

Lake Management Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2017

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:30 p.m.

Present

Mike Gnazzo, Mary Roickle, Karl Then, John Burrell, Steve Harrington, Jim Santos, Carl Foster, Dave Vanderbilt, Dan O'Neill, Henry Beck

Absent

Phyllis Dunn, Bob Powell

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were read. Karl Then motioned to approve the minutes. Mary Roickle seconded. All voted in favor.

Guest Speaker

Joan Hill of the Columbia Historical Society told us that the Historical Society owns the Meeting Place and will be producing exhibits to be displayed there. The first exhibit will be about Columbia Lake. She invited LMAC to provide a member as a liaison to help with the exhibits. She would also like to include a history of LMAC as part of the exhibit. The exhibit is scheduled to open in April 2018, and they are considering speakers, slideshows, a fundraiser, and other events including possible boat rides on the lake.

Joan can be contacted at 860-228-2849 and JHill003@charter.net

Tom Currier stopped by to say hello. He is running for First Selectman. He has been on P&Z for seven years.

Audience of Citizens

Mark DeRosiers and Bill Focci attended.

New Business

Mary Roickle reported on Dr. Kortmann's preliminary report regarding phragmites. Mary met with him and took notes for our discussion.

The phragmites do not threaten the health of the lake, but they will get worse and cover more area. This can lead to a reduced useable area of the lake. He delineated 4 fields in the lake bed and 2 outside of it.

Dr. Kortmann recommends: gather info from DEEP on allowable methods of control; treatment – cutting, licensed herbicides, covering; assess the results; continue as needed. This may take a couple of years.

Mary attended the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission meeting where this was discussed. They would like to follow the recommendation, but be sure to have a licensed application of herbicide, with proper DEEP permitting.

DEEP may issue an opinion that applying herbicide to the lake bed phragmites after the lake is drawn is a terrestrial application, and as such, would not need permits. The IWWC also stated that cutting, pulling, and covering the lake bed phragmites would not require an IWWC permit.

Herbicides are something to consider because there is research that shows they get rid of 80% of the phragmites. There is no research about the effectiveness of cutting/ pulling, and covering. The herbicide would prevent the spread of the plants, then an assessment can be made about continuing their use. There is a concern that they may not be effective because they should be applied in the spring when phragmites start to grow, but the water may come up before they are killed.

Covering was discussed and it was noted that the covering should be left on even after the water comes up in the spring. This was not done when the Boy Scouts attempted this. If it is determined that herbicides should be used, the cover can be lifted in the spring to apply it, and put back down.

Henry Beck made a motion to accept Dr. Kortmann's report and follow his recommendations, except for doing a Fall herbicide application. The phragmites should be cut, pulled, and covered between November 15 and December 15, 2017 and the covering should be left on until the Spring of 2019. The definition of a terrestrial herbicide application, permitting, and effectiveness should be researched, with the goal of being prepared to apply in the spring of 2018 or 2019 if warranted.

Jim Santos amended the motion to use a covering made of a hemp material.

Mike Gnazzo amended the motion to recommend that the Board of Selectman ask property owners that have terrestrial phragmites to get rid of it.

All voted in favor of the amended motion except Dave Vanderbilt, who voted against it.

Mary Roickle also asked Dr. Kortmann about green algae that was observed near Woodland Terrace. He said it is not a problem. It is not invasive and was likely due to a temperature turn-over in the lake.

Communications

Mike Gnazzo said that the next annual report is due November 11th. If anyone has anything to include they can e-mail it to him in a format for cutting and pasting. Some LMAC accomplishments include the boat launch gate and phragmite eradication plans.

Committee Reports

Dam

Dave Vanderbilt reported that he had opened the gate 10 inches, let it flow, then closed it in order to ensure that it was functioning properly. It was. The weep holes were flowing at 15% (#1) and 10% (#2), with clear water. The water temperature was 68 degrees, 1.5 feet down, at Dave's dock.

He also noted that the lake level had been at -2" and then went quickly to -6". It turns out that George Murphy (the official gatekeeper) had lowered the lake in anticipation of the approaching hurricane.

A discussion was held, and it was determined that George Murphy should operate the gate in consultation with the Board of Selectman, who in turn should consult LMAC.

Water Quality

John Burrell said that the dissolved oxygen is very good at 3.79 ppm and 4.3 ppm. Water flow into the lake at Erdoni road is almost nonexistent.

Fishing

Karl Then said that friends of his had been fishing for 3 to 4 hours and only caught two fish.

Access and Safety

It was suggested that the gate be open earlier than noon on the weekends since more people will be taking their boats out at the end of the season.

Watershed/Watershed Management Plan

No Report

Storm Water Culverts

No report.

Columbia Boat & Water Regulations

No report.

Damn Emergency Plan

No report.

Permit Review

There are two applications waiting for Bob's return.

Old Business

The wording and font of the Proclamation of Enduring Gratitude was reviewed. Carl Foster made a motion to accept the wording and the font. All voted in favor.

Mike Gnazzo made a motion to recommend that the proclamation be awarded to David Chase, Henry Beck, Mark Coleman, and Chick Shifrin. All voted in favor.

New Business - continued

Planning and Zoning draft regulations regarding non-conforming lot building – tabled.

Columbia Views Magazine is publication in which articles can be published for a fee. Karl Then reported that the Columbia Lake Association will not be advertising or publishing articles in it. This issue was tabled.

Adjournment

Carl Foster motioned to adjourn the meeting. John Burrell seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at ??????

Submitted by Dan O'Neill