Queen Lake Association

Draft Minutes

Annual Meeting

July 8, 2017

The Queen Lake Assoicaiton meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by President, John Colby.

There were 51 members present. A sign-in sheet is on file with the minutes.

Introduction of campers took place.

A moment of silence was observed for deceased members Evie Theriault, Ed Theroux, Kay Newcomb, Jack McDonough, Steve Edberg, Phyllis LeMieur, Kenny Chester and Jody Munson. Our heartfelt condolences go out to all of these families.

Town Officials:

Police Chief Kevin Dodge spoke. Sargent Valcort was also present. Summer so far has been very busy. Chief Doge opened questions and concerns to the floor. Barking dogs, patrolling private roads, ATV/Recreational vehicles (Rule books are available at the station), harassing resident being addressed, house breaks-only one during the winter months of a vacant house, Lincoln Road. All these issues were discussed and suggestions were made by Chief Dodge. The chief’s advice to all ...be attentive and call the police. In case of emergency call 911, on a hard-line, this will go directly to the town police-fire-ambulance. Cell phones if you call 911 it goes to the state police and is routed from there. Thank you Chief Dodge and Sargent Valcort.

Deputy Chief Don Smith from the Fire Department spoke. The fire department has also been very busy. Currently there are 2 employees fulltime Monday thru Friday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. 2 EMT’s are on call. Emergency phone #’s are the same as the police. A reminder to residents to have house #’s and street signs going to their properties. A question was asked about getting numbers for houses, what has been offered in the past, the blue one’s and if it was possible to get them again. This will be looked into. Fire permits: Yes, you do need to get them. Burning permits usually run from January 1st to April 30th/May 1st. A one-time permit is needed to burn and then all you have to do is call dispatch the day you want to burn to get approval. It was also suggested that if you are having campfires, let dispatch know, no permit is needed just good to have on file if they get any calls. Thank you Deputy Chief Smith.

Board of Health was unable to attend. Matt Pearson asked that the association be told that water quality at both ends has been good. No issues. Also a reminder about fertilizer and weed control being applied near the lake. Be safe and keep the lake healthy.

Secretary Report

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the QLA July 9, 2016 meeting. A unanimous decision by the association. These minutes were distributed with the agenda this year so that they could be reviewed prior to the annual meeting. Everyone agreed this was a good idea.

Luanne, on behalf of the association, thanked the Newcomb/Suomala family for donations made to Queen Lake Association in memory of Kay Newcomb.

Treasurer Report

The report was given by Terry Dymek. After deposits and expenses were reported the current balance in the treasury is $21,818.37. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. A unanimous decision to accept the report was made by the association.

Two motions were made, seconded and unanimously voted to donate to the church $200 for the use of the hall and $132.83 to reimburse Luanne for postage and envelopes.

Thank you to George Ladd for once again updating the QLA Property owner booklet. A master book was sent around the meeting for any errors that need to be corrected.

Dam Update. Terry spoke in regards to the dam. The town had voted $130,000 for engineering and recently has past a debt exclusion of $350,000 to do the actual repairs to the dam. This will be a 2-year exclusion of roughly .93 cents per $1000 assessed value of your property. Currently, we are in the permitting process, DEP, bidding. This will take a couple of months and at this point it is unlikely of an early drawdown @ Labor Day happening. We will keep you posted. A notice will go out on the QLA website along with the signs that are posted yearly for drawdown. Much cooperation of the Wilson family in regards to purchasing a piece of land adjacent to the dam. There is an agreement in principal and it is now in the process of being surveyed. Thank you to the Wilson family and their cooperation and working with the Town on this. Questions regarding the current drawdown vs. the new projected drawdown were discussed. It was agreed that it would have to be worked accordingly year to year. As far as who will maintain the new dam, no answers to date but the Dam Committee and the Town along with the Highway Department will work on this issue. A thank you goes all to ALL who have worked so hard in getting this done. A motion was made and seconded to send a letter (at an appropriate time) to the Board of Selectmen and town to thank them for working together in getting this project done. It was suggested to have George Dakin compose a letter. This was a unanimous vote by the association.

George Dakin suggested the Board look into changing a current by-law to have QLA members in the future to more than just the property owners. It was suggested to make joining the association more open and welcoming, with the main goal of protecting the lake for all. A motion was made and seconded to review the by-laws to re-examine requirements for membership with an eye towards welcoming the community. This should be reviewed throughout the year and information sent out with next year’s agenda to move forward with a by-law change. Agenda will have to go out early in order to make required time restraints for by-law changes. A unanimous decision was made by the association to have the Board of Directors look into and proceed with a possible by-law change.

Weed Treatment. John Colby updated us on an issue with the Order of Conditions. Currently it has expired and does not address treatment for fan wart. We need to get a complete new Order of Conditions. To treat bladder wart alone is expensive, $18,000.00. Currently, we are prolonging treatment and waiting to see what happens with the new dam and drawdown. A proposal to hire a consultant to work on a new Order of Condition and Notice of Intent was requested. It was suggested to use the same consultant that the Conservation Commission uses. A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Board of Directors to contract Ward Smith for the NOI and OOC, not to exceed $1,000.00. This was voted unanimously by the association. Questions were asked as to where the money we paid Solitude so far went to, John stated this was a yearly fee they charged but also said that Solitude agreed to hold firm with the monies paid as they feel we fell thru the cracks.

Public Beach. Tim Haley asked for a general census of how we felt about the beach being for town of Phillipston residents only or to the general public. This comes as a follow-up to a discussion at a board meeting. The question is leave as is or move in a different direction. Much discussion took place and it was encouraged to enforce the language of the deed as this would give some guidelines for the police if an issue should arise. It was suggested that the QLA present a formal request to the Board of Selectmen in regards to the language of the deed. The Board of Directors will continue to look into and if need be, go to the town with a request for clarification.

Election of Officers. This year brought 2 open seats on the Board of Directors and the Secretary position.

A slate for President-John Colby, Vice President-Tim Haley, Treasurer-Terry Dymek and Secretary-Sally Suomala, was presented. This was unanimously voted.

Nominations from the floor for the board of Directors was taken with Bob Clark and Leon Roberge assuming the 3-year positions. This was unanimously voted.

A motion was unanimously voted to adjourn @ 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, one last time,

Luanne Royer

Secretary