

MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2011
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LAKE ONOTA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED (LOPA)

The Board of Directors meeting was officially called to order at 7:18pm.

Directors Present: Bob Race, Gail Light, Dorothy Mara, Joe Cancilla, Walt Pickwell, Tom Dailey, and Bob Quattrochi.
Also present: Jim McGrath, Pittsfield's Park, Open Space and Natural Resource Program Manager.

Voted: The Minutes of the October 27, 2010 Board of Directors' meetings were unanimously approved.

Gail Light distributed the 2010 Treasurer's Report and commented that the membership envelopes continue to arrive, and full membership enrollment results will be available at the April meeting. Following a question on water testing expenses, Bob Race reported that Ken Wagner is reviewing our 10 year database of water quality statistics, and should complete his recommendations by the April meeting. Bob anticipates that this effort should cost less than the \$1,500 approved at the previous meeting. This study should result in recommendations that will reduce our sample testing expenses, while allowing us to maintain a viable data base. The year end Balance of Accounts is \$42,149.69.

Voted: The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Old Business and Committee Reports.

Water Quality and Weed Control:

Bob Race distributed the 2010 Annual Report on Water Quality and Weed Control and commented that the water quality remains good. Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the report can contact Bob. Plans for the 2011 weed control program were discussed. Jim McGrath said that approximately \$11,000 was budgeted for 2011 and would probably be available for this year. Bob discussed other possible uses for the funds such as weed application for European Naiad (bushy pond weed) instead of the milfoil, which seems to be under control. Information on this subject has not yet been received from Lycott and should be available by April.

Lake Recreation and Water Safety:

Bob Race reported for Jack O'Brien, who was unable to attend, that the main issue needing attention is new buoys. Bob found a catalog from the internet and will be meeting with Jack, Dick Mole, Tom Dailey and Jim McGrath to select appropriate buoy configurations and to determine their feasibility and priority within the city's budget.

Citizen Education and Public Relations:

Bob Race thanked Lew Cuyler for publishing his latest edition of the Lake Onota Guardian. Bob commented that Jane Pierce from DEP's Springfield office and 319 Grant Coordinator, had sent him an e-mail thanking LOPA for the excellent communications on lake issues as demonstrated by the distribution of the Guardian. Bob also said that Lew was working with Jim McGrath to develop a vision to be included in a position paper which will be used for park planning and ultimately included in the Burbank Park Master Plan. This document will be presented to the Parks Commission and will include such issues as future park developments, lake access and security, and other issues that will improve the park experience as a destination. A draft of this document is expected for the April meeting.

Fish and Wildlife:

Tom Dailey reported that the ice coverage is between 8-10 inches thick as of this date, and that vehicles have been spotted on the lake. Tom said that some fishermen had questioned the depth of the drawdown. Jim McGrath assured the group that this is not a deep drawdown year. As of last inspection, the lake was down 3.5 feet at the dam. Tom reported Onota Boat Livery had recorded that a 20lb 14oz pike and a 4 lb 14oz small mouth bass had been caught in the lake this ice fishing season.

S.319 Grant Update:

Jim McGrath reported that bids for the Burbank Park shoreline stabilization program portion of the 319 Grant are expected by February 2nd. Although designs and permits have been approved, plans have been cut back due to cost overruns at the dam. It is estimated that 200 feet of the park shoreline will be addressed at this time. Work is estimated to begin in early April and completed by May 15th. Jim reported that there will be some disruption on the park's path during construction.

Jim also reported that with LOPA's outreach efforts, the web site, the Guardian, and the volunteer efforts on the lake, that LOPA had met the S.319 Grant obligations, and that June 30th will be the official end of the project.

LOPA Website Update:

Bob Race reported that Jerry Krupka had sent him an e-mail indicating that no comments or suggestions had been received from web site users and therefore no changes were made. Bob asked Joe Cancilla to have Jerry to update missing meeting minutes, the Annual Water Quality Report and the current Guardian. These efforts should be completed within the next couple of weeks. Jim McGrath commented that after the updating of the web site, he would ask Lew Cuyler to help him develop a press release that calls attention to the web site and publish it in the local papers.

Membership:

Bob Race asked Gail Light to compile the results from this year's membership drive and to contact Mark Selkowitz and the membership committee for an April discussion of any additional action or recommendations that the committee thought necessary. Also, as a reminder, please send in 2011 dues if you haven't already done so.

New Business.

Visioning Committee:

Bob Race asked for volunteers to help him reassess the goals and direction of the LOPA organization. His objective is to develop a fresh vision for our efforts, or at least confirm our current direction. Anyone interested in joining is encouraged to contact Bob.


COLAP:

Bob Race announced that a seminar, sponsored by the Massachusetts Congress of Lakes and Ponds, is scheduled for January 29th at the Worcester State Student Union. Guest speakers will include State Senator Brewer and Ken Wagner. An interesting agenda of issues regarding our lakes will be presented. Board Members should receive an e-mail with details of the meeting:

Bob Quattrochi questioned LOPA's and the city's strategy for boat ramp monitors for the 2011 season. Following a brief discussion, Bob Race said that he will meet with Jim McGrath and Bob to develop an approach for the program in light of the city's budget, priorities, and other issues. Following the meeting, Jim McGrath will co-ordinate our approach with other Pittsfield lake association heads.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Joe Cancilla
Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING.

The next open meeting of LOPA's Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, April 28th 2011 at 7:15pm in room 203 at City Hall. All members and guests are welcome to attend.