

Lake Breezes

Lake Rescue Association, P.O. Box 372, Ludlow, VT 05149
www.lakerescue.org

October 2012

LRA Dredging Proposal is Approved

On September 20th we received word from the Vermont Agency for Natural Resources (ANR) that our proposal to dredge has been approved.

ANR found, among other things, that our proposal would improve the recreational access to the lake and river, and would protect water quality by removing sediments which are stirred up by boaters and high velocity flows. They also found that there would be no adverse effects on fish and wildlife habitats, or on aquatic and shoreline vegetation. While there will be short-term negative impacts in the work area, the completed project will have an overall positive effect on access and water quality. The permit has been granted subject to 23 conditions, which range from specifying how the silt screens are to be installed to how equipment is to be cleaned prior to immersion in the lake.

The full text of the permit is available at:
http://www.lakerescue.org/uploads/9/7/1/7/9717384/anr_dredging_permit_9.20.2012.pdf

The large number of stipulations contained in the approval, combined with the need to negotiate agreements with our contractor, do not leave time to do the work before winter.

In addition to needing state approval, our bylaws stipulate that the LRA membership must vote to ratify projects undertaken by the board that involve member donations above regular dues. Accordingly, there will

be a **SPECIAL MEETING on NOVEMBER 10th, at 10AM.** The meeting will be held at the **Community Center**, now housed in the one-time State Armory Building, on Route 103 south, next to the Black River High School.

By now all members should have a proxy ballot in the mail. Please vote by filling in the ballot and returning it in the enclosed envelope by November 10th.

We now have the capability for call-ins to the meeting via Skype. If you wish to participate in the meeting either by video or audio, please email Jerry Latta at jerrylatta@aol.com.

Those who 'attend' electronically can vote at the time of the meeting.

Fundraising Update

In anticipation of the upcoming dredging project, estimated to cost between \$70,000 and \$100,000, the LRA board launched a fundraising campaign this spring. While we will rely on our Lake Restoration Fund to partially support the project, it is necessary to supplement that with contributions from our lake community. We are so gratified by the response we have received to date, and wish to thank those of you who have pledged or donated so generously to launch this campaign and support this important

Dept. of Environmental Conservation Approves LRA Ecosystem Restoration Grant

Everyone recognizes that dredging is a partial solution to the problems caused by the large amounts of sediment entering our lakes as a result of storm events. For several years before Irene, LRA had sought and received funding to study conditions that result in heavy silting of the Black River before it enters at Round Pond. The state of Vermont had supported such efforts to better understand the causes and possible solutions to this problem. During the summer, they announced another grant to continue the study of three watersheds known to deposit large amounts of sediment into the Black River. Two of the watersheds (Buffalo and Patch Brooks) had been part of previous LRA studies and the third (Money Brook) was particularly impacted by TS Irene.

We are pleased to announce that our proposal has been accepted by the VT Agency for Natural Resources with activities to begin early in 2013. The grant includes more than \$40,000 in funding to collect additional data and to encourage participation by the effected communities to implement solutions to the sediment problems. In addition to LRA, the towns of Ludlow and Plymouth will be participating as will other state agencies and individuals that own and/or manage land

in the watersheds. For each of the three brook areas, a task force of interested and responsible parties will assess currently available data, collect additional information as needed, prioritize steps to be taken and present the results and recommendations in two public forums by March of 2014. This project will require considerable time and effort by LRA but we will also have the expertise and assistance of Kristen Underwood who has been involved in our earlier studies. Again, we see this investment of LRA resources as essential to long term reduction in sedimentation that impacts the enjoyment and safety of our lakes.

Complete information on this important project is available here:

http://www.lakerescue.org/uploads/9/7/1/7/9717384/erp_fy13_proposal_8.12.2012.pdf

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project. To date, the amount of donations and pledges stands at \$59,000. In coming weeks, the general LRA membership will receive a fundraising request, and we ask that you consider a making a generous contribution. If you prefer, please visit the LRA website to make an online donation.

Thank You!

The Lake Rescue Association is a 501c3 Non-Profit organization. All donations to the Lake Restoration Fund are tax-deductible.

Lake Rescue Association
P.O. Box 372
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Website:
www.LakeRescue.org

Promoting Water Safety,
Environmental Education
&
Improved Water Quality

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