

LRA 2016 Annual Meeting

August 13, 2016, Ludlow Community Center

Attending: Charlie, Frank, Barb, MR, Ann

Meeting came to order at 9:12 a.m. More than 20 members were present, thus a quorum was attained.

Financial Report – Ann

1. Reviewed P&L – we ended with a profit due mostly to grants received
2. Reviewed Balance Sheet – have consolidated accounts into a money market which bears slightly more interest than CDs
3. There were no questions or comments

Milfoil Report – Frank

1. Frank showed a milfoil sample – thought we had huge problem last year. After Irene plant growth blossomed – all over Vermont (eg., Lake Dunmore spends over \$100K a year on remediation efforts). However, we think we now have it under control. Couldn't see bottom after Irene so it took 2 years for sediment to clear due to them movement of the Black River. We couldn't see milfoil until 2014, and in October of 2014 we pulled 18 gallons in Round Pond.
2. LRA employed the Yoders in 2015 – they have visited 13 times and have removed 113 gal of material, or about 300-500 milfoil plants. We contracted with Yoders to do survey in 2016 – they looked at hot spots, but the amount wasn't overwhelming – mostly in RP. We agreed they would come twice a week depending on weather. They have kept it under control.
3. Our guest speaker, Kat Yoder described finding the hot spot in 2014 – they used an electric snorkel, one dives and one harvests. This year not much in hot spot – now maybe 2 gallons versus 15 or so last year. Kat responded to a question about the use of buoy markers. They throw out one every time they see a plant, then usually pick them all up when they gather plants. She distinguished between these and the no boating zone buoys approved by state. A member noted that it is unclear to boaters even though information is posted at access, and via greeter information and email notices. Kat is making area smaller. MR noted we could probably take them out now. Described what plants look like and how they are removed. Milfoil was found in the Narrows which probably caused infestation. Found a few plants in the Lake, a couple down by Archibald Cove. Kat agreed milfoil is very hard to eradicate – will likely be an ongoing effort. Critical time period is spring.

Greeter Program -MR

1. The greeter's hours have been increased to 20. James has greeted about 170 boats, the majority of which just come to Rescue. James knows most of the boaters. He has found some weeds, and water in wells in boats, but no milfoil – he has been very diligent. State has stepped up efforts after Irene. MR has been to milfoil classes.

Membership – Barb

2. Membership of this date is at 129, 7 above last year, and a reminder will still go out in hopes of securing a few more members. A total of \$10,610 has been raised, reflecting an increase over the past two years. A graph was displayed showing trends over time; membership has generally dropped after 2012, though extra donations has slightly increased. Members were urged to encourage neighbors and friends to join LRA.
3. Changes in membership may reflect changes in the proportion of local versus out-of-state homeowners
4. After the final dues reminder, a directory will be published in the fall, which will include member information as well as an updated version of "So You Live on a Lake."

ERP - Charlie

1. LRA has received 2 grants to help remediate the huge damage from Irene – especially resulting from the inflow from Patch Brook, Buffalo Brook, and Money Brook. The large amount of fine sediment emptied into the lake was what remained after larger material was deposited in the lakes above Rescue. The state measured one foot of sediment in Round Pond, which is very clear now. The first grant documented damage and suggested steps. It was determined that access to Money Brook is too difficult, and the estimate to make any substantial impact on Money Brook is several million dollars.
2. The 2nd grant was to fix damaged trails above Buffalo Brook and some roads. This effort was limited because workers couldn't go up high enough because that land was owned by a lumber company who couldn't be contacted.
3. Second grant efforts also included plantings at the beginning of Money Brook to hold soil. However, this will only be effective for moderate rains. We have arranged for drones to fly over Money Brook to see comparison between two time points. At this point the state is having some success with private property owners to consider allowing some remediation efforts
4. The second grant efforts on Patch Brook was unsuccessful, due to lack of cooperation of new property owners. The collapsed road has been rebuilt road but it is likely it will fall in again with another storm
5. We have requested transfer of the \$24,000 in funds earmarked for the work on Patch Brook, which will lapse if we don't get permission to use it for another purpose.

Guest Speaker - Frank Heald, Ludlow Municipal Manager

1. Frank noted the decrease in tax bill, due to hard work local listers do
2. On a request from a member, Frank will have a game warden look into beaver dam issue
3. It has been quiet this summer.
4. Frank reviewed several construction plans slated for next summer.
 - a. In July-Aug. the Walker Bridge in center of town will be replaced and detours will be in effect. Also, a culvert on Commonwealth Ave. will be replaced, hopefully at the same time.
 - b. In early May the state will repair the bridge at the Rtes. 100 and 103 intersection. This intersection will be closed for 5-10 days –detours will be in effect (Rod and Gun Club Road, etc.)
5. The town has been applying since Irene to fix Pleasant St. extension bridge – will try to do in April 2017. This will be a 3-4 week closure, with detours by Geldwyn and Lavalleys

6. In 2018 – state is going to put signal in 100 and 103 intersection
7. There are also plans to try to paint Red Bridge
8. Frank reviewed 2 electric proposals:
 - a. Ranger solar project proposal – to occur on Barclay Road – close to substation. The solar project is of reasonable size (20 megawatts), hit market at 7.8 cents to wholesale market. It is projected to contribute 100K to town, 70K to school, and continuing contribution to enterprise funds. The town expects to make decision in early 2017 – it could be constructed next summer. Frank believes it makes financial sense.
 - b. TDI New England to bring line to Coolidge substation – up East Lake Road
9. New laws regarding solid waste disposal were reviewed. Soon residents will have to take organics out of the stream and compost or bring to designated place. A suggestion was made to post a list of what constitutes recyclables at the transfer station
10. Frank reminded members that he and the town offices are always available to help and answer questions.

Projecting Costs for Next Year - Charlie

1. Income includes membership, grants (milfoil, greeter), picnic. Because of milfoil and picnic costs, we will run a deficit this year. When all expenses are included, deficit will be approximately \$7,800 +/-.
2. Is a state law to have no wake buoys w/in 200' of shoreline. Starting strategic plan hopefully paid for by grant Kristen is writing
3. Directory underway – one more reminder going out – suggestions were offered for getting ads to help defray costs, and publishing in the summer to avoid mailing costs.
4. Charlie encouraged members to think about what might be done in the future if we need to pick away at our savings every year due to ongoing milfoil efforts

Election of Board Members - Charlie

1. 25 proxies were submitted, all for the nominated board names.
2. Nominations were open; no one offered alternative names.
3. Mike O'Neil was elected to a 3-year term, Bill Vanneman to a 2-year term, Doris Eddy to a 1-year term. Barb Silver-Holt and Jerry Latta were both re-elected to 3-year terms.

New Business – Frank

1. Frank presented a plaque of appreciation for dedicated service to the LRA to Charlie Robinson, who is retiring from the board. He was also given a gift of Lake Rescue coasters.

Meeting adjourned 10:47 a.m.