

Harvey Lake Watershed Association

Annual Meeting of Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2019

Northwood Town Hall

MINUTES

Present: Bob Charest, Gisele Houston, Cindy Charest, Kim Mitzel, Cindy Lubik, Russ Lubik, Steve Lucey, Regina Walker, David Kerkhoff, Maggie Kerkoff, Jamie Walker and Jen Boulanger

President Bob Charest called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Reports:

Bob reported that the association held a membership meeting on Aug. 21, 2019, and we did not have a quorum. Four members attended, and after a review of the membership rolls after the meeting, (Our bylaws require a quorum of 15% of members in attendance.) it was determined that five members were needed.

Treasurer Gisele Houston presented the treasurer's report for the period of Aug. 20, 2019, to Oct. 2, 2019. Our balance at the beginning of the period was \$2,792.09, and with membership dues of \$580, we ended the period with income of \$3,372.09. Our expenses for the period were \$110 for state lab testing fees (one sampling period), and \$88.95 for stamps and photocopies for dues mailing and reports (check was not cashed), leaving us with an ending balance of \$3,262.09. The Treasurer's Reports presented Aug. 21 and Oct. 2 are attached to these minutes as Addendums A and B.

MOTION: Jen Boulanger moved for acceptance of the treasurer's report, seconded by Jamie Walker. All in favor.

Bob asked for a motion to reimburse him for postage and printing expenses at Staples for dues mailing and copies of tonight's handouts, in the amount of \$88.95. He had originally asked for this reimbursement at the August meeting, but because there was no quorum, he waited for a vote tonight before cashing that check.

MOTION: Russ Lubik moved for acceptance of paying the postage/printing bill of \$88.95 to Bob Charest, seconded by David Kerkhoff. All in favor.

New business:

Lake Host Program: Bob reported that we concluded our 15th season with the Lake Host program on Sept. 2. Jaden Boulanger and Breanna DeMeritt, both residents of the lake, served as Lake Hosts. Jaden, daughter of Jen and Jeff Boulanger, also assisted with the VLAP water testing as part of her senior portfolio project at Coe Brown Academy on the lake. We used approximately \$550 of the \$1,150 grant, mainly due to staff availability issues (sickness, etc.). Jen Boulanger generously donated her time as a volunteer on Sunday mornings. As a low-volume lake, we saw about 50 boats for the season (in comparison with about 80 in some seasons), but Bob said the value of the program is in training a new generation of lake stewards. Since the Lake Host program has been in existence for 18 years, many boaters are familiar with it and with milfoil, so education of the boaters is no longer what Bob sees as the primary focus of the program.

He asked the members if they, 1. Wish to rejoin the N.H. Lakes Association by paying the \$300 annual dues, and 2. Apply again in March for the Lake Host program in 2020.

Jamie Walker suggested that perhaps we could become more creative in how we recruit candidates, perhaps working with Coe Brown to offer an educational or scholarship incentive. The grant is for payroll, so we are restricted to some extent by what we can use the money to pay. The Lake Hosts are also employees of N.H. Lakes, so we can't use the grant to fund anything other than wages. Jen Boulanger suggested there could be some type of community service component to our Lake Host program.

After discussion by the members on the N.H. Lakes dues, including a recommendation from Bob that we rejoin because the association has been helpful in providing direction, lobbying on behalf of all lakes and in providing education, the members voted.

MOTION: Jen Boulanger moved that the Harvey Lake Watershed Association approve dues of \$300 payable to the N.H. Lakes Association in April of 2020. Seconded by Jamie Walker. All in favor.

After further discussion by the members about the duties of a Lake Host and our roles as educators, not law enforcers, Bob brought up in response to an issue raised by Jen that we have had boaters launch in our lake after they launched in infested bodies of water: Northwood Lake, Pawtuckaway, Belgrade Stream in Maine, Great Pond in Kingston, and Turkey Pond in Concord. We have therefore identified that our lake is susceptible to milfoil infestation. However, Lake Hosts are at the ramp only a limited amount of hours.

Kim Mitzel asked for clarification on the purpose of the vote, and Bob said it would be for authorization to apply for the Lake Host program. He suggested that at the time we are approved, if we are approved, then the members could be polled again (probably in mid-April) by email if we wish to go forward for the 2020 season.

MOTION: Jen Boulanger moves that we apply for a Lake Host grant for the 2020 season. Once we've received notification that we have received a grant, we can then do an association email vote as to whether or not to accept the grant and begin the program. Seconded by David Kerkhoff. All in favor.

Water Testing:

Water quality coordinator Jen Boulanger reported that we completed three sampling sessions of the lake this summer, at the deep spot, inlet, outlet and the beach area for an e. coli test. No results from the Sept. 8 testing have been received as yet. The July beach e. coli reading was high. Overall, the lake is getting old and is less efficient in processing phosphorous. All other parameters appear to be in line. Jaden Boulanger will as part of her senior portfolio at Coe Brown Academy analyze the full results and write up a report.

Jen also indicated that Mrs. Joanne Goelzer, a science teacher at Coe Brown, has a son, (Gopaul?), at UNH, who will place water quality sensors in the lake to do testing beyond what we do for the VLAP program. We should be receiving an email to explain the process.

Bob distributed a seven-page report on water testing at Harvey Lake. Our phosphorous readings continue to remain high. We are more than double the state median. We have remained relatively stable for the past three decades, usually higher at the inlet than at the outlet. It's concerning, but not alarming. He said we have a small watershed and a small lake (1,500 acres surrounding a 105-acre lake - or 116 acres depending on whose figures we use ... in comparison to Northwood

Lake, a 687-acre lake surrounded by a 15,000-acre watershed land area). For our lake, that means more runoff going into the lake rather than penetrating the permeable land area. We are also fed by Tucker Brook Marsh, which has rotting vegetation and wildlife byproducts that end up in our lake. Our testing this year does show continuing high phosphorous levels, about 38 to 44 ug/L at the inlet, in comparison to the state median of about 11 to 20 ug/L (micrograms per liter). As a result, we have some years when we see algae blooms, large amounts of filamentous green algae (Jen sent a sample to the state lab this summer), bladderwort (last fall), and pondweed (seen this summer in high numbers by Bob in the coves).

Kim Mitzel raised the issue of the dam and that the water does not leave the lake when the water level is low, adding to our water quality issues. Bob then reported that the state dam inspector, who visited our dam in July, will return on Oct. 22, 2019, at 9 a.m. with a state wetlands inspector to check on the dam, which has been breached and has sandbags placed alongside it. The town was informed the sandbags are a possible violation of wetlands rules. The town has been invited to the session with the inspectors, and members of our watershed association have been invited as well. Kim reported seeing the town road agent truck down at the dam recently. (A new road agent was appointed in mid-September.)

Kim suggests we might need a warrant article presented at town meeting to repair the dam. She attributes the high growth of water plants in the cove near the beach to the inability to maintain our water level. Kim suggests the state inspector tell us what we need to do so we can go to the town and get them to step up to the plate and fix the dam.

Russ Lubik asked about placement of the board on the dam since he observed a water level drop of approximately a foot in one week. Jamie suggested we have been in close to drought conditions, and Kim said the board has not been placed back in. It is breached.

Jamie indicated that from May to now, the lake is down approximately 15 inches.

Kim believes the water level issue should be the priority for our watershed association. She said we have to be the squeaky wheel before the town.

This brought up a discussion of the miniature golf course conceptual plan proposed at Route 4 and Harmony Road, on the inlet to our lake. Bob reported that at the Planning Board meeting in September, the discussion of the plan was moved to mid-

December after it was determined variances will be need to be approved by the Board of Adjustment as related to wetlands setbacks at the site. Jamie said the lot is already approved for a single-family home. Jen said the next Planning Board meeting is Dec. 12.

Bob said the town's response regarding the dam is crucial to how we react as an association. The town may be required to remove the sandbags if the state inspector says they are a violation. Jamie suggests we might reach out to surrounding towns with dams and learn how they provide oversight of their dams. Bob doesn't think Northwood has a dam operating policy. Kim suggests a tradeoff with the town caring for the dam, our association caring for the beach. Jamie said the town owns another waterfront lot. We should ask the town to relinquish some control to the association, perhaps a 99-year contract, and not be at the mercy of the town to manage the area. Jen raised the issue of a lack of participation in the association and the burden of taking on more responsibility.

Jamie suggests we need to enact new ideas, possibly a membership drive, matching funds from the town to pay for improvements. He said our lake benefits the general community and the town should be pitching in more. We need more involvement from the town in caring for the lake, beyond the road agent's involvement.

Jen feels we need to get the school more involved in the care of the lake. Perhaps when we find out more about the placement of water quality sensors, we can have a discussion with Coe Brown. Their input would go a lot further than any of our individual voices.

Russ raised the fact that our membership is low in comparison to the population of the lake (24 households versus 64 shorefront properties). He feels those who live along the lake should be part of the association.

Jamie suggests we must provide a benefit to get people to pay their dues. He says that as part of a membership drive, we could possibly provide stickers ... a \$25 donation gets a Harvey Lake sticker. A \$50 membership gets a T-shirt, etc. There are no upfront costs. This can be done by fulfillment. We could work with the town in improving that lot owned by the town to give people reasonable access, possibly a dock. That would provide a benefit to belong to the association.

Jamie suggests we can instead of dues, ask people to provide volunteer hours to clean up the town property. We have to show the town that we are making strides at improving the area. And they need to pitch in, too.

Russ stressed we need to really get more representation in the membership from shorefront owners to have some clout with the town.

Jamie suggests the town's waterfront lot needs to be part of this.

Dam inspection: Bob repeated that the state dam inspector is returning on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019, at 9 a.m. to inspect the dam, along with an inspector from the state wetlands bureau. The town has been invited to this meeting, probably the road agent, newly appointed in September (Chris Brown), and our watershed association members are invited, too. Jen suggests we inform Jill Forward at Coe Brown Academy of the date.

Beach Inspection Program: Bob reported that we test three times each summer as part of the VLAP program. We submit e. coli samples for the beach, and the results take a month to return. Since the VLAP program isn't set up to provide us with immediate results, Bob would like us to apply via selectmen, the owners of the beach, to the state Beach Inspection Program, which analyzes results much quicker and can issue an advisory when e. coli levels are high. The state inspector will also return and retest an area if the readings are not acceptable. They will continue to test until the readings subside to acceptable levels. Bob read a proposed letter to selectmen, attached to these minutes as Addendum C. The members discussed the possibility of testing more frequently, beyond summer months.

MOTION: Jen Boulanger moves that we send the letter as drafted to Selectmen. Seconded by Kim Mitzel. All in favor.

Jen suggested we consider giving the president negotiating ability on costs with selectmen, and Bob said he'd email members to let them know if there would be a financial responsibility on the part of the watershed association. A further vote will be required if there are costs.

Structure fire Sept. 19: Bob reported that he has been in touch with the owner of Blueberry Point, 110 Harmony Road, which burned on Sept. 19. He offered the association's assistance. The owner, Paul Oman, asked if any members had guidance as he considers his options. Bob emailed members last week, and a few members

did offer their expertise. Bob sent their contact information to Paul. Bob had been in touch with the N.H. Lakes Association to discuss the watershed association's options, and they recommended installation of hay bales and a silt fence. Members discussed providing assistance placing these hay bales, and Bob will send an email to Paul offering our assistance. Jamie offered to help.

Annual Election: We elect our officers and directors every two years, according to our bylaws. Bob called for nominations from the floor and the members discussed their willingness to take on some of the roles. Bob indicated he has been the president for more than 12 years, and in the interest of continuing a vibrant association, he would like to pass this duty on to someone else.

Bob called for nominations and asked those present if they would be willing to serve in an officer or director position. After discussion, the ballot as determined included:

President: Jamie Walker

Vice President and Weed Watcher Captain: David Kerkhoff

Secretary and Lake Host Coordinator: Kim Mitzel

Treasurer: Gisele Houston

Water Quality Coordinator: Jennifer Boulanger

At Large Directors: Russ Lubik, Steve Lucey, Maggie Kerkhoff and Regina Walker

Immediate Past President: Bob Charest

MOTION: Bob Charest then moved as one ballot to elect the slate as presented, to be effective Jan. 1, 2020, seconded by Jamie Walker. No further nominations from the floor, all approved.

Any Additional Business: Jen Boulanger reported on the Aroma Joe's proposal that is before the Planning Board. The owner needs variances, and the proposal is delayed until December.

Adjournment: Jen Boulanger motioned for adjournment, seconded by Jamie Walker. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Charest

President

Addendum A

HARVEY LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION	
TREASURER'S REPORT	
SEPTEMBER 19th, 2018 TO AUGUST 20th, 2019	
BALANCE FORWARD	\$2,556.77
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$440.00
	\$300.00
TOTAL	\$3,296.77
EXPENSES	
	\$300.00
DUES TO NH LAKES	\$110.00
5 TESTS	\$ 94.68
PRINTING (BOB)	\$504.68
TOTAL	
	\$2,792.09
TOTAL BALANCE 8/20/19	

Addendum B

		TREASURER'S REPORT			
HARVEY LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION					
AUGUST 20TH TO OCTOBER 2ND 2019					
BALANCE FORWARD					\$ 2,792.09
MEMBERSHIP DUES					\$ 345.00
					\$ 185.00
					\$ 50.00
TOTAL					\$ 3,372.09
EXPENSES					
BOB FOR PRINTING					\$ 88.95
5 TESTS					\$ 110.00
TOTAL					\$198.95
BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT					\$ 3,173.14
OUTSTANDING CHECK					\$ 88.95
ACTUAL BALANCE					\$ 3,262.09

Addendum C

Harvey Lake Watershed Association

Northwood, New Hampshire 03261

Oct. 2, 2019

Mr. Scott Bryer
Chairman
Northwood Board of Selectmen
818 First New Hampshire Turnpike
Northwood, N.H. 03261

Dear Mr. Bryer and fellow Selectmen:

I am writing on behalf of the Harvey Lake Watershed Association after a vote of our members at our annual meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2019.

Our members have asked that we request of selectmen that our beach and boat ramp at Harvey Lake, located on Shore Drive, be part of the state's Beach Inspection Program. We are making this request of selectmen because the beach area is owned by the Town of Northwood.

The watershed association, which consists of approximately 30 households, has for many years participated in the N.H Department of Environmental Services' Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP). We regularly test, usually during three sampling dates each summer (June, July and August) at four separate sampling stations. Our association bears the costs for these tests, which are \$120 per sampling date.

Our testing is to determine phosphorous levels as well as chlorophyll-A levels in the lake. Over the years that we have been testing, we in concert with the state can determine trends and chart the lake's health.

In recent years, we began more frequent e. coli testing at the beach in response to higher usage, especially by families with young children. We were at one time doing this fecal bacteria test occasionally, but for the past few years, our monthly testing during summer months has included an e. coli (fecal bacteria) test at the beach three times per season.

We have regularly determined our beach has been in compliance with state standards on most occasions. However, on a few sampling sessions, most recently in July of 2018, our e. coli readings were far beyond state guidelines. This year, they have been within acceptable levels. (While it is difficult to determine the cause, the July 2018 reading was an atypical result and was likely because of a specific event, possibly wildlife related.)

The issue that has developed for us is one of timeliness. As you are no doubt aware from Northwood Lake's participation in the Beach Inspection Program, the state will test the beach, and within a reasonable amount of time (no more than a day or two), post an advisory at the beach if the e. coli readings are beyond acceptable levels. Staff from the state will return and re-test the area until the e. coli levels return to acceptable levels.

Because Harvey Lake is not part of the Beach Inspection Program, our testing is not reported back to us for some length of time, up to a month after we submit the sample in some instances. Other than providing us with proof that fecal bacteria was present in unacceptable levels, the test is of little use in protecting swimmers who use the area. When we retest at that later time, usually the unsafe condition has passed.

We hope you agree that for this test to be of use to public safety, that we provide the public with information in a more timely fashion. Participating in the state Beach Inspection Program will provide that timeliness. The VLAP tests are not meant to provide a similar turnaround time.

Currently, the state lab charges \$30 per sample. Because Harvey Lake's beach has 205 feet of waterfront, the state's website indicates that "a beach longer than 100 feet will be sampled at left, center, and right stations."

Therefore, we estimate that at \$30 per sample, each testing session would be \$90, and during a normal season with low readings, three separate sampling sessions would require a budget of \$270. Because the state will return to resample a beach with high readings, it's possible this cost will increase depending on the number of return visits. We feel it would be prudent to budget \$500 for Harvey Lake in the state Beach Inspection Program.

If I can be of further assistance in supplying our testing numbers or in answering any questions on behalf of our watershed association, I would be willing to do so.

Sincerely,

Bob Charest
Harvey Lake Watershed Association
(603) 892-3488
harveylake@myfairpoint.net

(I may be reached at the above number, by voice or text, or at the email address. My mail address is 51 Black Hall Road, Epsom, N.H. 03234.)