

## **STURBRIDGE LAKES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**April 18, 2019**

Call to Order: 6:30 by President Laurie Palmer

### **In Attendance:**

Leigh Darrin CL  
Chris Mazeika SP  
Chuck Roy BA  
Marita Tasse SP  
Bruce Gran BA  
Laurie Palmer LP  
Tom Quinlan CL

**Determination of Quorum:** Quorum present 7/10

### **Approval of October Minutes:**

Approval of minutes tabled until next meeting. Changes to minutes made over winter.

**Action: Laurie will get new minutes out with changes to all committee members and a vote to accept will be taken at next meeting.**

### **New Business**

1. Boat Safety Course: The date of this year's first boating safety course was changed from May 25<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> due to venue availability. Bruce Gran not available on June 1<sup>st</sup> to represent SLAC at meeting. Leigh Darrin, Chuck Roy, and Tom Quinlan all said they could fill in. One will be there.

**Action: determine who will be at meeting from SLAC, and get notices out to individual lakes.**

2. Fertilizer - regulations of and concerns: Bruce reported that he investigated the different types of fertilizers available and sold at local businesses, and that phosphorus is prominently displayed as the second number on the bags if it is contained in the fertilizer being sold. Bruce went on to say that, under current Massachusetts's law, homeowners and landscaping companies need to provide a nutrient study to the Conservation Committee (CON COM) showing that the their lawn is lacking in

phosphorus before a phosphorus based fertilizer can be used. How this is actually enforced was questioned.

A discussion followed as to the best way to get this knowledge out to lake property owners and landscaping companies. It was determined by the group that the best plan is to get knowledge and instructions out to the various homeowners and let them take responsibility for monitoring the landscaping companies they use. It is in their best interest, from a property value standpoint, to protect the lake's water quality.

**Action: Leigh will write a short article on use of fertilizers on lake front properties (Green up the Lawn not the Lake) for Cedar Lake and share with rest of group to be adapted for the various other lakes. This article can be sent out by e-mail or on the Lake Association web site if available.**

**Each SLAC member should get on agenda of their respective Lake Association Annual Meeting to also educate landowners.**

3. A quick discussion of the Big Alum algae bloom followed. This algae bloom dissipated quickly but certainly got the attention of the lake property owners. It served as a "shot across the bow" of things to come if property owners don't take pro-active measures in the future to protect their lakes' waters.

4. BOS Liaison: Laurie reported that no liaison person between SLAC and Sturbridge Board of Selectmen had been appointed as of yet.

**Action: Laurie will pursue establishing a liaison person with BOS.**

5. A group discussion on bacteria at the various lakes followed. Bruce Gran mentioned the need to define the areas of the various lakes that the Board of Health test for E Coli and other bacteria, especially in those areas where many people have access to the lake, such as at public boat ramps, beaches, etc. It makes a big difference where these tests are done. Leigh reemphasized the need for accurate and timely reporting of these events, as well as notifying residents as to when people can go back in the water.

**Action: Laurie to send e-mail to BOS suggesting SLAC be consulted as to recommended test sites at the various lakes.**

6. Town disbursements from Betterment fund to the lakes. Laurie reported that the Town had voted to up the amount of funding to be pro rata distributed to the lakes for weed mitigation from \$5000.00 to \$6000.00. She pointed out to Selectmen that the cost of the weed treatments continues to rise on a yearly basis. This increase will be greatly appreciated by the lakes involved with weed treatment. Good job Laurie!

7. SLAC expenses for boating courses. A discussion on the cost of the Boating Courses versus the money taken in on a volunteer basis was had. In general, it cost around \$450.00 to \$500.00 per course depending on number of participants. The Sturbridge Host gives the room for free but charges \$10.00 plus taxes per head for the food throughout the day. Contributions are collected at each event but often fall short of the needed funds by \$150.00 to \$200.00 per course. Each Lake contributes \$60.00 at present for a total of \$300.00 per year for these two boating Courses. Chuck moved, and Marita seconded a motion to increase the amount each Lake Association donates to the Boating Course program to \$100.00. The extra \$200.00 should make the program a break-even proposition. Vote was taken and passed unanimously.

**Action: SLAC members to bring the request for an additional \$40.00 to their various Boards for Membership approval at annual meetings.**

8. Articles for publication were covered under agenda item 3. Leigh's article.

**Old Business:**

1. Boating course was covered under new business.
2. A discussion followed on South Ponds alum treatment program. Chris explained that the alum bonds with phosphorus and sinks to the lake bottom. This prevents the algae from using the phosphorus for growth. It is a pretty proven way of controlling algae growth according to Chris. South Pond is asking SLAC for a letter of support to present at Town of Sturbridge meeting in their quest to get a 319 Grant to help offset cost. No funds from SLAC are involved. Marita made a motion to write the letter of support from SLAC, and Bruce seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor.
3. Following up with Laurie Carpenter and her students. Students never got in touch with various committee members that offered to take them out on the lakes SLAC represents. Chris reported that they had some problems with calibration on one of the tools they were using to test the water. Laurie suggested we ask Laurel to join our committee to replace Dave Mitchell who has retired from his job with Con Com and with SLAC. Good luck in your retirement Dave!

**Action: Laurie to speak with Laurel**

**Next Meeting:** 5/16/2019 at 6:30

**Motion to Adjourn:** Laurie Palmer, second Chuck Roy

**Adjournment: 8:00**

Minutes taken by Chuck Roy/Secretary