

Lake Oversight Committee
Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen
October 5, 2021 Minutes



Members Present: Doug Cayer, Bob Kamay, Lynn Johnson, Dawn Kamay, Sam Spratlin, Clelland Johnson

Members Absent: Dori Ferrence

Meeting called to order at 6:34.

Correspondence and voicemail – No Update

Approve Minutes:

Meeting minutes for July 20, 2021 were accepted.

Old Business:

Weed Treatment

Bob shared continued concerns about responsiveness of Solitude and continued delays in treatment.

One of the surveys conducted this year, indicated that fanwort was not an issue for the lake, but we have received complaints about 2 large areas of fanwort on the north basin. This will be monitored and will be addressed during next treatment period.

Early results for the Procellacor treatments look good. Clelland reported the Union side of the south basin was looking very good. For treatment next year, we would hope that this area will not need milfoil treatment, but the majority of the lake was treated with Diquat and will need some type of milfoil treatment in the spring.

End of season survey was completed, but due to GPS malfunction, it will have to be repeated. Bob will not authorize payment of final invoice until surveys are complete and all deliverables have been received.

Bob will work with Stacy to send requests for proposal to 3 or 4 vendors in the hope of finding a service provider that will provide improved service at the best possible cost.

Dam

Group discussed the recent activity around the Culvert near the dam. Clelland explained that the culvert at 1 Leno Road was damaged and will need to be replaced. This will be handled as an emergency repair. Highway department will submit paperwork to complete this repair after the drawdown. This is the house that continues to flood. Bob asked if the drawdown would need to exceed the 2-foot limit documented in the Order of Conditions. No one knew if this would be necessary.

Bob reviewed the report and called out a few issues. He shared those corrections with Stacy and she worked with Fuss & O'Neil to make these changes and the final report should have been submitted to the State.

One of the major issues identified in the report is the vegetation in the spillway area. Given the issues with The Highway Department following through on this activity, Bob asked Clelland for his position on going to an outside agency to complete this work. Clelland felt it was reasonable to seek outside resources and it might be possible to transfer funds from the Highway budget. There is also some money in the budget available for dam maintenance. If we do choose to proceed with this plan, Select Board will support this approach. One concern raised by Doug is the possibility that this will alienate Brian. Another concern is that if we do seek outside resources this will set a precedent in the future.

Doug will call Brian and ask if he can get this work done in November. If that is not possible, we will consider arranging for a landscaper to remove the vegetation.

The dam report also indicates that we need obtain an Operation and Maintenance Manual. Fuss & O'Neil is not interested in doing this work. However, McClure Engineering was very interested in submitting a proposal to produce this manual and to install a device that will monitor the water level at the dam. We eagerly await this document.

Bob shared his desire to avoid the situation where shallow wells are going dry. This would require that Brian adjusts the dam more regularly. Doug will ask about how he knows where the correct level is reached and how it is monitored.

Drawdown: The process is underway. Code Red messages will be sent to warn residents that water levels will be dropping. Group wondered how this is monitored and adjusted once the water freezes.

Stormwater Management:

We have not received a report of the catch basins for a long time. Joanne Higgins agreed to send quarterly report to ConCom, but they haven't seen anything in a long time either. The technology they use employs a GPS device that transmits data as catch basins are cleaned. Dawn will distribute a copy to the group.

Doug asks "What is the role of the LOC as it relates to storm water management?"

From here the group shared stories about the myriad of issues that make this topic so challenging:

- High number of unpaved roads causing sand and silt to flow into the lake and into catch basins
- Steep hills that lead down to the water
- Need for more curbs to direct the water away from the water.
- Lack of vegetation to filter the water on its way to the lake

Following the discussion about the challenges that exist, the group discussed difficulty in undertaking projects that rely on the Highway Department. Many of the projects discussed would be multiyear, resource intensive efforts. The group felt it was unclear how to leverage the Highway Department resources to complete this kind of project.

The conversation concluded with a discussion about resources that were available to help us develop a plan, even though it is unclear how that plan would be implemented. One suggestion was to see if the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission had a template for such a plan and if they had insight related to finding grant money to fund these expensive projects.

Sam brought up the topic of grant money – He shared an article in Ebb and Flow a newsletter from the DEP. Sam will share the newsletter with Doug, and they will look to see if we can apply for a grant.

New Business:

Update from FHRA on South Basin Maintenance

Resident on the south basin is volunteering time and equipment to regrade the boat launch. Conservation is on board. This work will be done following the drawdown.

Roles: FHRA vs LOC Responsibilities

Doug was asking about the recent email announcing the requirement to include address markers on each dock and why was this addressed by Bob as an FHRA issue. Why did this come as a surprise to LOC?

Who will enforce this? The police will not enforce this. Conservation Commission and Building Inspector have responsibility to enforce this by-law. There was discussion within Concom that If residents do not comply by June 2022; tickets will issued. However, Concom is now pursuing having the bylaw changed to remove them from enforcement.

Group agreed there is a lot of overlap between the FHRA and LOC. As Chris McCooe was the leader of both groups for so long, roles became blurred. We will work together to document roles as we move forward.

Next Meeting:

November 2, 2021 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Anything else

No additional topics to discuss

Sam made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57, Dawn seconded. Approved by all present.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Johnson