

Lake Rescue Association 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

Ludlow Community Center, August 4, 2018, 9:00 a.m.

The 2018 Annual Meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were board members Natalie Fisher, Mike O'Neill, Ann Rose, Barb Silver, Bill Vanneman, Frank Wingate, and Bruce Zanca. Approximately 25 members were in attendance, and 15 proxy ballots were received.

Honoring Mary Rita Batesole. Natalie Fisher opened the meeting with remarks of mourning and gratitude following the passing this spring of Mary Rita Batesole, long-time board member and passionate advocate for the lakes. A scholarship will be developed in her name for area high school graduates pursuing advanced education in environmental areas. Further details are forthcoming.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Rose distributed the Treasurer's Report (attached) for comment. There were no comments.

Town Manager Report. Frank Wingate reviewed the written report submitted by the Ludlow Town Manager Scott Murphy, who was unable to attend the meeting. Key points included:

- Red bridge – will be painted September. Questions were raised about who owns Red Bridge – a brief history was offered; it was sold to the town many years ago and the town is responsible for its upkeep
- Red Bridge Dam has been rated by the state to be in poor condition and needs to be repaired. It was agreed that the town does not expect LRA to pay for the repair but to advocate for expeditious repair, as its condition will have economic impacts on lake and town
- It was suggested LRA do some research and develop an action plan, contact town representatives in charge and then update the LRA membership

Membership Report. Barb Silver reported that membership last year was at 135, down from the year before – it is too early to determine this year's membership. She encouraged members to visit the new LRA website and reviewed efforts to attract members to the LRA. A brochure has been developed which members are invited to share with neighbors and others who might be interested. A secure membership platform is being developed on the website, and will be launched this fall.

Milfoil Report.

Greeter Program. Bruce Zanca has assumed the responsibilities for the Milfoil Greeter Program, which our state grant requires us to have, and which Mary Rita previously managed. Key points included:

- Volunteers have been trained to screen watercraft. Two staff have been hired through the grant as Greeters: Chris Mott, from Mt. Holly and who is retired, and Otto, a high school student, as a backup. Natalie and Bruce have had training
- Anywhere from 6-8 to 30+ boats on a busy/holiday are screened on weekend days. Usually the same people come every week. It was suggested this might be a good opportunity to recruit new LRA members.

- Recorded data includes who comes in, where have they been, is there evidence of plants on their vessels. Milfoil, as well as zebra mussels and water chestnuts are of particular interest. No milfoil has been found on boats coming into the lake, but some have been found on boats going out.
- Greeters are not enforcers, just data collectors, monitors – is all about education. They hand out brochures from the state, plus a Greeter Program official sign is placed at the Fishing Access

Milfoil Report. Frank Wingate and milfoil diver and guest Cat Yoder reviewed the milfoil status and plan moving forward. Cat has worked on Lake Tinmouth for 7 years, also Bomezene and Echo. She and her husband, Steve, have been diving and hand picking milfoil on our lake for the past 4 years. Key points included:

- Milfoil can grow 1 ft in a week. This year, early summer was hot and lake level was down, so promoted growth. Right after a busy Memorial Day, a lot of fragments were found floating. Fragments have seeds which spread the plants, and boat turbulence creates fragments.
- Last year 136 gallons/1,000+ plants were harvested. Measuring is difficult– hard to measure by plants as some are small and some are large. This year 210 gallons/1500 plants have already been harvested. The Yoders will come 2x week through September
- Questions were asked about when did milfoil arrive. It was found after Irene in 2013. The water was too full of sediment to detect earlier. Chris Sheldon found and dove the first year, followed by the Yoders.
- Milfoil has been found in Slacks Pasture, not yet in Fisher Cove, not as bad in north end of Round Pond, found big patch on north end of Rescue; hot spot on west side of RP
- Yoders recommend a bottom barrier (has rebar sewn into tarp) for bottom barrier – it kills what is underneath it and is moved every 4 weeks; otherwise milfoil will grown on top of it once sediment settles on top. This method has been successful in Tinmouth. Cat suggests a 10x50' tarp, which will cost \$335, so we may need 10.
- Permitting process for bottom barrier is not difficult and takes about 75 days, according to Cat, and other lakes have always gotten permit. Frank has already filled it out and will submit for use next summer.

Current Issues Updates

- **TDI Project.** Mike O'Neill reports that the TDI project is not progressing, as a contractor has not been found. He reports it will be at least 1.5 years before it is re-activated, if ever.
- **Buoys** – Bill Vanneman reports that no-wake buoys were placed in critical areas in entrance to Round Pond, entrance to Slacks Pasture Cove, and entrance to Archibald Cove. The buoy at the entrance to Round Pond had been damaged during previous summer and a new buoy has been purchased and will be installed for next season. Discussion followed as to the placement of buoys in areas of maximal Eurasian Milfoil to dissuade boat traffic. Unfortunately, several observers have noticed that the buoy seems to attract sightseers with their boats, exactly the opposite incentive than what was intended
- **Retention Ponds** – the ponds are filling or full and are not being cleaned. The LRA board will ask town about cleaning. It may be that the board can contribute to hiring someone to do this.

- **ADA Dock** – Bruce Zanca reviewed the status of the 48' ADA dock project, which was approved by the state recently. Its construction would have many safety and environmental impacts, including crowding, improper use, increased spread of milfoil, etc. Many lake property owners, especially those on Round Pond near the Fishing Access, are upset by this decision. Although it will be an uphill battle to try to appeal the decision, members at the meeting were largely interested in pursuing some means of an appeal. The LRA board will be working with Round Pond neighbors and an attorney to discuss a plan moving forward.

New Business

- **Annual Appeal 2017.** Barb Silver announced that the 2017 Annual Appeal, the first LRA has done, raised over \$10,000;
- **Narrows Channel.** Mike O'Neill suggested we examine the changes that are happening in the Narrows with increased sediment deposits over recent years, which is impacting the depth and width of the channel. This not only is a safety issue but helps spread milfoil out into the lake with increased turbulence in shallow waters. The board will explore the possibility of requesting a dredging permit or other means to ameliorate the issue.
- **Lay Monitoring.** Members are interested in a detailed report on the lake water quality. The board will explore collecting this information to distribute. It is important to recognize the work of the Normans, who have been monitoring lake water quality for many years. The LRA does thank them with a gift certificate each year, but will include an article in the next newsletter.
- **Membership.** Suggestions were offered for methods to increase membership, such as going door-to-door by member volunteers. LRA will be looking into asking member volunteers to assist with marketing and membership efforts.

Approval of Board Nominations

- Two board members were unanimously re-elected to additional 3-year terms: Frank Wingate and Ann Rose.
- Two board nominees were unanimously elected as new board members: Kevin Golmont for a 2-year term to complete MR's open seat, and Phil Newell, for a 3-year term.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.