE aware Certificate
- 30 years – traditionally nothing, suggest we create an 1813 award, 7 people would currently qualify
- Biff suggested he can get special t-shirts at \$8 each and add a notation on 10 years or 20 years to shirts already created

Mike motioned we proceed with special t-shirts pending cost confirmation from Biff, Diane seconded, motion carried.

Communications (Ray)

- PO Box has been canceled in Canton but will forward for 1 year to Biff Atwater's address in New Hampshire. All members to listen for any concerns about a non-local address but we do not expect any pushback.
- Newsletter was delivered to Newsletter Mailing List- some email and some snail mail - and will be printed and made available in both Canton and Hartford Town offices- Thank you Liz Rothrock and contributing authors for pulling this together
- Web site viability: discussion was had that we need to keep both the website and the Facebook page. To make the website more valuable, it is already valuable as a repository, archives, links, and data, we need to drive traffic to the website- when new items are posted we need to send an email prompt; anything posted on the FB page as far as links or articles should be on the website. It was discussed that currently the cost to be able to pay dues digitally exceeds the benefits but no actual costs were put on the table, we may want to revisit in the future.
- We currently pay Terry \$200 per year to maintain the site.
- Meetings with Town Officials – Diane (and Liz) are at most Canton Select Bboard meetings, Diane is on the Planning Board, Tim made a point to introduce himself to the Select Boards of both towns and will be present several times per year.
- Don Hutchins is the spokesperson the Canton Board that seems most amenable to speaking on behalf of LAA, Lee Holman has that role for Hartford
- New member outreach – if Biff gets a new member that needs to be communicated to a broader audience so we can reach out with Lake Smart communications as well as get them a newsletter, on the mailing list, event reminders, etc. We need to encourage every LAA member to reach out to at least 1 neighbor.
- We have Lake Smart brochures in the Canton Town Office and Diane will ensure we get them, as well as business cards, in both town offices.
- We want to include an LAA article in every Hartford and Canton town Newsletter; those dates for submission are published by each town office and Diane will work to make sure the board knows these dates
- Ray Bussiere won the ice-out contest and wanted the proceeds to go to the LAA. A decision was made that ½ goes toward Polly's expenses and ½ to the Assn.

Water Quality (Atwater)

- Watershed Survey 5/18 Cards have gone out to the DEP mailing list and emailed to LAA members informing them of the survey and giving them an opportunity to decline participation. Biff shared that there are studies published that lakes with an active association and watershed plan have cleaner water than those without.
- Grant from VLMP was received to cover the cost of the survey
- Additional grants are being investigated to help with potential mitigation of risks that are identified in the survey
- Tom Hamilton continues to do an excellent job of tracking and reporting on water quality
- Biff is seeking groups of people to conduct an invasive plant search over the summer – we would divide up sections of water/shore and ask participants to collect plant samples for

review. Guides are available and if unsure samples kept wet in a bag can be examined by a lab in Auburn – more to come from Biff.

- Tim willing to take Canton Beach to the cove
- Joanne Bartlett will take a specific area
- Diane & Carolyn Gray willing to do Thompson to Whitney
- Others?

Water Quality (Other) /Lake Smart

- Diane to approach the Canton Water District and Select Board about possible water quality testing at the public beach – testing for urine and feces and harmful bacteria. Maybe Hartford beach? It will likely require finding out standards, setting a test protocol, accountability, etc. this is built from Bear Pond e-coli concerns last year
- Diane to recommend to the town that the outhouse be available sooner
- Diane and Mary to plan and carry out another Snail Wrangle- details TBD
- Diane submitted several properties last year that passed evaluation – will confirm they were received and accounted for; Diane to get an update of the % of lake front properties with Lake Smart accreditation
- We have Lake Smart Cards and Brochures – let’s set a date to go door to door and meet neighbors and drop off information- work to schedule official review

Education (Kirwan)

- Lake Smart Funding Legislation- Tim is sending out reminders of upcoming legislative review of Lake Smart Funding; discussion ensued and Tim shared recent history of reluctant funding at the State level. Members are called upon to write personal letters to Representatives and Senators reinforcing the importance of this program.

Lake Days/ Funding

- Options were discussed of moving the “operations base” of Lake Days to the boat landing however subsequent conversations with Polly and Ray confirmed their desire to again be hosts. More details will come as the actual day takes shape.
- A subcommittee needs to be formed ASAP to get this event planned and under wraps – Who on the Board is leading this initiative?

Annual Meeting (McCluskey)

Focus for Next Meeting

-Membership Growth

Adjourned at 3:30 PM

Schedule for Future Meetings

- June 9, 2019 (1 p.m.)
- August 11, 2019 (1.p.m.)
- August 18, 2019 Annual Meeting (9 a.m.) Canton Town Hall
 - August 18, 2019 Chewonki Institute will again bring live animals for a presentation open to the public, scheduled for 11:00 – 12:00
- October 20, 2019 (1 p.m.)

Social:

- Lake Days Saturday August 17, 2019
- Gray Friday Night Social August 16, 2019

Miscellaneous

- Biff moved and Mike seconded that we continue our membership in Maine Lakes Society, which now encompasses both Lake Smart and VLMP – costs are: 49 members or fewer \$100, 50 to 99 members \$200, 100 or more members \$3 per member
- A concern about a camper on the lake should be brought to the attention of John Evans – Canton CEO who will investigate.
- As a 501 C 3, we are capable of handling endowments. Discussion was had on whether we should pursue this is a fund-raising effort. General conversation was favorable and Tim was asked to develop a next steps approach
- Snow Mobile clubs are leading the effort to eradicate the beavers as they damage trails and cause flooding – beavers are a concern being watched by residents. Many were eradicated or moved last year but others are still present.
- Need to make residents aware of need to tie down flotation toys, water craft and even docks. Right now residents doing a good job of identifying and returning floating items that turn up on the various shore points but this could be dangerous.

Motion to adjourn was made by Biff and seconded by Mike and so moved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Diane Ray, LAA Secretary