

Friends of Bolton Lakes
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2014

Present: Leona Crosskey, Peter Van Dine, Nancy Carini, Shelly Jewell, Cheri Smith, Holly MacDonald, Dave Forrest (Board Members)

Kim Welch, Lake Commissioner, Bolton

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve March 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes—a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the March 2014 meeting minutes, with corrected spelling of Peter Van Dine's name.
3. Lake Commissioner Report—Kim Welch reported the following from the Board of Selectmen meeting:
 - The Town of Bolton plans to address the geese on Lower Bolton Lake by utilizing coyote cutouts on the beach. Rich Jewell will speak to Jerry Lalancette about making additional cutouts. Leona Crosskey asked about hunting, but that has not been discussed by the Town this year. Karl Prewo observed approximately 100 geese on the upper lake. Because Upper Bolton Lake borders Vernon, Tolland and Coventry, the topic will be raised at the next BLWCA meeting. Mark Turkington pointed out that there were no geese this winter due to the lake remaining frozen.
 - The town of Bolton received the signed STEAP grant on March 27, 2014. It will be posted on the town's website.
 - Kim Welch attended the FBL sponsored water quality monitoring training on April 3rd.
 - DEEP agreed not to stock catfish again this year, however the town still needs to provide a letter with this request.
 - Kim provided "ice in/ice out" dates—for the past winter it was December 10 through March 30. Last year it was December 17 through March 31.
 - The water in the lower lake is currently high—it had raised 5 inches, then came up another 5 inches. Leona mentioned that one of the culverts near her house is blocked. The BLWCA is looking at the culverts. Chuck Lee from DEEP is investigating whether the culvert between the Middle and Upper Lake belongs to the town of Vernon or the state.
 - The town is still waiting for George Knoecklein's report. It was due March 31 and expected imminently.
 - Peter Van Dine raised a question regarding the Bolton town budget—there is no line item for the lake and no mention of the STEAP grant. Kim Welch will ask about this.
4. Treasurers Report and Membership Report—(Cheri Smith, Treasurer). The current balance is \$6,047.28. There are 102 members. The annual membership drive resulted in a number of new members but not all former members renewed.
5. New Board Officers—Cheri Smith resigned as Treasurer and Membership Chair and Nancy Carini resigned as Vice President, due to anticipated moves out of Bolton in the near future. Shelly

Jewell will notify members and others of the vacant positions and a slate of officers will be put forward for the May 2014 meeting.

6. Water Quality Monitoring Equipment Training---There were 11 participants at the training on April 3rd and approximately 14 individuals in total have indicated interest in participating. George Knoecklein will also conduct an “on the water” training in the near future, which will take place on Middle Bolton Lake. The lake bottoms are deeper than the cables purchased, but George Knoecklein is not concerned, due to the levels of dissolved oxygen. Equipment will also be used for stream monitoring. Water quality will be assessed before and after heavy rain. Sample bottles will be labeled and dropped off at a cooler outside George’s office. Sampling will occur approximately twice monthly. The Science Committee will work with George to coordinate volunteer sampling.
7. Update from Town Committees
 - a. Kim Welch attended the Board of Selectmen’s meeting—information above. The Phase V sewer contract was approved. Phase IV hookup letters will likely go out in June, and residents will have 180 days to hook up to the sewers. There have been odor issues from the man holes in the area of Wildwood Road which will be addressed by Biox, a salt solution used for odor control. Not all grinder pumps have been properly stubbed.
 - b. Board of Finance—no report
 - c. Bolton Conservation Commission—Shelly Jewell shared information from the BCC meeting on February 6, including Rod Parlee’s upcoming meeting with Joyce Stille; the Connecticut Land Conservation Commission Conference on March 15 at Wesleyan; the Maine Milfoil Summit on February 28 at the University of Maine, Auburn; Peter Wilkens Best Management Practices CD; the Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance; the student project at Freja Park; the Vernal Pools Hike on March 22 and Trails Day Hikes on June 7.
 - d. Inland Wetlands Commission—Holly MacDonald gave a report from Inland Wetlands. The commission is working on new regulations with a goal of a September completion. Items such as definition of clear cutting and fines for lack of permits will be included. Regulations from other lakes will be reviewed and considered. Columbia Lake, for example, includes best management practices for reducing phosphorus. The Commission welcomes input from the Conservation Commissions and FBL.
8. Jeff Phelon sent a summary of the last Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance meeting on February 3rd. Dick Raymond, the state forester, believes that the Atlantic White Cedar is rare and unique and fluctuating water levels could be damaging. It is a mature and aging forest which is not likely to be resilient to damage from major storms. A forest management plan was recommended. Watershed owners with land including the white cedars should be identified. The next meeting is scheduled for March 3rd.
9. Committee Reports
 - a. Education—No report. Shelly Jewell asked if any other members would be interested in serving on the education committee—she will reach out to FBL members.
 - b. Communications—no report.

- c. Fundraising---Holly MacDonald provided an update on the 2014 membership drive. Lists have been obtained and collating, folding, labeling etc. is scheduled for this week. Board members were asked to review lists and identify anyone they knew to add a handwritten note to the letter. Regarding a fundraising raffle, Holly contacted LL Bean, but they are not willing to donate a kayak or Adirondack chairs. Shelly will research companies that have community action funding. It was also recommended that we contact Cabela's.
 - d. Science—the science committee contributed information throughout the meeting, including the STEAP grant, watershed management study, water quality monitoring and asking questions in advance of the scheduled information update on February 24th. Peter VanDine mentioned that Eric Thomas, the DEEP Watershed Management staff person will be at the BLWCA meeting on March 3rd. Dave Forrest indicated that the stakeholders have agreed to meet and discuss issues and there is progress occurring.
10. Snouts discussion— a Snout is a storm water quality improvement system. Llynwood Drive residents are interested in exploring the cost of Snouts and whether they might be installed before Llynwood Drive is repaved. Mark Turkington believes that this would not be included as part of the sewer installation project. There was a discussion regarding whether the Vernon Road improvements were funded by the sewer project or if any funds from the sewer project were earmarked for storm drain improvement.
11. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 6:30 p.m., Notch Municipal Center, Bolton
12. Meeting adjourned with thanks to participants at 8:15 p.m.

NOTE: 2014 Meeting dates: March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, September 10, October 8, November 12 and December 10, all at the Notch Building, Bolton, room 9.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Jewell, Secretary
Friends of Bolton Lakes