

LRA 2017 Annual Meeting

August 5, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

MR welcome – review mission of LRA

Financial Report – Ann distributed and asked for questions of financial report. Funds are “rainy day funds,” for milfoil or event like Irene. Some is invested, but most is liquid.

Milfoil Report – Frank passed around small milfoil plants; explained growth of Eurasian milfoil – spreads fast and grows fast. Our divers, the Yoders, have made 19 trips. They have been coming for 3 years – explained where in lake it has been found – 625 plants picked so far (84 gallons), but size of plants is small – divers dive to get the roots. Lake looks better than last year. A lot of fragments found near Discovery Island. Must stay vigilant. Chris Salerno suggested to go check out Star Lake in Belmont as an example of what milfoil can do. Questions: What happens at Echo Lake? They don’t appear to have milfoil – would address if became a problem. Milfoil found in Lake Pauline? NO. Frank reviewed milfoil history – are we in a downward trend now? First found milfoil in 1998. LRA hired divers - none was found after 2004. Received \$6K grant from town this year – amounts to a third of what we spend (\$18K). Then Irene happened. It was suggested that, as a community, we need to remind and ask people to avoid milfoil buoys. **Cat Yoder arrived.** She reported that they found big fragments after Irene – thinks we had it all along just didn’t recognize it. Reviewed where they are finding it and how much. Cat doesn’t know if we will ever get rid of it– our problem isn’t as severe as many other places. Question: how is Lake Dunmore after they had to shock it with chemicals? Frank reported that LRA is very against that, and hopefully we will not get to that point.

Boat Landing Greeter Program – James McKay – MR described what he does, part of our grant. Suggestion to have signs on board.

Membership Report. Barb reported that membership is at about 130, but reminder emails will be issued. Membership is down from last year and about equal to the year before. In general, a slow decrease in membership, as homeowners are increasingly non-local. Suggestion to members to help increase membership by talking to neighbors.

TDI East Lake Rd. Project – Mike explained bid process. If bid successful, construction will start spring 2019. Still need ANR permit. What are benefits to residents? None. Ludlow will get taxes. Erosion control – assured Mike there wouldn’t be problem. Maybe TDI should make contribution to LRA.

Guest **Town Manager Frank Heald** further explained TDI project. It starts in Labrador – converter station more than \$250 million which will be part of tax base, and can also tax the cable. Power grid in NE – we now get 40% of our fuel from CT and MA. Coolidge substation. Have shortage of baseload power (continuous power) now, as we take nuclear offline. Erosion concerns: 500’ of open trench per day, concrete cover. Have comprehensive agreement that road will be returned to as good or better condition. Frank believes company does things properly.

Other upcoming projects: Large-scale solar project proposed for old Barker (?) farm. 20 million (?) watts. Large utility-scale projects are more useful than solar farms in fields that only benefit developers, and are useful if near transmission stations – this project is 85 acres in unpopulated area. Some significant cutting of forest. Would TDI pay for runoff if significant amount? With their process roads will

be in as good or better shape than before. Liz Spaulding noted that Lake Champlain got significant funds from TDI for remediation, and LRA board should look into this. Mike will call TDI.

Frank reported that the town is in good/excellent financial state. Town tax is only thing we control. State education tax we have no control over. This year non-residential state education tax is less than the tax for residents. Our audits are available online and financial situation is transparent in Ludlow. Other projects:

- LaValley Bridge repair – state grant;
- new deck on 100N bridge – all state money;
- Walker Bridge almost finished – 3.5 million project – town has 5-10% investment in that.
- Fall or next spring – traffic light at intersection of 100 and 103 – “smart light.”
- Red Bridge gate hoist house – seepage coming around, so repaired gate house and put new culvert under road.
- catch basin ponds on East Lake and Ellison will be dredged late summer/early fall.

New Business – Noted that some people deposit sediment/ dumping of leaves, etc. – ask people not to do this. Natalie will put in newsletter. Are we applying for a Better Back Roads grant to dig out culverts? Maybe rent vacuum from Springfield. Chris will help with Better Back Roads grant to do that.

Boating and Water Safety – Guest Jocelyn Stohl, VT State Police, Marine Division – mission is education, safety and enforcement in that order. Inspect vessels. If born after 1974 must have education card – encourage all to take it. Look at equipment – all boats must have fire extinguisher, all boats must have life preservers for as many people as in the boat, including paddle boards – must wear if under 12; ski life jackets if skiing; cushions don’t count; oil or dirt-filled don’t count; usually just issue warnings; check lights. If boat is long enough, have to have a throwable on board (cushion/ring, etc.). Q: what are restriction on how far out floats can be – has to be permitted by ANR. Chris – should have marker on swimmers swimming out in boating area of lake. No jet skis under 300 acres. DUIs zero tolerance.

If it is issue that happens on the lake, the state police can take care of it. If on the shore, is Ludlow police. Call if disturbance of peace. Will enforce buoy rules even if buoy is missing.

VT State Police Marine Division – safety education. Gary M. has boating reg. booklets to pass out.

Meeting adjourned 11:12 a.m.