**STURBRIDGE LAKES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**August 15, 2019**

Call to Order: 6:35 by Co-President Laurie Palmer

**In Attendance:**

Leigh Darrin CL

Rob Sparrow WP

Chuck Roy BA

Laurie Palmer WP

Bruce Gran BA

Mary Dowling SBOS

Tom Quinlan CL

Chris Mazeika SP

Dan Minchoff LM

**Absent:**

Marita Tasse SP

**Guest:**  Jeff Bridges TOS

**Determination of Quorum:** Quorum present 9/10

**Approval of April Minutes:**

Bruce Gran made a motion to accept the July minutes as is, and Leigh Darrin seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**Action: None**

**Old Business**

1. Jeff Bridges said that everyone on the Committee had been reappointed for 3 more years and that all should have received a letter to this effect. Those that didn’t get a letter should let him know and he will get one to them. He also reminded everyone to get his or her Conflict of Interest status updated if expired. It must be renewed every 2 years.

2 Chris Mazeika reported on the results of the environmental testing he

conducted on the various lake. Lake clarity disk results are:

BA 22’3”

SP 14’4

LM 18’1”

WP 8’4”

CL 5’9”

Brimfield Reservoir 10’8”

Chris said he would have the chemical analysis back in a couple of weeks

and report the results at the next meeting.

3. Report on Boating Course. Bruce reported that there were 40 attendees, and

$200.00 was collected in donations. The cost of the course to SLAC was

$505.04, leaving a balance of $305.00 paid by Town funds allocated to SLAC.

Bruce said attendees came from all over, and as far away as New Hampshire.

Dough Blood, the area Harbor Master, attended the meeting for the first

time.

Chuck asked if all lakes had paid their $100.00 dues to SLAC? Laurie said

She thought BA, SP, and CL had paid, and she would check on WP and LM.

**Action: check on WP and LM Laurie**

**New Business:**

1. Laurie Palmer brought up that she and Marita think it would be a good idea to create a calendar with important dates on it to hand out to all the Lakes. This would help eliminate confusion like we had this year with getting the invoices in to the Town on time.

**Action: Laurie and Marita will create a calendar to present to the Committee for approval.**

1. Rob Sparrow wanted to know, who do the various lake committees call if a problem arises out on the water? Bruce said the first responders are the Sturbridge Police. They have been trained by the Environmental Police and they have the power to enforce Environmental Police laws.
2. A question came up as to how far out swim rafts are allowed to be place from the shore line by property owners. Bruce said the Environmental Police say 150’. Chuck said he has read in one of the publications rafts are to be no more than 50’ from the shoreline. Chuck said that if rafts were allowed to be 150’ from shore they would prove to be a danger to navigation, especially at night. Bruce said he would check into it and get back to Committee.

**Action: Bruce will look into the correct distance rafts can be from shore.**

1. Dan Minchoff asked about the possibility of washing stations at the various boat ramps in the area to clean invasive weeds off of incoming boats? He asked if any lakes had a wash station. Bruce said no, and the only lake that has an inspection program is Quabbin Reservoir. Bruce said lake associations have no formal authority to inspect boats, but that an association can set up a voluntary program that takes down registration numbers and reports weed infested boats to the Environmental Police for action.
2. Bruce mentioned that the person to get articles to for publication in Stone bridge is Brendon Berube.
3. Future articles: ideas for future article from SLAC might include an article on winter lake safety addressing ice thickness, etc. Suggestions were made to post in a variety of papers around November or December. Perhaps consider Sturbridge Times and the Villager.

**Open Discussion:**

An open discussion followed on the possibility of controlling the spin on

Future notices that deal with lakes and the public. Leigh sited the notice

that appeared in the paper that the Town Beach at Ceder Lake was closed.

Notices need to be accurate so as to not scare the public. Jeff Bridges

said he would talk to the individual that puts out these notices and ask

that they be worded more carefully in the future.

**Next Meeting:** 9/19/2019/at 6:30

**Motion to Adjourn:**  Motion Laurie Palmer, second Bruce Gran; all in favor.

**Adjournment: 7:35**

Minutes taken by Chuck Roy/Secretary