

MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2009
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
LAKE ONOTA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED (LOPA)

The Annual Membership Meeting was officially called to order at 7:19 pm.

Directors Present: Bob Race, Dick Laureyns, Gail Light, Dorothy Mara, Joe Cancilla, Lew Cuyler, Tom Dailey, Walt Pickwell, and Mark Selkowitz.

Additional attendees who signed in: Jerry Krupka, Jack Hickey, Jim McGrath, Paul Nichols, Joanne & Manny Schmaizl, Marian & Ray DuFresne, Irma Race, Jeff Rose, Ron Smith, Matt Parise and Bart Margheim.

Voted: The Minutes of the July 18, 2009 Board of Directors meeting were unanimously approved.

Gail Light distributed the Treasurer's Report and highlighted the following issues. Expenses are slightly ahead of revenue this year mainly due to marketing expenses as: LOPA volunteer tee shirts for the boat ramp duties, and plastic bookmarks given to new and perspective members. Gail said that our membership drive mailing would be sent out this quarter and expected revenues to be replenished before year's end. Gail reported that the CD was due for rollover in November and that the balance of accounts through October 28, 2009 is \$42,742.43.

Voted: The Treasurers Report was unanimously approved.

Voted: A motion to give Gail the authority to use her judgment in determining the most favorable terms in the CD rollover due in November was unanimously approved.

Voted: The draft recommendations for an Onota Lake Zebra Mussel Prevention Plan for 2010 and Beyond, to be the official position of LOPA, was unanimously approved by the membership.

Voted: The Emergency Plan Recommendations to be used upon finding zebra mussels in Onota Lake, was unanimously approved by the membership.

(See 'Zebra Mussel Task Team recommendations' for the above two votes.)

Voted: A motion to approve the slate of At-Large Directors to serve two year terms as submitted by Walt Pickwell was unanimously approved.

Voted: A motion to approve the slate of At-Large Directors to serve one year terms as submitted by Walt Pickwell was unanimously approved.

Voted: A motion to approve the slate of Area Representatives as submitted by Walt Pickwell was unanimously approved.

Voted: A motion to thank departing Area Representative Andy Kelly was unanimously approved.
(See "Election of Directors" for the above four votes.)

Voted: A motion to continue the 2010 LOPA dues at the \$10.00 per member level was unanimously approved.
(See 'Set 2010 LOPA Dues'.)

Voted: A motion to allow LOPA to join LAPA-WEST at the annual fee of \$100.00, was unanimously approved.

Voted: A motion to allow LOPA to show its continued support and to join COLAP at an annual membership fee of \$40.00 was unanimously approved.
(See 'LAPA-WEST and COLAP dues' for the above two votes.)

Old Business And Committee Reports.

Water Quality and Weed Control:

Bob Race reported that there were consistent trends in the water sampling and that the overall quality of the lake remains good. Bob did mention that the October sampling showed a slight cloudiness from the previous month but that overall, the lake remains healthy.

Dick Laureyns reported on the macrophyte survey conducted in September and October of this year. In summary, the perimeter of the lake is fairly clear. Herbicides were applied on the milfoil beds except in the cove north of Thomas Island. Some areas of European Pond Weed (EPW) were also treated in the northeast cove. The survey suggested that with the control of the milfoil the EPW is becoming more invasive. The milfoil beds that were not treated near Dan Casey Causeway should be controlled with this year's deep drawdown. Dick said that the late year growth of the milfoil beds would probably necessitate a herbicide treatment next year. Dick also reported that LOPA volunteers had picked 125 gallons of water chestnuts this year as compared to the 3000 gallons picked last year. No plants were found in the main lake. Any unidentifiable plants were sent to Rick McVoy at the DEP in Boston for professional identification.

Dick expressed his appreciation to the volunteers on the following teams:

Macrophyte Survey: Bob Race, Manfred Schmaizl, Kristopher Bell and Dick Laureyns.

Weed Mapping: Bob Race and Dick Laureyns.

Water Chestnut Picking: Andrew Williams, Manfred Schmaizl, Walt Pickwell, Bob Quattrochi, Lew Cuyler, Michael Laureyns, Bob Race, Dick Laureyns and Jack O'Brien.

Lake Recreation and Water Safety:

Bob Race reported for Jack O'Brien, who was unable to attend, that the safety buoys have been removed for the winter.

Citizen Education and Public Relations:

Lew Cuyler suggested that a new leaflet be developed to make lake users more aware of LOPA, its mission, and problem reporting. Bob Race reported that with the help of Jim McGrath and his employees, a replacement of the old LOPA pamphlet had been completed. Jim McGrath announced that the LOPA website, onotalake.com is now up and running. Bob announced that Jerry Krupka is the website manager and is responsible for any web issues that need coordination between LOPA and city officials. Anyone with comments or suggestions should contact Jerry.

Fish and Wildlife:

Tom Dailey reported that the lake has been stocked with Rainbow Trout and Atlantic Salmon over the last few weeks. Tom Also reported that several fishermen had complained that fishing was worse since the weed treatment, however, no fish kills have been detected to support their observations. As a side note, Tom said that two boats from Laurel Lake that are stored at Onota Boat Livery for the winter, did not have Zebra Mussels, however, Bob reported that one stored at Maces Marine was infected.

Burbank Park Upkeep:

Bob Race reported that the cleanup team would meet with Jim McGrath and city officials in the spring to determine whether or not to continue LOPA volunteer efforts in the park.

Volunteer Hours Recordkeeping:

Bob Race reminded members that for the S319 Grant matching funds, all volunteers hours need to be reported. If you volunteer for any project (except ramp monitoring), Bob needs to know your time spent. Please send him your hours.

Membership Drive Report:

Bob race reported that efforts at public events had resulted in minimal response. He suggested that a team be formed and the issue taken up in the January meeting to address our declining membership. Currently our membership numbers about 160 with less than half of the lake front owners participating. Bob suggested that our area representatives become more active in contacting non-member lake front owners following our annual drive.

Brigham Center Development Update:

Dick Laureyns reported that the situation is the same as last quarter with the north side of the camp being sold to a developer. The plan is to develop five parcels for residential housing, each having waterfront shoreline and access from Churchill St. Eight additional parcels on the south side of the camp, seem to be off the market.

Stream Monitoring:

Jerry Krupka reported that he had completed the 2009 monitoring program in October, and that with one exception, the levels of fecal coli form have remained consistently low. The one exception is the area near Daniels Pond brook, which remains a mystery. Jim McGrath reported that beginning in the spring of 2010, LOPA will be using the city's Laboratory to analyze water samples. Jim said that the turnaround would be faster and the associated costs lower.

Plan for Canada Geese Control:

Jim McGrath reported that the plan for geese control will be similar to this year with the use of the boarder collies in early May and the erection of more 'do not feed' signage around Burbank Park. Jim also said that addling or oiling the eggs will take place in the spring and urged anyone seeing nests to notify him or Bob Race. Jack Hickey from LAPA-WEST suggested that Onota Lake, Richmond Pond, and Pontoosuc Lake representatives set up a joint meeting with Andy Madden, Western Region Manager of the Dept. of Fish and Game, to gain insite into finding the nests, which is the difficult part in the addling effort.

319 Grant Update:

Jim McGrath commented on the S319 Grant monies to be expended around the lake. The monies include: \$268,000 from the state, plus some city cash and in-kind LOPA volunteer hours (remember to report hours to Bob).

The components of the project include:

- 1) A new larger outflow pipe at the dam to help manage water levels and to assist with the deep drawdown,
- 2) The rebuilding and erosion control of the Burbank Park Shoreline, and,
- 3) Public education which includes maps, kiosk information, pamphlets, and the LOPA website.

Work on the dam is expected to begin this year.

Natural Stream Flow Initiative:

A new effort by the state to manage river flows is being discussed. The results will have an impact on our water level management and drawdown plans. Bob Race, Jack Hickey, and other area lake representatives are meeting with the state to determine procedures and responsibilities of each group.

Zebra Mussel Task Team:

Jerry Krupka reported a committee that included himself, Bob Race, Dorothy Mara, Lew Cuyler and Tom Dailey had met to develop a proposal of recommendations for an Onota Lake Zebra Mussel Action Plan for the year 2010 and beyond. This committee produced a five point document that is the basis for LOPA's position for the management of the zebra mussel issue.

A brief summary of each point follows.

- 1) Boat Washing Station (s).

It is felt that boaters willing to comply with the DCR criteria for clean boats, should have available a facility that can provide this service.

- 2) Education / Public Relations.

To enhance the current public awareness of the zebra mussel threat, more pro-active public relations should be utilized. These should include video made available on the web site, TV advertising, outdoor advertising such as bill boards and kiosk literature.

- 3) Launch Ramp Monitoring Control.

Use full time monitoring provided by the state during high usage periods and supplement with LOPA volunteers as much as possible. For periods without monitors, a 'self-service' chain should be installed across the ramp for the purposes of forcing boaters to read the signage and complete and display the self certification form. Recommend obtaining the authority to have the Police Department 'boot' any vehicle not displaying the form.

- 4) Update the Self Certification Form.

The committee has suggested changes to make the form more user friendly.

- 5) Augment Permitting on Fishing Tournaments.

LOPA recommends fishing clubs that apply for permits certify that they will not sponsor a derby in infested waters for 30 days prior to the requested date, and that their participants have either not been in infested waters for at least 30 days, or, their boats have been disinfected in accordance with DCR criteria.

Following some lively discussion, a suggestion to include more emphasis on enforcement capabilities for ramp monitors was agreed to be added to the third point.

A motion by LOPA membership to accept the above recommendations as LOPA's official position for next year's action plan was unanimously approved. A full copy of these recommendations will be available on the onotalake.com website or from Bob Race.

In addition to next year's actions, an Emergency Action Plan upon finding Zebra Mussels in Onota Lake was also presented. This plan also contains five points which include:

1) Notifications.

Notify DCR and verify findings.

2) Ramp closure.

Immediately close the ramp except when monitors are present.

3) Assessment.

Immediately request services of DCR contractor to survey the lake for the extent and location of infestation.

4) Eradication.

Implement a prearrange contract with local SCUBA group to remove mussels from identified locations.

5) Drawdown.

Immediately apply to the Conservation Commission for a deep drawdown (six feet) for the end of the season.

A motion to accept the agreed recommendations as LOPA's official position for an Emergency Plan was unanimously approved.

(ED note: Both sets of recommendations were formally submitted to Mayor Ruberto on Nov. 2, 2009.)

New Business.

Election of Directors:

Walt Pickwell submitted the following slates:

For a two year term of Director At Large: Bob Race, Gail Light, Joe Cancilla, and Lew Cuyler.

The motion was unanimously approved.

For a one year term of Director At Large: Dick Laureyns, Dorothy Mara, Bob Quattrochi and Jack O'Brien.

The motion was unanimously approved.

For approval of Local Area Representatives as follows:

Jim Ditello - Thomas Island

Mark Selkowitz - Blythewood

Walt Pickwell - Onota Heights

Dick Reinhart - Westwood

Marshall Raser - Tor Court

Tom Dailey - Pecks Road

Jeff Rose - Bakers Island and Lakeway Drive

The motion was unanimously approved.

Walt Pickwell submitted a motion to thank Andy Kelly for all his efforts and fundraising that he contributed while serving as an area representative.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Set 2010 LOPA Dues:

In keeping with the LOPA bylaws, Bob Race requested a motion to set the annual dues at \$10.00 per member. Several recommendations were discussed and will be brought up to the membership committee in January. The \$10.00 dues motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

LAPA-WEST and COLAP Dues:

Bob Race requested a motion to allow LOPA to join LAPA-WEST and pay the annual \$100.00 membership fee and to join COLAP and pay the \$40.00 annual membership fee. The motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Review of Deep Drawdown Situation:

Jim McGrath reported that the drawdown for this year is postponed to November 1st., due to the EPA cleanup along West St. Jim has requested that as part of the dam outflow pipe project, that contractors provide additional siphon capability. A deep drawdown of six feet is planned.

LOPA's President's Letter to Gov. Patrick:

Bob Race sent a letter to Gov. Patrick thanking him for the state's support of the boat ramp monitor program. In addition, Bob felt the need to refute some sports agencies and sport club's assertions that the zebra mussel efforts were a ploy of lakefront homeowners to privatize the lake. Bob said that LOPA's outlay in 2009 for the city to hire temporary help to supplement volunteer efforts was less than \$700.00 which will be paid to the city. The original appropriation was budgeted at \$3000.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Cancilla
Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING:

The next open meeting of the Board of Directors of LOPA is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13th 2010 at 7:15pm in Room 203 at City Hall. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2009
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LAKE ONOTA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED (LOPA)

The Board of Directors Meeting was officially called to order at 8:55 pm.

Directors Present: Bob Race, Dick Laureyns, Gail Light, Dorothy Mara, Joe Cancilla, Lew Cuyler, Tom Dailey, Walt Pickwell, Jeff Rose and Mark Selkowitz.

Walter Pickwell presented the slate of candidates that will serve as the Executive Board of Directors.

These included:

President - Bob Race
Vice President - Dick Laureyns
Treasurer - Gail Light
Clerk - Dorothy Mara
Recording Secretary - Joe Cancilla

Voted: The election of the Board of Directors as presented was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


Joseph Cancilla

Recording Secretary