

Minutes of the Lake Anasagunticook
Association (LAA) Annual Meeting
August 13, 2016
Town Meeting Room, Canton, ME

President Biff Atwater called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. It was determined a quorum was present. The association needed 13 members to reach a quorum. There were 25.

Mr. Atwater then called for a moment of silence to remember an LAA Member who passed away since our last meeting: Mrs. Gisela Atwater.

Following the silence a call was made to review last year's minutes. There were no questions and thus no discussion.

Treasurer's Report:

Gary Dougherty presented the Treasurer's Report. Total income was \$3,747.48; total expenses were \$5,668.82, putting us \$1,921.34 over budget at the end of our fiscal year, June 30, 2017.

Total assets as of June 30, 2016 were \$7,039.94, a decrease of \$1,921.34 over the previous year. Details of the Treasure's Report will be provided on request.

A question was raised about replacing the word *Unencumbered* with the word *General* in the Income portion of the report. There will be further discussion regarding this at the next LAA Board meeting.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Judy Hamilton, seconded by John Taylor, and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Dougherty continued by provided details on the budget for 2017. Budgeted incomes are: Dues \$1,000.00, Unencumbered Donations, \$800.00, Water Quality Monitoring Fund, \$250.00, Dividends \$20.00, and Fundraising Events \$1,500.00.

Budgeted expenses include Newsletters \$200.00; Insurance \$800.00; Annual Report to the Secretary of State \$60.00; Membership Dues Maine Lakes \$200.00; Contribution Tax Exempt Org \$200.00; LAA Website \$200; and Special Projects \$1,350. (Other items are budgeted but not listed here.)

We are budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year to bring in \$4,494.00 and spend \$3,570.00, leaving a balance of \$924.00.

A motion to raise the membership dues to \$15 per year was made by Ms. Hamilton, seconded by Bill Gray, and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

A motion to change the budget to include the increase in the Dues line item to \$1500 was made by Rick Ray, seconded by Carolyn Gray, and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

It was agreed that issues related to membership/dues such as offering scholarships, waiving dues, etc., would be discussed by the LAA Board.

Mr. Gray mentioned that expenses for future projects need to be supported by the membership. He also thanked Mr. Dougherty for his work as treasurer in this as well as past years. This was met with a round of applause from the attendees. Mary Atwater complimented Mr. Dougherty on his expertise. This was met with a second round of applause.

Tom Hamilton recommended that both towns be asked to add \$100 each year to their budget warrant to help cover water-monitoring expenses. He says this is done for Bear Pond. It was agreed that the LAA Board would discuss this.

Committee Reports:

Lake Water Level

Mr. Atwater discussed the unexpected lowering of the lake water level for Canton Water District repair. He indicated that the board was looking into ways that the LAA could be better kept informed of change in the water level. He mentioned Tim Kirwan had spoken with Mac Ray about this. Diane Ray indicated that the issue had been brought up in last week's Canton Select Board meeting and that the Selectmen agreed to contact a member of the LAA regarding such matters in the future.

Dam Donors Update

Liz Rothrock indicated that a plaque recognizing contributors to the rebuilding of the dam has been installed in the park near the boat ramp. She provided photographs of the mounted plaque. Ms. Hamilton thanked Ms. Rothrock for her work. This was met with a round of applause from the attendees.

Membership

Mr. Dougherty announced that there are currently 81 members of the LAA. 2017 dues will continue to be collected for the remainder of the calendar year.

Water Quality

Dr. Hamilton distributed a handout to the attendees with statistics on his water quality readings. Included were Secchi, temperature, and dissolved oxygen (DO) readings. The Secchi readings are obtained by lowering a disk into the water and measuring how long it can be seen.; these readings measure clarity. The temperature and DO readings are done at the deepest point in the lake; these results are important to the fish and other vertebrae. It is not good if the DO level goes to zero because phosphates are released—and although ours were very low, they are “not really, really bad.” Dr. Hamilton mentioned that there appears to be good turnover of water in the lake.

Dr. Hamilton wondered if early ice-outs affected the lake. He looked at his data and found that there did not seem to be any noticeable difference.

It was pointed out that the period during 2007-2012 we did not have a working dam and this may have affected Dr. Hamilton's readings. He agreed that this might be true.

Dr. Hamilton indicated that the phosphorus test he did in the lake produced “good numbers.” He was given approval to take another phosphorus reading (our 4th) this year.

Dr. Hamilton provided a diagram of where the Chinese Mystery Snails appear on the lake. They still appear to be confined to the Canton Beach end of the lake, although the area is expanding. The snails need light to live, so they are not found in the deeper parts of the lake. Dr. Hamilton mentioned that he put several of the snails in a tank and in seven to eight weeks they produced about 100 baby snails!

Dr. Hamilton responded to questions from the attendees. He said there are fresh water mussels in the lake—a sign of a healthy lake. He did not know if there was a substantial difference in manure versus commercial fertilizers and noted that both produce phosphates. He said that he sends his test results to the University of Maine in Orono, as well as the MVLMP in Auburn.

Wildlife

Ms. Bussiere reported that Mr. McCluskey launched the loon platform and she prepared it for the loons. She later put buoys around it. The loons used it to nest and one chick was born. Margaret Taylor reported finding an unhatched loon egg at the south end of the lake. Ms. Bussiere also mentioned the problem with the geese and the success of the coyote decoy in keeping them off the beach at Lakefield Heights.

Invasives – Snails and MVLMP Paddle

Ms. Atwater provided description of the MVLMP Paddle held on August 5. The overall experience was positive. Twenty-three native plants were collected and identified, and none were found to be invasive. Of particular note was the discovery of a small freshwater muscle and a nematode, both indicators of a healthy lake. A full report of the Paddle will appear in the October newsletter.

Boat Ramp

Mr. McCluskey reported that the numbers of boats going in and out of the lake on weekend mornings have been very low. He also noted that a number of boats—particularly kayaks—are being launched from beaches and boat launches around the lake. He suggested that the boat launch inspections be done on a random rather than a regularly-scheduled basis.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee put forth the following slates:

For Officers (*elected to serve for one year*):

William Atwater, President
Mike McCluskey, Vice President
Liz Rothrock, Secretary
Gary Dougherty, Treasurer

For the Board of Directors:

To serve one year:

- Cyndi B. Phillips

To serve three years:

- John Blancato
- Elaine Ferland

- Diane Ray

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business to come before the members.

New Business:

Election of Officers - A motion to accept the slate of officers as presented was made by Mr. Gray, seconded by Leslie Boness, and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Election of Directors - A motion to accept the slate of board members as presented was made by Ms. Gray, seconded by Mr. Taylor, and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Awards

There were no recipients of the 10-year (Loon) or 20-year (Eagle) continuous membership certificates this year.

Mr. Atwater called Mr. Dougherty and Dr. Hamilton to the front of the room and presented them with with the LAA Service Award. Each was given a certificate and the gift of a state of Maine-shaped cutting board. Rusty Knight received the same award, but was not present. Mr. Atwater will mail Mr. Knight his certificate and gift.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM and was followed by a presentation on sustainable farming by Selectman Lee Holman of Hartford. Ms. Holman will provide the LAA with links to the Broad Band Survey and her farm's Facebook page (Whippoorwill Hill Farm). Ms. Rothrock will forward the links to the membership.