

Lake Oversight Committee
Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen
December 7, 2021 Minutes



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

Members Absent: Dori Ference

Meeting called to order at 6:38.

Correspondence and voicemail

Approve Minutes:

October 5, 2021 V2 Sam made a motion to accept. Dawn seconded. Approved by all present
November 16, 2021 Bob made a motion to accept. Dawn seconded. Approved by all present

Old Business:

Weed Treatment

Bob sent a draft of RFP to the committee, using previous document prepared by Chris McCoee as a base. He attempted to make the document simpler and easier for companies to respond. Doug asked that everyone review and we will discuss at next meeting. Bob will send a copy to Stacy for her review. Bob designated the LOC to be the primary point of contact. Then we can make a recommendation to the Board of Selectman. Previously, BOS was primary contact. Using LOC as contact will be more efficient.

Discussed different options for term of the contract period. Bob is looking for numbers farther into the future, beyond the fiscal year. This would give the committee a better view into the costs. It would also let us plan out our expenses to keep the budget more level year over year. We will consider how to word the contract as it is not common to commit funds that have not been approved at Town Meeting. Maybe some contingency wording for future periods could be leveraged.

The plan: Send out an RFP in early January. Ask for responses in early February. Evaluate the RFPs and use this information to submit our budget to the Finance Committee in February.

Doug will work on creating a model if he can get some history on previous spending. Then input the numbers in the RFP to evaluate the responses.

Dam Inspection

Status of Vegetation Cleanout – Complete

- D&B had done some work around the lake previously, but were unable to include the spillway at the time due to the water level. As level is now down, Dave contacted Brian and asked if this work should be completed.

Stormwater Management:

Review/Discuss Dredging Feasibility Report – First 28 pages have key info.

Doug reviewed the dredging estimates and shared the summary figures:(plus contingency)

12 foot dredge: \$27 Million

10 foot dredge: \$19 Million

8 foot dredge: \$12 million

This is good report with valuable information and insights. But we may not be able to do it. In order to dredge we would have to drain the lake, bring in bulldozers and establish staging areas for the debris that is removed. This is a huge task. If this did happen shallow wells would go dry. Not sure how long this effort would take, but homes with shallow wells would be without water for this time-period.

No grant money for this kind of work. Should we pursue a long-term loan?

Maybe best to address why there is so much sediment build-up in the lake. The Watershed Base Plan has more useful information in it. Talks about obtaining 319 Grant. Bob has asked if the previously awarded 319 grant has been totally spent. The state is managing the project, but the current project will consume all the money.

Bob shared idea: the town does not have a grant writer to pursue grants for roads and catch basins but there are funds in the FHRA budget. Maybe this money could be used to hire a grant writer to find funds for the sole purpose of improvements around the lake to prevent runoff. Clelland shared: This is a fine idea. Departments have historically found and applied for grants. In this case though this grant application would need to be carefully coordinated with the town as it will likely have a dependency on the Highway Department to supply input.

Bob shared concerns about accountability. FHRA would want to see status reports. As most of these grants require status reports to the state, FHRA would likely be able to get copies.

Discussion then centered around how to move forward. It seems clear that without a very specific project plan, it will be difficult to obtain grant money. Doug suggested that we should partner with the Highway Department to understand if there are other roadways that could help mitigate the runoff problem. Armed with this information we can consider leveraging FHRA funds to partner on writing a grant application. Doug will reach out to Brian.

We really need to identify an experienced grant writer. There is money but no one has identified an actual resource. How much was budgeted for the grant writer? There is 30,000 set aside for a grant writer. Who should be pursuing this? LOC could find a candidate and recommend them to the Board of Selectman. The job would need to be posted for a pre-requisite amount of time whether they are a contractor or a town employee. So LOC resources can make any commitments to any individual.

There are administrative duties associated with getting a grant. This needs to be considered as we move forward on other grants.

New Business:

- Next Meeting
- Anything else – Nothing further was discussed.

Next Meeting:

January 4, 2022 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Sam made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34; Dawn seconded. Approved by Dawn, Bob, Sam, Clelland, Doug and Lynn.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn

Lynn Johnson
LOC Secretary