

Friends of Bolton Lakes
December 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Present: Leona Crosskey, Karl Prewo, Peter Van Dine, Nancy Carini, Peter Wilkens, Shelly Jewell (Board Members)

Jeff Phelon, Dave Forrest (Board Members Elect)

Peter Wilkens (guest)

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve November Meeting Minutes—a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the November 13, 2013 meeting minutes, which will be posted on the website.
3. Website Maintenance—Nancy Carini anticipates leaving Bolton in February 2013. We will need someone to update and maintain the website. Shelly Jewell, Secretary, will send a message out to the membership to see if anyone will volunteer. On average, website maintenance requires approximately three to five hours per month. There is a 10-hour tutorial available, and Nancy will work with anyone who is willing to take over. We have purchased the domain for two years (through 2015) and will need to renew at that time. Nancy indicated that because the website has already been developed, strong website experience isn't needed, but it is helpful to be at the FBL meetings to understand what should be added, deleted, changed, etc. Peter Van Dine volunteered for an interim time period until we find someone permanently.
4. Use of Remaining Pratt & Whitney Grant funds—Shelly Jewell reported that \$1,884 is available from the Pratt & Whitney grant after the construction of the rain garden. Correspondence from Pratt & Whitney indicated interest and support for a plan to use the remaining funds, but details have not been confirmed. After detailed discussion, a motion was made to order a meter and probe to sample water—looking at dissolved oxygen levels is a measure of lake health. Decreasing levels of dissolved oxygen can be indicative of a problem. Labor will be provided by volunteers. A motion was made, seconded and passed to order equipment not to exceed \$2,000 including shipping and handling. Peter Van Dine will provide Shelly Jewell with detailed information for ordering.
5. Treasurers Report and Membership Report—(provided by Shelly Jewell, with a report from Treasurer, Cheri Smith). The balance as of December 11, 2013 is \$3,748. 84 with 99 members. Peter Wilkens joined at the meeting bringing membership to 100.
6. Update from Town Committees—Shelly Jewell provided highlights from the Board of Selectmen meeting (notes from Holly MacDonald and Kim Welch) and an update from the Bolton Conservation Commission. Commission vacancies remain unfilled but the BOS anticipates making appointments at the January 2014 meeting. Peter Van Dine reported that there were no updates from the Board of Finance.

Board of Selectmen—Drawdown is done. Both valves on the Lower Lake have been closed and the water level of the Lower and Middle Lakes are on the rise. STEAP contract is still in the works. Joyce Stille is working with DEEP to re-word the scope of services section to include an in-depth watershed study. It is anticipated that the contract will not be complete until spring. Data

from George Knoecklein will be available after the first of the year. Kim Welch informed the BOS of the concern about the geese population.

Karl Prewo provided a report from a meeting in Vernon with Bruce Dinnie and George Knoecklein, which included a discussion of milfoil in the Middle Lake which will likely be treated with herbicide in the spring and the damaged culvert between the Middle and Upper Lakes. George indicated that he would teach volunteers how to collect samples and the town of Vernon indicated the ability to cover the cost of testing approximately once a month. Karl also reported information from the four towns' Conservation Commissions—Bolton, Vernon, Coventry and Tolland—on December 5, 2013. Attending were each town's Conservation Commissioner, as well as Karl, Rich Jewell, Peter Wilkens and others. The meeting included discussion of developing a plan for major weather events or disasters; developing a watershed management plan; establishing a central data repository for the entire watershed; and working with FBL. The group agreed to meet monthly. Each town will share plans for conservation and protection and regulations. Each town has unique abilities and expertise—Coventry has the most regulations and Tolland primarily focuses on land preservation. Currently the group is working on a voluntary basis and not in any official town capacity.

Karl informed the group that the Tankerhoosen Watershed Plan is a very good document that could serve as a model for developing a watershed plan with EPA's guidelines. Karl will forward the document to board members.

7. Committee Reports.

- a. Peter Wilkens volunteered and the board voted to approve his position as Education Committee Chairperson.
- b. Fundraising—Shelly Jewell reported on behalf of Holly MacDonald that a new fundraising goal and plan will be developed after the first of the year, in addition to a 2014 membership drive. The entire watershed will be targeted for the membership drive.
- c. Marketing—N/A
- d. Science—covered during discussions of equipment purchase, multi-town conservation commission meeting.
- e. Lake Commissioner Report—shared in conjunction with Board of Selectmen notes. Also noted was the discussion at the inland wetlands meeting about the permit for the retaining wall and dock replacement at 21 Vernon Rd. This property is lakefront near the lake house. A large oak tree had fallen and crushed the dock, boats, chairs, etc. in early October. The meeting discussion focused on the retaining wall. The dock replacement requires a permit from the building dept. An IWC permit was issued to rebuild the wall. The wall is currently being rebuilt while the water is low.

8. Next meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Jewell, Secretary
Friends of Bolton Lakes

