

# Harvey Lake Watershed Association

Membership Meeting of Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2018

Northwood Town Hall

## MINUTES

**Present:** Bob Charest, Gisele Houston, Cindy Charest, Jen Boulanger, Heatha Normandin, Mike Lord, Sheila Lord, Russ Lubik, Suzanne (Becky) Steed, Grace Burr, Steve Lucey, Dee Fritz, and Brandon LeBlanc (Lake resident). Also visiting was Tom Chase, state rep. candidate for District 32

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

### **Guest:**

Tom Chase, a resident of Jenness Pond and a candidate for state representative representing District 32, which includes Northwood, asked for a few minutes to present his background and ask for votes on Nov. 6.

### **Reports:**

Bob distributed the minutes of the meeting of May 30, 2018, which included our annual election of officers.

**MOTION:** Russ Lubik moved for acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Steve Lucey. All in favor.

Treasurer Gisele Houston presented the treasurer's report for the period of May 1 to Sept. 19, 2018. Our balance at the beginning of the period was \$2,356.77, and with membership dues from our August mailing of \$890, we ended the period with income of \$3,246.77. Our expenses for the period were \$300 annual dues to N.H. Lakes Association, \$330 for state lab testing fees (3 sampling periods), and \$60 for stamps for dues mailing, leaving us with an ending balance of \$2,556.77.

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

Bob asked for a motion to reimburse him for printing expenses at Staples to make copies of tonight's handouts, in the amount of \$94.68.

**MOTION:** Sheila Lord moved for acceptance of paying the printing bill of \$94.68 to Bob Charest, seconded by Heatha Normandin. All in favor.

Bob explained that we billed 39 households for membership in mid-August, with the dues checks arriving to Gisele Houston since. We had for the past two years billed all property owners around Harvey Lake (about 100 households), but Bob stated that this did not produce a very high return in terms of new members, so he billed only returning members, some previous members and new residents this year. He asked if there was any discussion about perhaps billing more lake residents, but there was none.

### **New business:**

**Lake Host Program:** Bob reported that we ended our 14<sup>th</sup> season with the Lake Host program on Sept. 3. Emily Potoczak, a resident of the lake, served as Lake Host for her third summer season. The highlights of the report:

- Harvey Lake is one of 81 N.H. lakes, representing 101 ramps, that have Lake Host programs. We received a \$1,150 grant to provide Lake Hosting, money that comes from a portion of boater registration fees, with \$30 carried over from last year.
- Lake Hosts are employees of the N.H. Lakes Association, which handles payroll and insurances. The point person (Bob) coordinates scheduling and administrative functions, and his volunteer time is counted toward the 100 percent match required for our group to participate (we can also count our \$300 N.H. Lakes dues).
- Our program operated from July 1 to Sept. 3, 2018, a period of nine weeks. The ramp was covered for 19 days, mostly Saturdays and Sundays, for a total of 107 hours.
- The Lake Host inspected 60 boats for the season, which is on target with the number of boats inspected in past seasons (Last summer, the Lake Host inspected 61 boats.) Of these boats, 24 were motorized, and 36 were not (mostly kayaks and canoes).
- The Lake Host recorded the last lake visited before launching in Harvey Lake, and boaters reported in 2018 having visited all of these lakes which

have milfoil infestations or other invasive species: Northwood Lake (3 times), Pawtuckaway, Lake Winnepesaukee, Merrimack River, Squam Lake, Lake Ossipee, Crescent Lake, and the Connecticut River. The majority of visits to our lake were boaters who use their watercraft only on Harvey Lake.

Bob then asked if the membership wished to apply again for a Lake Host grant in 2019. The application period is in February, and we usually hear by April if we are approved. He doesn't anticipate needing any extra money beyond the \$300 dues to N.H. Lakes Association, and is asking the members to approve applying for the 2019 season and authorizing next year's Lake Association dues.

**MOTION:** Russ Lubik moved that we authorize payment of N.H. Lakes Association dues in 2019 and apply for the 2019 Lake Host program. Seconded by Sheila Lord. All in favor.

Bob stated that he would like to serve as a co-point person with another member and asked for people to consider volunteering as a co-point person for next year.

### **Water Testing:**

Bob distributed two reports, one summarizing the water testing for this past summer, from the state DES, and the other a historical look at water testing going back decades at Harvey Lake. Jennifer Boulanger is the new water quality coordinator for our association this year, and she was a great asset to our group, along with her husband Jeff and their daughter Jaden, a junior at Coe Brown Academy, who would like to complete her senior portfolio service project as a volunteer tester for our lake. Bob reported that the phosphorous levels continue to come in high (the state median is about 12 ug/L) with our readings this past summer around 27.2 to 51.5 ug/L at the inlet, to 23.8 to 36.1 ug/L at the outlet. Bob said the lake appears to be processing this phosphorous load, most likely with algae blooms and plant growth. We did have a small cyanobacteria bloom July 1, but that was tested by the state and determined to be below the standard for concern. We also continue to test at the beach/boat ramp for e coli (fecal bacteria). We had a very high reading in July, but the June and August readings were within acceptable standards. Bob said the July reading may have been because it was a very hot day with a large amount of boats and swimmers at the area.

Bob reported that he has had several people report large amounts of bladderwort in the lake late this summer. He went out this past Sunday and saw large amounts of it floating in several locations, most notably at the boat launch, near the dam and along the shore that runs parallel to Route 4 and behind Coe Brown Academy. He collected several samples and sent them to the state lab for identification. (A follow-up response from Amy Smagula, exotic species program coordinator, on Sept. 25 verified that it is bladderwort, a native plant found in abundance at several N.H. lakes this year. A second sample was identified by Amy as coontail, also native.)

Bob distributed a DES fact sheet on purple loosestrife, which is an invasive plant on the shorefront and was flowering in many locations around our lake in late summer. DES recommends that people who find it growing on their property tear it out by the roots, being careful not to spread the seeds, and bag it and remove it.

**Kelsey Brook Dam:** Bob distributed a report on the dam, which has been a concern this summer because of the large amount of rain. Because there appears to be no operating procedure for the installation/removal of the stoplog, some properties on the lake are experiencing high water levels that are causing property damage. Becky Steed said that her property has been flooded and she has complained (back in May) to the town administrator, without any resolution. The state dam inspector plans an inspection of the dam this fall and said in a phone conversation this past summer that he will call Bob when he schedules a visit to our lake, and any of our members who would like to accompany him may attend. Bob will advise when that date is set. The members discussed other possible options, and the members came to the consensus that they will direct the HLWA president to write a letter to selectmen, asking that they advise our group of its operating plan for the dam.

**MOTION:** Steve Lucey moved, and Becky Steed seconded, that the President of the Harvey Lake Watershed Association be directed to write a letter on behalf of the members to Northwood selectmen, as the owners of the dam, asking that they provide us a copy of the dam's operating plan and ask for direction regarding who is in charge of raising and lowering the water levels on Harvey Lake. All in favor.

**Boat launch/beach area:** Bob distributed a 23-page report on the issues and possible remedies to several problems at the lake, including the rough shape of the boat launch and private gravel roads. He did not want the members to take action tonight. He wanted to distribute this report so that members may think about the

options (i.e.: village district, TIF district, betterment assessment, neighborhood association). The report details the 70-year history of Harvey Lake Estates and efforts over the years to improve the area. A recent complication is the sale of a waterfront lot on Sept. 4 by selectmen. Bob will check out if this lot had been developed as an exempt lot to allow lake access for the residents who live on the tree-named streets of Harvey Lake Estates. (It appears as such on original plot plans.) Bob asked members to review the report so that it may be discussed at a future meeting.

**Any other business:** There being no other business brought forward by the members, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**MOTION** to adjourn by Becky Steed, seconded by Russ Lubik. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Charest

President