

## LAKE ARMINGTON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Camp Walt Whitman

August 16, 2015

Approximately 35 people attended

President Alice Wellington called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

### **SPEAKERS RE: MILFOIL**

She turned the meeting over to Polly Tafrate, who introduced Mitzi Queen and David Kazen, from Hall's Pond, West Newbury, VT. They brought a jar with the invasive milfoil in it for all to see "the enemy." Mitzi spoke briefly on the history of the milfoil invasion on their pond that started back in the 40s. She stressed that once there is milfoil in your body of water, one can only "manage," but not "eradicate" it.

Many methods have been tried to control the spread. In 1992, Hall's Pond hired a suction harvester and divers. Over the ensuing years they tried other methods, chemicals that residents did not want to continue to use, and companies, some of whom took advantage of them. They also tried carp with limited success. Formerly, they got some financial assistance from the State of Vermont to help defray the costs, but that funding has dried up and it now rests only on the Pond Association. They are now using suction harvesters and divers at a cost of \$1300 a day. They work one week in July and will return in August. This year the Town granted them \$6000. This plan will be implemented again next year. She reminded everyone that the exotic, invasive weeds can come in on bird feet as well as on boats. The plant is fragile and breaks easily. It can root from one fragment.

Kate Merritt introduced, Skip Brown, the second milfoil speaker, from Lake Fairlee. Skip talked about how thick milfoil can be dangerous to swimmers, etc. It can kill a pond. A scuba diver on Lake Morey got stuck in it a couple of years ago and had to have help to get out. Lake Morey got milfoil over twenty years ago. Lake Fairlee got it two or three years earlier. They started trying to manage it with hand pulling of plants. Even though they had pulled the rootstock a tiny bit, enough to root, remained. The suction harvesters pull the entire root ball. Another method they used was to put up barriers on the lake bottom. One needs a state license to do this. The barriers work until you try to move the barriers.

Lake Morey used a chemical, triclophene (?) that Lake Fairlee people do not want to use. Milfoil is a flowering plant, a dicot. The chemical used to eradicate this inhibits growth on the sun side of the plant. It does not hurt monocots, e.g. fish, animals, etc, but it does hurt gardens so residents could not water gardens with lake water when this chemical was used. It was first used in 2010 and worked well for a couple of years. It was applied again in 2013 and was put in clay bullets that go right to the bottom of the lake. It only works on emergent plants. The lake has to be closed for two days after application.

Lake Fairlee is twice the size of Lake Armington. Milfoil is not in the middle of Lake Fairlee. One year, they hired divers for 12 weeks for \$80,000. They were getting as much as \$50,000 from the state at that time. This year they got \$9,000. Towns contribute some money. The state wants them to do chemicals every year. Fairlee residents want to do it every two or three years. This will cost \$100,000 to \$150,000 per year--\$1000/acre. It has adversely impacted some kinds of water lilies. They also have a Greeter Program similar to LAA's Lake Host Program, 7 days a week, 13 hours a day. That costs \$17,000 or \$18,000 a year.

Finally, Skip emphasized how important it is to educate those, who use the lake, about the serious impact of invasive a species in our waters. The growth pattern of milfoil varies. They treat most infested areas one at a time. It is most often found near runoff areas or streams.

Kate summarized that The Lake Armington Association's primary purpose is to keep invasive weeds out of the Lake and thanked both speakers.

## **PIERMONT'S E911 PROGRAM**

Alice introduced Bernie Marvin, Piermont's Emergency Management Director. Tim Cole, Fire Department, Ellen Putnam, Piermont Fast Squad Captain, Gary Hebert Chief of Police, and Randy Subject, a Piermont Selectman, accompanied him. Bernie explained that the Town is holding a hearing on August 20 to get approval from the Town to correct the E-911 house numbering system. There are thirty eight streets, lanes, etc. in Piermont and twenty eight of those have numbers out of order. The NH Department of Safety coordinates where a citizen lives for the emergency personnel. Bernie and his team will use GPS to get all numbers right and in order. They will only make changes where it is absolutely necessary. A citizen can refuse to make the change, but the postal service uses this numbering system too, so said citizen will no longer get mail if they refuse the change. Cabins with no road access are on the maps local emergency personnel carry. The Town does not have a fireboat, but can easily borrow one from another town if they need to get to an island location.

Tim Cole and Bernie will start the project when they get the approval. Bernie emphasized that this change is for our safety. Alice thanked Bernie and his team.

## **BUSINESS MEETING:**

**LAKE HOST:** Evie reported that all was going well. Initially we had two trained paid Lake Hosts. We have added another and he has done well covering two weekends. CITs from Camp Walt Whitman have provided volunteer time. Thank you.

There have been no saves this year so far.

**WEED WATCHERS:** Evie has received great reports from her team. There is nothing about which to worry. Linda Kline was readying to send in one puzzling plant for identification.

**WATER QUALITY:** Carlos reported for Mike Poole, who could not attend. Our water quality is excellent and has been improving. The report comes out in April of 2016. Anyone who wants specific figures should go to the DES website to the VLAP tab.

**DAM RECONSTRUCTION:** Bob Dennison. Because of leakage around the dam, it needs to be rebuilt. The State is in the design stage. This will require water drawdown in the Lake. The State was unaware there was a camp on the Lake. Bob reported this to Jed Dorfman. The project could take a couple of months. This should not impact Lake Tarleton at all. There has been some sort of a dam there for 200 years.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Kate Merritt

We are close to LAA's expected dues income, but not to the donations projections. The CWW donation comes in later in the year. Our projected income is \$9700 and our projected expenses \$3900. Kate has posted the whole financial report on the website. We are down on mug sales. We sold all the tote bags. There has been no common reed expense for this year.

**SANTA CLAUS FUND:** Polly Tafrate read a letter from Carolyn Danielson explaining the Santa Claus Fund. The firemen in Town raise money to buy and deliver gifts and food to a few needy Piermont families at holiday time. Names are discrete. The Board had voted to donate \$200 to the Fund this year.

**ICE OUT:** Carlos reported this year's winners: First: Linda Michelsen; Second: Alice Wellington; Third: Ken Settler. Carlos awarded the prizes, gift certificates to local businesses.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Those up for reelection are: President: Alice Wellington; Vice President: Polly Tafrate; At Large: Lynn DeMerchant and Shirley Nicol. There was a unanimous vote in favor of all.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Berk asked if the Lake had been stocked. No one knows.

Jed welcomed us and said how happy he was to see all. He told us that twenty-one families would be at a quiet camp this week until Friday. They are alums, prospective camping families and friends.

Sam thanked Jed for hosting the Association's Annual General Meeting.

**REMEMBRANCE:** Alice mentioned Pat McGiffert, Gerald Evans, Jancy Dorfman and George Tompkins, who had died in the community in the last year. Ann talked briefly about Jancy and then there was a moment of silence. The meeting adjourned at 2:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sam Rounds, Recording Secretary