

Friends of Bolton Lakes
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Board Members attending: Leona Crosskey, Karl Prewo, Cheri Smith, Peter VanDine, Mark Turkington, Holly MacDonald

Guests: Kim Welch, Jeff Phelon, David Forrest, Dave Hiskes, Rose Hiskes

1. Attendees were welcomed and introductions made—Leona Crosskey
2. A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2013 FBL Board Meeting. Motion carried. Minutes will be posted on the FBL website.
3. Discuss slate of Board Officers, November annual meeting and vote; terms of office—Leona Crosskey and Holly McDonald
 - Current terms of officers are as follows:
 - President (Leona Crosskey), Secretary (Shelly Jewell) and Treasurer (Cheri Smith)—3 years
 - Vice President (Nancy Carini), Board members (Karl Prewo and Peter VanDine)—2 years
 - Board Members (Holly MacDonald, Jerry Lalancette, Mark Turkington)—2 years

This schedule was adopted when we incorporated in January 2013 to ensure that the entire board did not turnover at one time.

At the next meeting, we need to make a motion to add two members to the Board from Vernon. Jeff Phelon has indicated interest in serving as a board member and will be added to the slate.

We need to let members know that there is an opportunity to participate on the board and develop a slate for the November meeting. A discussion ensued regarding elections in November and term of office becoming effective January 1. It was also mentioned that we might want to implement a plan whereby the Vice President would plan to move to the President's role when the President's term ends.

4. Accomplishments and update—Leona Crosskey and Shelly Jewell
 - The End of Summer Celebration was relatively small but included legislative representatives Pam Sawyer, Tim Ackert, Claire Janowski and Steve Cassano. First Selectman Bob Morra and Lake Commissioner Kim Welch attended, in addition to FBL Board Members and several FBL members. Overall, the event was successful and we hope for greater attendance next year.
 - The Rain Garden installation is confirmed for Saturday, October 19, 9:00 a.m. until noon. Arrangements have been made to unlock the park. Plants, compost and mulch has been purchased and a back hoe has been rented. A granite bench was purchased and will be engraved: Friends of Bolton Lakes Rain Garden, Funding by Pratt & Whitney Green Power Grant, October 19, 2013. Attendees were asked to participate and invite their neighbors. Those who attend can assist or just observe. Our student who designed the rain garden, David Cowles, will also attend. We discussed how to attach the bench to concrete footings—Shelly Jewell will follow up.

5. Treasurer's and Membership Report—Cheri Smith

- There are 98 paid members. Fundraising efforts (t-shirts hat and coyotes) have generated \$85 in income and the \$5,000 check for the grant from Pratt and Whitney was received. Expenses included food for the Annual Celebration, supplies for the rain garden and the deposit and unlocking fee for Indian Notch Park. The balance is currently \$6,168.

There was a brief discussion regarding membership draw. We need to have a plan in place include a mailed request for membership renewal, as well as information regarding our funding goals and wish list.

6. Updates from Town Committees

- Finance Committee –Peter VanDine reported the Board of Finance received information regarding the STEAP grant.
- Board of Selectmen—Shelly Jewell reported that there was a detailed discussion of the Charter Oak Greenway Shared Use Path, including residents' plea to consider an at-grade crossing. Gwen Marion will continue to serve on the committee to discuss the shared use path with the Town and CT DOT. Residents strongly voiced the concern to move forward with the project and avoid continued delay due to lack of a decision regarding a bridge or at-grade crossing. The Town will ask DOT to consider an alternative bridge plan and obtain information from DOT regarding any significant reasons to avoid an at-grade crossing.

The BOS Lower Bolton Lake reported indicated that it had been a successful summer in regard to the SONAR treatment's effectiveness in reducing the naiad and fanwort. There was no blue-green algae bloom. George Knoecklein will continue to monitor the Lower Lake through the fall.

The STEAP grant contract is still under development. The long-term plan includes continued studies and treatment.

Commission appointments were on the agenda, however at the end of the meeting the BOS announced that letters would be sent to the Democratic and Republican town committees announcing the vacancies, which will most likely be filled by the November meeting.

- Shelly and Rich Jewell attended the Bolton Conservation Commission (BCC) meeting in October. 2014 calendars are available and a new photo contest for the 2015 calendar is underway. There is a CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission Conference on Saturday, November 16 in Cromwell, including workshops on wetlands law, lake monitoring and management and invasive plants. Shelly Jewell will share information with those interested. The BCC discussed working on a Low Impact Development plan that could be shared with Planning and Zoning. On October 26 there is a six-mile hike on the Tulip Tree Trail, commencing from the Bolton Commuter Lot. The change in ordinance from the Water Pollution Control Authority for Cider Mill Village was discussed. The River Bio assessment by Volunteers (RBV) will take place on

November 10 at six locations in Bolton (and around the state). The BCC plans to utilize the Community Voice Channel—perhaps FBL could schedule an interview as well. Rain barrels are still available for \$65. Rich Jewell has not received a response from the Town regarding his letter of interest to participate on the BCC.

- Inland Wetlands Commission—Holly MacDonald attended the September meeting and has submitted a letter of interest to participate on the Commission. Barbara Kelly, the Inland Wetland Agent, continues to work with the Bolton Lake House owner. Plants have been purchased but a plan still needs to be developed. Several members of the Commission participated on a site walk on the property. New regulations will be developed and the Commission is interested in FBL input.

7. Committee Reports

- Science—the Science Committee has begun a draft of a brochure for lake property owners. David Forrest and Karl Prewo shared the Middle Bolton Lake Guidelines for Drawing Down and Restoring Water Levels draft publication (attached). The document identifies stakeholders in the Bolton Lakes Watershed and established protocols for drawdowns and monitoring, presented as a letter that could be signed by the towns in the watershed and DEEP. A detailed discussion regarding drawdowns ensued—including the fact that the lakes should not be drawn down equally as they are not the same size, and if done on the same day have no impact on the Lower Lake. Drawdowns of 1.5 feet on the Lower and Middle Lake will occur during the last week in October, 2013.
- Fundraising—T-shirts and hats were sold at the Heritage Farm Event, but traffic was light. Holly MacDonald mentioned that there was very positive response from the tag sale and other events can be considered for 2014.

8. Lake Commissioner's report—Kim Welch

- Kim indicated that a complete ERT will not likely be conducted until after the sewer project is completed. The last full ERT was in 1978. An interim ERT occurred last year.
- Kim shared the schematics of the dam between the middle and lower lake and shared a copy of a letter from Dan Esty.
- The town was still waiting for the contract from DEEP regarding the STEAP grant. Kim will share the contract when received. Questions and/or suggestions should be sent to Kim Welch.
- The letter requesting no catfish stocking for another one to two years has not yet been issued.
- Kim reminded the group that there the Sewer Authority has plans to pump once daily for people with no generators in the event of a power outage, and reminded the group that emergency numbers had been distributed.

9. Discussion

- Further discussion ensued regarding a change in phosphorus laws (no fertilizer on any lawn within 20 feet of a water body, May 2013); best practices regarding drawdowns; Citizen Observations for monitoring water levels and water quality and a citizen action plan (Kim Welch will discuss with George K.); and working with other experts to complement George Knoecklein's work.

10. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with thanks to all. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 13.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Jewell, Secretary
Friends of Bolton Lakes