Friends of Bolton Lakes

Board of Directors and Public Meeting

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

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

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

1. Attendees were welcomed—Nancy Carini
2. Approve May meeting minutes—Shelly Jewell
   * A motion was made and passed to approve the May FBL meeting minutes. They will be posted on the FBL website.
3. Lower Bolton Lake Commissioner update—Kim Welch
   * Kim Welch informed attendees that the water in Lower Bolton Lake is up nine inches due to significant rain. The Upper Lake is very high and the water table is much higher than usual. Water has been coming up from the manhole covers. George Knoecklein and ACT have been monitoring the lake and it is anticipated that a reapplication of SONAR will approximately the third week in June. The notification process will take place again. The naiad has been impacted by the treatment, with the pink and white coloration as anticipated. There is some algae in the lake in the water column, but only a trace of blue green algae. There has been an odor noted. There were some indications that the water had been clearer (however, all Secchi disk readings have been below two meters). A discussion ensued regarding what level of water and water flow is needed to maintain the concentration of fluridone, and Kim noted that George and ACT knew that it would be difficult to maintain, which was the rationale for lowering the lake prior to treatment. There are 20-24 new baby geese. DEEP has written a response regarding not stocking the catfish. The results of the catfish nets project should be out in late June.
   * Q & A: Signs are still posted from the first application, but it is appropriate that they remain in place as the irrigation restriction continues 90 days post application. Shelly Jewell sent a picture of some green gooey plant matter in the cove at Lakeside Lane/Lakeside Circle and sent it to Kim—Kim sent it to George but had not received a response. Since the third budget referendum in Bolton passed, Indian Notch will open in late June.
4. Accomplishments and update—Nancy/Holly/Shelly/David Cowles
   * We received information from the IRS with a name and contact number, and both Holly MacDonald and Shelly Jewell spoke to our IRS assigned staff person. The IRS informed us that we needed to amend our Articles of Incorporation to include language about the dissolution of the organization should that occur. A special meeting was held on June 1 and 24 votes were obtained to amend the Articles. Holly resubmitted the paperwork via priority mail last Saturday and anticipates that we could hear back in approximately 10 days.
   * Shelly Jewell provided an update regarding the Pratt & Whitney grant for the rain garden and introduced David Cowles, a Bolton High School Senior who completed a design of the rain garden for Indian Notch for his senior capstone project. David presented the design on a poster board which indicated research, placement, types of plants and colors for the garden. Members present asked a number of questions about building rain gardens, including sizing and types of plants. The town of Bolton has been requiring rain gardens in conjunction with new building on the lake. Peter VanDine will be constructing a rain garden on his property where there is a catch basin. A pipe had been installed in 1945 that drains into the lake—it will be replaced with the rain garden.

Lisa Brooks indicated that there is a gully abutting the Newhoca property on Middle Bolton Lake on land owned by the beach association that might also lend itself to a rain garden.

1. Treasurer’s Report and Membership Report—Cheri Smith
   * The current balance is $2,745.74. During the past month, FBL obtained $145 in new membership dues, $767 for t-shirts and hats, $1,258 for the tag sale and $15 for coyote cut outs. Expenses included a $150 refundable deposit for using Indian Notch for the tag sake and a $50 gate unlock/lock fee; as well as $1,568.96 in professional promotions (including hats and t-shirts).
   * There are currently 95 paid members. We received a lower quote for Directors and Officers Liability insurance and are able to save $300+ from prior quotes.
2. Update from Town Committees—Shelly Jewell, Peter VanDine, Nancy Carini
   * Board of Selectman: Shelly reported that that at the June 4 meeting a Lower Bolton Lake update was provided, see attached report.
   * Board of Finance—Peter reported that the Bolton Board of Finance does not have the power to make specific line cuts once the budget goes to referendum. There are only two places to cut—the Board of Education’s or Board of Selectmen’s total budget. The Board of Selectmen’s budget was reduced twice for a total of $42,500, but the funds designated for lake maintenance under contracted services apparently remains.
   * Bolton Conservation Commission—Nancy reported that the Bolton Conservation Commission (BCC) met on June 3. Hannah Sullivan (a Bolton High School student) won the first prize for her photograph submitted for the BCC calendar. FBL had offered a prize of a boat ride around Lower Bolton Lake. A new calendar will be produced by the end of the summer. Nancy indicated that we have the opportunity for a full page ad in the calendar for only $100—the cost of a small ad. A motion was made and passed to do so and the Communications Committee will be asked to submit a design. Members discussed options regarding which boat would be used. The ERT report was to be completed by June 5 and it is hoped that is available soon.
   * Vernon Conservation Commission—Karl reported that the Vernon Conservation Commission has developed a plant identification process. Photos of new plants or observed changes in plants can be sent to Bruce Dinnie at the town of Vernon, who will forward them to George Knoecklein. Records will be kept to build a database of changes in aquatic plant life. The next Vernon Conservation Commission meeting is on June 17. Karl also indicated that the Vernon Inland Wetlands Commission is highly involved with zoning modifications and it is important that FBL members attend the Bolton Inland Wetlands Commission meetings as well. (Nancy will contact Rod Parlee in Bolton to see if a similar plant identification procedure can be established in Bolton. Peter noted that plant samples can be brought to town hall. We will have a representative attend the Inland Wetland Commission meetings.)
3. Committee Reports
   * Education—we do not have an education committee. We need a chairperson and committee members. Sue Beth VanDine, Shelly and Rich Jewell and Mark Turkington are willing to participate on the committee. Shelly suggested that we begin work as a committee without a chair, or serve as temporary chairs on a revolving basis.
   * Fundraising—Holly MacDonald

The Fundraising Committee reported that the FBL Tag Sale held on Saturday, June 1 at Indian Notch Park was a success. If we were to have a tag sale again it was determined that we develop a schedule for volunteers for tagging, set-up, sales and breakdown, obtain more vendors and arrange for pickup of items not sold by an organization such as Salvation Army or Big Brothers/Big Sisters. The Boat Parade and Pizza Party is 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. All were encouraged to attend and a flyer was distributed and will be posted on the web. The fundraising committee is exploring the possibility of additional events in the fall.

* + Science—Peter Van Dine and Karl Prewo  
    Karl Prewo and Leona Crosskey wrote letters that were sent to the towns of Vernon and Bolton regarding the winter drawdown, requesting that the drawdowns be conducted as appropriate for the entire lake system.  
    Peter reported that Professor Don Les from UConn is an expert on the naiad guadalupensis, and has indicated willingness to meet and discuss his thoughts regarding nutrients and the naiad in a manner that would be complementary to George Knoecklein’s work. The Science Committee also met with other limnologists, including an expert on aquatic weeds, Mark June-Wells, who has done research on 130 lakes and ponds in Connecticut. A motion was made and passed in support of the Science Committee's proposal to engage in further discussion, obtain additional information and determine the cost of data collection from these experts. Once the cost of such a project is determined it will be brought before the Board for approval.
  + Communications—Nancy Carini

The first newsletter was completed and is on the website. Copies were mailed to members who do not have e-mail. The next publication will be in the fall. Nancy indicated that the most frequent hits on the website pages were as follows (1) the herbicide treatment (2) the tag sale (3) the newsletter (4) the home page and (5) the channel catfish. It appears that the e-mails that refer people to the website have resulted in visits to the website.

1. Q & A and Discussion
   * Leona, who was unable to attend the meeting, had mentioned that we should discuss using FBL funds. Karl Prewo indicated that he believes our most role is to consider how to support and move forward with a watershed/lakes management strategy, and that getting multiple opinions and becoming more informed is critical. A suggestion was made that we should continue to raise money for matching funds for grants. Peter mentioned that many of the grant programs have not been well funded over the past several years, but will hopefully be available again in the future, and we could begin to prepare a statement of need by adding to our knowledge and expertise.
   * Shelly and Rich Jewell had observed geese on the dam between the Lower and Middle lakes and spoke to a woman who had been feeding the geese. Donating a coyote cutout for this location was discussed, including who the request should go to. It was recommended that Chuck Lee at DEEP be contacted.
2. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11. Shelly Jewell will contact the Town regarding the use of the Notch Municipal Building again for that meeting. Invasive weed training will be held on July 20, 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Notch Building, Room 9.

Respectfully submitted.

Shelly Jewell, Secretary

FBL