

Friends of Bolton Lakes
January 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes

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

Kim Welch, Lauren Lalancette (FBL members)

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve December Meeting Minutes—a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the December 2013 meeting minutes, which will be posted on the website.
3. Lake Commissioner Report—Kim Welch reported that Justin Davies from Fisheries is working with the data from the electro-survey in October. High counts of large-mouth bass, pickerel and sunfish were noted. Catfish data will be available at a later date. Lake Consultant George Knoecklein’s report has been submitted. The town of Bolton will schedule a Lower Bolton Lake Informational Meeting in mid-late February. There was a coyote seen on the lake.
4. Treasurers Report and Membership Report—(Cheri Smith, Treasurer). The balance as of January 8, 2014 is \$5,276.04 with 100 members. A gift of \$1,250 was received from the Middle Bolton Lake Association.
5. Bolton Lakes Regional Water Level Guideline Report—Dave Forrest reported that guidelines will include drawdown—lowering and raising the water levels, monitoring and emergency preparedness. The discussion included citizens assisting DEEP, towns meeting with stakeholders, writing letters regarding supervision of drawdowns. If lakes are classified as “impoundment lakes,” the state has control over the lake. At the next meeting, concerns regarding opening communication and citizen involvement will be included. Dave reported that the copy of the current guidelines does not include a section on emergency preparedness. A discussion ensued regarding the depth of the lower lake (began with a 1.5 drop in November, varying as much as 11 inches, currently at about 10”); the weir boards, whether newer employees have been doing the drawdowns correctly. Currently the water levels are monitored on the first and third Mondays of the month at a cost of approximately \$30 per hour. Could citizens monitor water depth for more accuracy and to save money? Karl, Dave and Peter Van Dine will attend the next meeting and invite Kim Welch to attend too.
6. Equipment Order Status—Shelly Jewell reported that the CERT 119 form was completed so that the order could be placed. When the tax-free invoice is received, we will send a check. Karl Prewo suggested that we also purchase an additional item—a sampler kit and water sample bottles. A motion was made, seconded and passed to order the equipment, not to exceed \$500. Peter VanDine will send information to Shelly and she will contact the vendor to place the order.
7. 2014 Plans
 - a. Membership Drive—Leona Crosskey drafted a letter and a list of 2013 activities and 2014 objectives (from information that Karl Prewo had provided). The letter will be finalized a mailing including a return envelope to FBL will take place in late January.

Postage will increase on January 27, so we will try to get the mailing out prior. Cheri Smith will check with the Manchester Post Office regarding obtaining a bulk rate permit.

- b. Fundraising—2014 fundraising activities will include fundraising objectives. Holly MacDonald mentioned the possibility of a raffle—the group suggested a kayak as the prize. Another tag sale, silent auction and golf tournament were also discussed.
 - c. Education—Peter Wilkens discussed tailoring educational events to the audience. He has Project Learning Tree books available. Educating homeowners is a board priority. We are working on a Do's and Don'ts list which will be developed with input from the Bolton Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions. Peter mentioned Earth Day and Trails Day as possibilities for educational events, in conjunction with the Bolton Conservation Commission events. Shelly Jewell will send Peter names of people who had volunteered to be on the Education Committee.
 - d. Marketing—Lauren reported that a newsletter could be done again in the spring.
8. Update from Town Committees
- a. The Board of Selectmen had special meetings this week. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 14 and includes appointments to the Commissions.
 - b. Board of Finance—Peter VanDine—nothing to report.
 - c. Bolton Conservation Commission—Peter Wilkens reported that there are four projects that the BCC is discussing for 2014:
 - i. Recycling and reducing waste education pilot—leading to reduced costs and potentially reducing taxes
 - ii. Interpretive walks and other outdoor events
 - iii. Using GIS mapping and adding data to the website
 - iv. Establishing a BCC office in the Notch Building to include a small office, the GIS equipment, a small library and possibly a nature center
9. Committee Reports
- a. Science Committee—a watershed study has been discussed by the Conservation Alliance. Karl Prewo distributed the Tankerhoosen study which is a model that some towns have adapted. DEEP endorsed the study as a benchmark watershed study. It included four towns and was facilitated by the Friends of the Tankerhoosen. Hopefully the STEAP grant will fund a watershed plan. Ann Letendre, who led the Tankerhoosen study and also took the initiative on the Rails to Trails initiative also recommended Eric Maas at Fuss & O'Neil, who Peter VanDine had previously recommended. Holly MacDonald mentioned that the Bolton Board of Selectmen indicated interest in a watershed study at their December meeting. Karl Prewo mentioned that the Tankerhoosen study included a technical advisory committee and that model should be put forward. Discussion also included storm drains and low impact development. Leona will contact Bob Morra, first Selectmen in Bolton to discuss a plan for dealing with runoff before roads are repaved in the next phase of the sewer project. The following Motion was made and passed: "The Friends of Bolton Lakes hereby supports the goal of an EPA compliant watershed study to be performed for the three lake watershed. To further this effort the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Science Committee to inform, as appropriate, the Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliances, the Towns of Bolton, Vernon, Coventry and Tolland, and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection of their support for such a s watershed study and to assist and cooperate with these entities toward this goal."

10. Discussion—Nancy Carini anticipates leaving Bolton in February 2014, however she is willing to continue to maintain the FBL website from her new home. Jerry and Lauren Lalancette also have passwords for the website. The cost of maintaining the name is \$153 every two years—will be up for renewal in February 2015.
11. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 12, 2014. 2014 meetings: 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.
12. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 with thanks to the Board and guests.