**LAKE RESCUE ASSOCIATION**

**Board Meeting, October 8, 2012**

**Meeting Minutes**

Attending: Marty Fino, Charlie Robinson, Frank Wingate, Barb Silver-Holt, Alan Grant.

Attending by Skype: Natalie Fisher, Jerry Latta

Absent: Angi Ciufo, Ann Rose

Meeting called to order at 10:06 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** It was noted that Angi has done a great job with minutes. Corrections to September minutes include additions to attendee list (Alan Grant, Ann Rose)

**Financial Audit:** Wayne and the Spauldings have declined to perform our financial audit. At Natalie’s suggestion, it was agreed to wait until next summer to do an audit, as the new LRA financial system will then be well in place. In the meantime, we will determine who will perform the audit. At this point, our financial statement exists on the website as an attachment to the annual meeting minutes. It was agreed that Angi will be asked to provide quarterly financial updates to the board on Dropbox.

**Gift to Normans:** It was moved by Charlie and seconded by Alan to give the Normans the same gift certificate as given last year for their lake monitoring volunteer work. Angi will provide this information.

**Filing of biennial report:** There was some discussion about the process of electronic tax filing. A report was filed by Frank in April, and it was determined a report needs to be filed anytime after Jan. 1, 2013. It is a simple and quick process. Marty will check with Angi and submit, if needed

**Important Documents:** Marty will put on Dropbox an “important repeating tasks” file that includes a list of tasks and requirements for incoming officers. Frank has created this already and will email to board for comments. Natalie has 501c3 certification letter with EIN number and will upload on Dropbox in case anyone needs the certification. Charlie expressed concern about what to do with the significant number of historical documents we have of LRA, including archived Lake Breezes and meeting minutes from 1932, etc. The Black River Historical Society is an option to consider. Barb will bring some of these when it is an agenda item on an upcoming board meeting.

**Insurance and Conflict of Interest:** Mary Rita has suggested the insurance company she is affiliated with can provide LRA insurance for $50 less than current provider. The question of this being a conflict of interest, since MR is still on board as a past president, opened a general discussion. In 2006, all board members had to sign a COI form to get 501c3 application approved. Charlie suggested we need to establish a general COI principal we can use for all instances, especially given upcoming grants and dredging activities. Marty raised the question of including a COI policy for board members as part of the by-laws.

Frank reviewed current insurance coverage – the Town of Ludlow covers the lake’s milfoil work. We will need to investigate who will cover the dredging project, and the option of becoming an alternative beneficiary on the policies of the dredging and transportation companies. It was agreed to review our current insurance policy in light of what we may need in the future, and request bids from a few companies, including Mary Rita’s. Since Ludlow is a co-applicant, they may be able to cover the insurance for the dredging. The question of VLCT covering the project was also raised. Marty will give our policy to Alan to review; Alan will ask Frank Heald about town insurance.

**Better Back Roads Grants**:

* **2011** – Marty reported that work was postponed because of Irene. On Sept. 20, Frank Heald said the project on Ellison Lake Road will be done in the next 2 weeks. Project must be completed by Dec. 1.
* **2012** – Marty has had numerous meetings with Killian, Schwartz, Mike O’Neal (contractor), and others who have given permission to complete work on Archibald Lane. Alan May, BBR technician, has said work will be done by Oct. 15. Frank and Marty met with Mike O’Neal and obtained approval from Alan May to include Lakeshore Drive runoff into Lake Pauline as part of 2012 project. We should emphasize the benefits to Lake Pauline of the BBR funding in the next Lake Breezes.
* **2013** – As we have enough on our plate for this year, we will not apply for a 2013 BBR.

**Dredging Project**: Charlie reminded the board that there are many details to which we must attend.

1. **Re-survey** - He suggested we re-survey Round Pond next spring to see how things might have changed. He also raised the question of re-surveying the island area. If the depth is less than 4 feet, we could make an argument to dredge there also, as we likely have funds available, thanks to fundraising. We will need to talk to ANR, Chris Sheldon, and Steve before a decision can be made.
2. **Lake access** - There was discussion about whether we can restrict access to lake for 2 weeks. Alternative arrangements would require renting a pump for $600/day and pump to Benson Point.
3. **Dewatering** - fencing issues, and a question about machines to compress dewatering bags were raised.
4. **Dredging timing** – After discussion, Charlie moved, and Frank seconded, the decision to do the dredging as soon as possible in the spring, due to fundraising concerns if we delay until next fall.
5. **Special meeting** - the wording in the by-laws that requires membership vote if monies are to be expended over and above dues was reviewed. All agreed wording is vague and a by-laws review should include this clause. It was agreed to hold a special meeting on Saturday, November 10, 10 a.m. to vote on approval of dredging. Natalie will post dredging permit online and will send out Lake Breezes by Nov. 1 with updates submitted by various board members (Barb – fundraising; Charlie – membership, ERG, dredging; Marty – BBR; Alan – by-laws; Frank – milfoil, proxy; Jerry – ability to skype in “in-person” vote). Marty will research location (community center?) for meeting. A proxy ballot will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. All board members will contact people they know who could come in person to the meeting – a quorum of 20 members is required to pass a vote. It was agreed a regular LRA board meeting will follow the special meeting on the 10th.
6. **Dredging contractor** - Frank, Charlie, Marty will try to meet with Chris Sheldon regarding dredging – Frank motion that we use Chris Sheldon as contractor, given that we have been unsuccessful locating other contractors; Alan seconded; tried to get other bids with no luck. Motion approved unanimously.

**ERG Grant:** We have received the ERG grant, and we need 2 people to commit to attending meetings, which will provide 50% of the in-kind match contribution to the grant. Our presence will ensure that the needs of the lakes are met, not just the brooks themselves. Charlie will commit to all meetings, and suggested that 4 local board members should share the other meetings. Non-local members can help by maintaining records on Dropbox of volunteer time spent on the project – Barb volunteered.

**Riparian Buffer Zone issues:** Jerry reported that any recommendations have to be within the boundaries of town plan which is on the town website. The planning commission needs no further input from us, as it has already been provided and is in the preliminary town plan of February 2012, under the water resources section. There is a meeting next week, which we can attend, and our issues will be included in that meeting. As we are not empowered to recommend legislation, we do not want to require anything from the commission. They have considerations and recommendations from Liz Spaulding for things going forward, but at this point there are no specific actions planned for water issues. There was discussion about education vs. regulation, and it was agreed that the education approach is best, but we must be clear about what is actually in the town plan, and LRA should perhaps take a position if necessary. Jerry mentioned that there are no regulations put forward yet – select board has to approve anything put forward, and they are generally not in favor of regulations.

**By-laws:** Alan reported that the by-laws committee (Marty Wolf, Chris Salerno, Jim McCall, Glenn Brown) are looking at several items. Examples include: increase in membership dues; establishing a designated person if multiple owners; prior notice consistency; no-prorated dues; associate member right to vote; combining sec/treas; conflict of interest. Alan is compiling recommendations and will forward to board.

**Other items:**

* **Milfoil:** divers were here but had low visibility. Will be coming next weekend to dive and do Lake Pauline at same time.
* **Fundraising:** Jerry reviewed the potential for corporate matching of donations during fundraising. Barb will work on letter and brochure for general mailing after the special meeting.
* **LPCTV donation**: The LPCTV is asking for a contribution $50. For this, the LRA will receive unfettered use of media center, take out equipment, submit programs. Frank proposed, Alan seconded – great idea. Good for marketing – maybe use their room for meetings, can use Skype.

**Next meeting:** November 10, 2012, following 10 a.m. special board meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m. (?? Or around there?)