

Friends of Bolton Lakes
March 12, 2014 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Present: Leona Crosskey, Peter Van Dine, Karl Prewo, Dave Forrest, Jerry LaLancette, Lauren LaLancette, Jeff Phelon, Cheri Smith

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve February Meeting Minutes – a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the February 2014 meeting minutes, which will be posted on the website.
3. Lake Commissioner Report: Kim Welch was unable to attend the March meeting. The Journal Inquirer posted a negative article related to Bolton Lake on February 25th or 26th.
4. Treasurers Report and Membership Report – The 2014 Membership Drive reveals 83 members signed up. Many 2013 members have yet to renew. Expenses included lake water testing equipment purchase & mailing for membership drive.
Action: S Jewell will send out email to encourage past FBL members to send in membership cards.
5. The February 24, 2014 Lake Informational Meeting at Bolton Town Hall was well-attended by interested FBL members and others. George Knoecklein, DEEP and Fisheries reported on current condition of the 3-lake watershed. UCONN will host a meeting to teach interested parties how to test lake water. Lower Bolton Lake continues to have high nitrogen content; lakes will become more anoxic because of ice covering this winter. Continued phosphorous release is expected, as well as iron due to decay of weeds and endemic Lower lake contents. Peter Van Dine reported contact with the DEEP after the 2/24/2014 town meeting and reports catfish will not be stocked in Lower Bolton Lake.
Action: N Carini to add UCONN educational link to FBL website.
6. Lake monitoring equipment – Paid for by a donation from Pratt & Whitney and FBL. Bolton Lake would benefit from additional testers on the lake. George Knoecklein is currently monitoring both Lower and Middle lakes and agreed to help train town/lake residents to test lake water. Vernon has been asked to cover the lab fees Vernon member. DEEP member felt the STEAP Grant might also cover the cost of education and analysis.
Action: P.Wilkens to assess new testing equipment and show Science Committee members how to best use the equipment. P.Van Dine will label the equipment 'Pratt & Whitney, FBL'.
7. STEAP Grant – George Knoecklein will do a study. There was a 1979 study, but we need an EPA-compliant study to continue to apply for future grants. It must include milestones and dates of completion. FBL needs to prepare to find more grant money to continue to improve the lake conditions. Others have been successful in applying for grants. There may be funds in Flood and Erosion Control. State staff is expected to notify Bolton town administrator of the need for EAP compliant study for that reason.
8. Update from Town Committees.
 - a. Board of Finance – a calendar of events leading up to the budget for FY2014 – 2015 was provided.
 - b. Bolton Conservation Commission – No report
 - c. Inland Wetlands Commission – No report

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9. Committee Reports

- a. Education – await input from P. Wilkens
- b. Communications – April 25th is Earth Day. The newsletter will be 4 pages, 11 x 17. It will include education for homeowners; Treasurer Report on money spent and members; Science Committee report and a message from Pam Sawyer. Patricia Risdon wrote ‘White Cedar’ article in Hartford Courant. Pictures of Upper Bolton Lake and cedars were included. It was recommended that Ms. Risdon be made an “Honorary FBL Member” for her work on this article.

Action: L Lalancette will coordinate the Newsletter. LCrosskey will send letter to Ms. Risdon to notify her of ‘Honorary Membership’.

- c. Fundraising – Await input from Holly MacDonald
- d. Science – Limnologist, Mr. Bob Kortmann provided opinion regarding catfish in Lower Bolton Lake, saying that it is perhaps not prudent to add catfish to the lake when its condition is compromised by several factors already. He also has other thoughts regarding restoration of the lakes, including light preservation. In the future, consider round table discussion/mixer with food served mingle and discuss issues with scientists, FBL, and invited town authorities.

Action: P. Van Dine will set up meeting; Chairs of Conservation Committee, FBL Board, and Scientists George Knoecklein, Don Les and Bob Kortmann.

10. Watershed Alliance Meeting – Stakeholders in attendance included the Town Conservation Officials from Coventry, Bolton, Tolland, and Vernon, as well as a DEEP official and a limnologist. Discussion was held on the following topics: Drawdowns, Monitoring Emergency Preparedness, Fisheries Report, Erosion Control, and Dam Management. The hydrological study is expected to be completed. There are concerns about the area between the Upper and Middle lakes being blocked. The DEEP staff coordinating the raising and lowering the lake levels has had difficulty controlling the levels in the past. DEEP will install a permanent gauge/scale to scientifically measure water levels. The permanent marker will better identify the normal surface elevation and the fall drawdown level rather than attempting to eye ball the high watermark . The Upper lake is most difficult to manage due to a culvert-type dam and nutrient flow.

Action: Owner of area between Upper & Middle lake will be contacted. In addition David Forrest hopes to participate with State during the measurement.

11. Other – Geese Reduction Plan: Concerns remain regarding numerous geese on Lower Bolton Lake. Selectman Bob Morra agreed to planned reduction of geese last Fall. Members feel that geese nest in Upper Bolton Lake.

Action: LCrosskey to ask KWelch, Lake Commissioner what specifically is being done.

12. Next Meeting: April 9, 2014.

13. Meeting adjourned with thanks to participants at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leona Crosskey

Note: 2014 Meeting dates: April 9, May 14, June 11, September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10, all at Notch Building, Bolton, Room 9