Friends of Bolton Lakes

Board of Directors and Public Meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Attendees (Board of Directors): Nancy Carini, Cheri Smith, Karl Prewo, Peter VanDine, Jerry Lalancette, Mark Turkington, Holly MacDonald

Kim Welch, Lower Bolton Lake Commissioner and 13 members of FBL were also in attendance

1. Attendees were welcomed—Nancy Carini

* Nancy welcomed FBL members and board members were introduced. This was the fifth board meeting since incorporation in January. Nancy informed members that the Board has put in over 500 hours during that time. A motion was made and passed to accept minutes of the April 13 meeting.

1. Accomplishments to date—Nancy/Holly/Shelly/David Cowles
   * Since the group has been active, a Lake Commissioner was appointed, money allocated by Town of Bolton for lake intervention and maintenance, a lake consultant hired, ACT contract signed for lake treatment and DEEP agreed not to stock catfish this year. Paperwork was filed for incorporation and nonprofit status. The Board was appointed from volunteers who had been meeting regularly. Elections will take place to appoint board members in the future. A grant was submitted to Pratt & Whitney to construct a rain garden and funding has been awarded conditionally to FBL receiving nonprofit (501 c 3) status from the IRS. David Cowles, Bolton High School Senior worked with Michael Dietz at UConn to develop a design for the rain garden at Indian Notch Park. It will be 70 square feet and use grasses and perennials for low maintenance. David visited other rain gardens around the state and will present this as his senior capstone project on May 16th. We will seek volunteers to construct the rain garden when funds are available for supplies.
2. Treasurer’s Report and Membership Report—Cheri Smith
   * The current balance is $2,329,70. During the past month, FBL obtained $70 in new membership dues and paid $400 for nonprofit status and $46 for postage stamps.
   * There are 89 paid members, including 41 individual, 21 family, 16 senior, 1 student and 10 benefactor memberships, as well as 2 gifts. The towns represented are as follows—Bolton, 47 members, Vernon, 31, Manchester, 4, Tolland, 2, South Windsor, 1 and Wethersfield, 1. Directors and Officers Liability insurance was discussed, a motion was made and carried to purchase the insurance. Holly will continue to seek lower quotes.
3. Update from Town Committees—Shelly Jewell, Peter VanDine, Nancy Carini
   * Board of Selectman: Shelly reported that that at the May 7 meeting a Lower Bolton Lake update was provided—DEEP approved the permit for treatment and George Knoecklein continues to monitor the lake with ACT, looking for signs of naiad growth for optimal treatment time. There is currently some algae in the lake but it is not blue green algae. DEEP agreed not to stock catfish and they are currently conducting a catfish sampling. The budget referendum did not pass, a second budget referendum is scheduled for May 21. Shelly also reported that the HB 5841 did not look like it would go through, so Pam Sawyer wrote a letter to Governor Malloy requesting a $250,000 bond over five years for remediation of the lower and middle lake. The bond commission will meet in late May or June—there is no public hearing for this item.
   * Board of Finance—Peter reported that the Board of Finance made transfers in the spring and carried $35,000 for next year.
   * Conservation Commission—Nancy informed the group that the last ERT report was in 1978. A new report for the Bolton Lakes and Watershed was requested last year. Tom Oulette (Vernon Conservation Commission) wrote a letter, also signed by Rod Parlee (Bolton Conservation Commission), asking for an update on the status of the report. Peter Wilkins from the Bolton Conservation Commission noted that different states had reports on lake stocking studies that revealed the natural balance is thrown off by stocking non-native species.
4. Committee Reports
   * Education—we do not have an education committee. We need a chairperson and committee members. Sue Beth VanDine and Shelly Jewell are willing to participate on the committee.
   * Fundraising—Holly MacDonald

The Fundraising Committee met three times since the beginning of the year and has recently scheduled two events—a Tag Sale, Saturday, June 1 at Indian Notch Park (Rain date: Sunday, June 2). People can purchase a space for $20 or donate items to be sold, proceeds to benefit FBL. The second event is a Boat Parade and Pizza Party, scheduled for Saturday, July 13 (rain date July 14), for FBL members. The cost is $5, just to cover the cost of pizza and soda and is a social event for members and those that would like to become members. Jerry Lalancette created the FBL logo and ordered baseball caps and t-shirts, which will be sold at both events, and after the meeting on May 8. T-shirts are $12 each or 2 for $20 and hats are $15. Members will also be able to order other specialty items (oxford and polo shirts, sweatshirts) through the website.

* + Science—Peter Van Dine and Karl Prewo

The Science Committee researched SONAR after the last Lower Bolton Lake update provided by the Town of Bolton and determined that fluridone has been found by both the US Environmental Protection Agency and USDA Forest Service to be a very acceptable systemic herbicide which changes the ability of a plant to photosynthesize. It has been indicated that one day after application it is safe to swim, allow pets in the water and fish, however, it is recommended not to irrigate gardens. The committee has learned that the algaecide copper sulfate does not eliminate cyanobacteria or get rid of toxicity, but disperses the algae through the water column. The committee will investigate this further. The science committee did a great deal of work regarding the request to avoid stocking channel catfish this year and is pleased with the outcome, as well as the study currently in place by the fisheries department. Four nets are currently in place to study the native catfish population. The committee is meeting with other limnologists to obtain further information, as the Town of Bolton has asked individuals not to contact George Knoecklein directly. Karl Prewo provided an overview of the watershed area (there is a map on the website) and noted that there are cumulative effects on the system as a result of continued and further development. The Bolton Lakes, as opposed to larger lakes such as Lake Pocotopaug and Candlewood, should be manageable, however, there are tipping points—events that can be triggered by seeming small additional changes. Karl also noted that it is important to know that it is illegal in Connecticut to sell general lawn fertilizers containing phosphorous, but people and retailers may still have some around. It is important to have buffers—a linear rain garden—to intercept and help the ground absorb water before it enters the lake. The specialists have drawn conclusions based upon their past experience, but each watershed is different. More time needs to be spent in observing and reporting conditions in the Bolton Lakes. A second session of invasive plant training will be conducted on July 20—teaching individuals what to look for and how to identify invasive plant species at the boat launch. Volunteers ask people to remove the plants and are trained how to handle difficult situations. There is a $95 fine for carrying invasive plants on boats or trailers per plant. The Science Committee is hopeful that lake residents will also have the opportunity to be trained in water sampling and water clarity sightings.

* + Communications—Lauren Lalancette and Nancy Carini

A newsletter is currently in production and will be available on the website and copies at the tag sale. It will be published twice a year. The idea was raised about using a student from Bolton HS or Manchester Community College to do the graphic design. Nancy Carini noted that the website was developed with donated time from Nancy, Lauren and Jerry, with a cost of $100 per year for the domain name. 436 unique visitors viewed the website on April 12, when an e-mail identifying the site went out, and it continues to have up to 95 hits per day. Links to the Vernon Conservation Commission and other appropriate sites in the future will be added. Coventry and Tolland are also in the watershed, and all four towns were included on the ERT. We need to find connections to activities in Vernon, Tolland and Coventry to add to the website.

1. Lake Commissioner report—Kim Welch
   * Kim was appointed Lake Commissioner in Bolton in November. She reported that George Knoecklein has observed the lake frequently and believes that we are close to the point of contacting ACT for the application of the herbicide—probably before the end of the month. Naiad growth is approximately two feet, and milfoil has been observed in the cove. It’s been confirmed that the lake does currently have algae and an odor. Many lakes have not been looking good and the lack of rainfall may have had some effect. DEEP requires a same day notice for the treatment. ACT will provide a 24 hour notice and information will be on the FBL and Town of Bolton websites, posted at the boat launches dams and swimming areas and e-mailed.
2. Q & A
   * Members voiced concern that the website and majority of communications are in regard to Bolton—there is limited information regarding Vernon, Coventry and Tolland. We need better connections to the other towns in the watershed to be able to share information.
   * A question was raised about the underwater camera used and Kim Welch will seek that information.
3. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, at the Notch Municipal Building, Room 9, 6:30 p.m. Agenda will be posted on the website and the meeting is open to the public. There will not be meetings in July and August. Accepted minutes will also be posted on the website. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with thanks to the Board of Directors and public. FBL hats and T-shirts were sold and will continue to be available through the website and at fundraising events.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Jewell, Secretary

FBL