

MINUTES
JULY 29, 2010
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LAKE ONOTA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED (LOPA)

The Board of Directors meeting began at 7:02pm. A quorum was not present, therefore no official business was conducted. An abbreviated agenda was reviewed and the notes of the meeting follows.

Directors Present: Bob Race, Dick Laureyns, Joe Cancilla, Mark Selkowitz, Tom Dailey, and Bob Quattrochi.

Bob Race distributed the Treasurer's Report for Gail Light who could not be present. Income through this date is \$4002, primarily from dues and contributions, Expenses totaled \$3,273. A Net Income of \$729 brings LOPA'S Total Balance of Accounts to \$40,890.

Old Business and Committee Reports.

Water Quality and Weed Control:

Bob Race reported that there are no outstanding water quality issues and that the clarity is comparable to previous years. The milfoil treatment this year has been successful to date, with no appearance of milfoil at the surface of the lake. Dick Laureyns reported that the European pond weed has been replacing the milfoil in several of the coves on the lake. Bob Race commented that the pond weed is the least objectionable of the weeds and that the overall weed control program on the lake has been successful. Dick Laureyns asked for volunteers to assist in this year's weed mapping effort. LOPA members will be e-mailed a time and date to volunteer. The effort is expected to take about two hours.

Zebra Mussel update:

Jim McGrath distributed and reviewed the City of Pittsfield's Zebra Mussel initiatives. The outline is attached on page 3 of this report.

A discussion about the effectiveness of the Zebra Mussel program highlighted questions with the issue of enforcement. Anecdotal evidence suggests that about half of the vehicles parked at the boat ramp do not display the self certification form in their windshield, yet to date, no fines have been issued for failure to comply with the certification program's requirements. The problem suggests an inconsistency of roles by the personnel at the ramp. These include: DCR's Environmental Educators, the city's hired monitors and the volunteers. DCR personnel will not and the city has not prosecuted any offenders. Although most of the boaters and sportsmen are aware of the ZM issue and supportive of the city's efforts to keep the lake clean, a few refuse to follow the program and complain about the inconvenience. LOPA members are keenly aware that it only takes one boat to infect the lake. Bob Race suggested that proposed solutions be discussed at the conclusion of the meeting.

LOPA Website Update:

Jerry Krupka reported that the LOPA website onotalake.com is up and running. Jerry commented that no one had come forward with any comments. The site doesn't contain any usage counters, so there is no way to know how much the web site is used. A suggestion was made to remove the link to face book which asks for spring clean up volunteers, since there is no activity and the date is passed. Jerry will investigate.

S.319 Grant Update:

Bob Race reported that the grant monies have been used to complete the installation of the additional outflow pipe at the dam, create and print several new lake brochures and develop the LOPA's website. Jim McGrath reported the shore stabilization effort at Burbank Park is in process of obtaining various permits required before the effort can start. Jim anticipates the shore line work to begin in the fall, with the final planting of vegetation to be completed in the spring.

Membership:

Mark Selkowitz reported that a new mailing to both non-LOPA lake front property owners and boaters that rent slips at Onota Boat Livery was sent out to about 300 individuals within the past two weeks. To date about 10% have responded. This list was developed with the help of Jeff Rose and Gail Light. Mark suggested that when responses slow, a new list of non-members be sent to LOPA area representatives to make personal contact to solicit these individuals as members. Mark is optimistic that we can substantially increase LOPA membership. Jim McGrath offered the city's community development office to be used as a phone-a-thon location for this exercise. Bob Race reported that he had sent a mailing to all Onota Lake waterfront owners that included a new state of Massachusetts brochure on Zebra Mussels and a LOPA Onota Lake brochure.

Volunteer Hours Reporting:

Bob Race reminded volunteers to forward their hours to him so that we can get credit for matching funds on the S.319 Grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

Following a refreshment break, Bob Race asked the group to participate in a brain storming session about issues in need of both city and LOPA action, particularly regarding Zebra Mussels.

(ED note: Key issues were drafted as a result of the session and utilized at a constructive meeting with Mayor Ruberto and staff on August 27th. Follow up is planned with Jim McGrath on October 13th and will be reported on at the October 27th Annual Membership Meeting.)

Respectfully Submitted,



Joseph Cancilla
Recording Secretary

Next Meeting:

The Annual Membership and Director Election Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 27th 2010 at 7:15pm in Room 203 at City Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

City of Pittsfield Zebra Mussel Initiatives Calendar Year 2010

The City has Hired two boat ramp monitors for Onota and Pontoosuc lake at 33 hours a week to work in conjunction with the 2 State hired ramp monitors. Ramps covered 7 days a week from 6am-7pm with 8 hours a week covered by volunteers.

The City has hired a full time seasonal employee to cover zebra mussel issues and initiatives and to work with the boat ramp monitors.

The City oversaw the opening of V's Boat Wash on 730 W. Housatonic St and is in the process of putting together boat washing seminars at the boat wash.

The City has put out Radio and Television Public Service Announcements.

There has been significant newspaper coverage in the Berkshire Eagle regarding zebra mussels.

Television coverage with WGGB (ABC 40/FOX 6)

The City monitors the clean boat certification forms at all public boat launches.

The City has installed ropes across boat ramps for when no monitor is there. There is signage on the rope assuring that the boat ramp is open and that a clean boat certification form must be filled out before entering. There is a clip that allows them to open rope.

The City coordinated with Laurel Lake Preservation Association on a mailer to Laurel Lake abutters about Zebra Mussels.

The City installed new signs at the boat ramp describing zebra mussels and the clean boat certification form.

The City has put banner television ads on Pittsfield Community Television.

The City has linked information on Zebra Mussels and procedures to the city's website on a page dedicated to all things zebra mussel.

City staff assisted with the training of boat ramp monitors for the town of Richmond

The City provides information online and through flyers on how to properly clean/disinfect a boat and flush the motor.

The City was donated space by The Beacon Cinema on which we have a public awareness banner at movie theatre shown before movies.

Lamar Advertising graciously donated 5 billboards dedicated to preventing the spread of zebra mussels. 3 billboards are in Pittsfield, 1 in Adams and 1 in Great Barrington