

Bantam Lake Protective Association

Minutes of Meeting – March 16, 2017

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 p.m. by Connie Trolle

Roll Call:

Members Present: Mike Dunn, Mike Lauretano, Peter Longo, Steve Oldakowski Kayla Pottbecker, Ken Shailer, Debbie Shurberg, and Connie Trolle.

Members Absent: Peg French and Anne Murdica

Guests: Jamie Fisher (White Memorial), George Knoecklein, Dominic Meringolo (Solitude) and Tom Weick

Approval of Minutes

Motioned was made and seconded to approve the minutes from February 15, 2017 meeting with a correction made to the date. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Questions and Answers with Dominic Meringolo from Solitude for 2017 plan

Dominic indicated that we are currently in a maintenance mode in terms of weed management on the lake. Seeing very little Eurasian milfoil. Twice so far Solitude has treated Little Pond and the section of the Bantam River down to the lake – does not expect to have to treat this year.

We do not yet have the permit to treat the lake. There is currently a single person at DEEP responsible for doing permits which has substantially slowed the process. However, we are hoping to get the permit very soon which will allow us to accelerate when we do the first treatment which would help with better long-term control of the curly leaf pondweed (in recent years we have been treating after the weed has already reached its reproductive stage).

On this year's permit, we applied for a multi-year permit so we may be able to get a 2-year permit so we will not need to reapply next year. A copper sulfate treatment was also included on this year's permit and the plan will be to treat with the copper sulfate in June or July.

Discussion on whether or not we should cut back on our treatments – only treat once per year – and be able to focus more on the blue green algae issues in the lake. Dominic noted that the second treatment is more to deal with nuisance plants instead of invasive weeds. The Board will consider eliminating any treatment of nuisance weeds and instead focus solely on invasives.

Mike Dunn asked if Solitude has any awareness of grants/funding we should be applying for. George Knoecklein has already applied for the 319 funding. If we get this funding it would be for next year.

Ken Shailer recommends that we have a large meeting to let people know what issues we are confronting on the lake – what we are doing about them – what things we may not be able to

continue to fund with the multitude of issues we are dealing with. White Memorial has offered for us to use the Carriage House for the meeting.

George Knoecklein recommends possibly applying for a Steep Grant and also mentioned that Sean Hayden has been going after a climate change initiative grant.

George Knoecklein: Overview, Report and Long Term Plan

George made a presentation showing data he has collected to date related to phosphorus levels and provided an overview of the data collection he would like to do this year that will better position us for funding applications as well as allow us to plan and have the data to support any activities we would like to undertake to control blue green algae.

White Memorial will be assisting us by sampling storm water for phosphorus which will provide us with a cost savings and to initiate an understanding of the impact of storm water on phosphorus levels in the lake. There are 4 sources of phosphorus – the Bantam River, Storm Water, Septic Systems and Internal Loading.

Discussed the possibility of applying alum in the lake. Solitude has had success with alum and with a properly designed treatment dosage have seen cases where they have had 20 or so years of long-term success with alum. However, the cost to treat the entire lake would run close to \$1M. There are options for low dose treatments where you would treat with alum more frequently but at a lower dose – this would cost approximately \$100K. Solitude will provide us with an estimate to do a short-term treatment. The data George is proposing to collect this year would help us if we do decide down the road to treat with alum as we will need a substantial data set to get a permit to treat with alum.

Peter asked George to consider the development of a dashboard type method of presenting data so we could be better aware of current conditions within the lake.

Question of using barley straw in the lake. Answer is that while barley straw does work, it works in small areas and not on a lake the size of ours.

As Bantam Lake has now been declared an impaired water body by the state, the state has an obligation to tell the Federal authorities what they will be doing to fix it.

Fundraiser – Kentucky Derby Party

Plans for the event are proceeding and Kayla and Connie have secured the Litchfield Distillery, including all alcohol, at no cost. Plan to charge \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. Each ticket holder will receive 2 tickets for 2 drinks with hard alcohol and unlimited wine and beer.

Bartenders from the Village will serve drinks and Kayla is looking into various local caterers to serve food. We will raffle a few prizes with winner determined by their placing a ticket into the first, second, and third placers in the race. Mike Lauretano has offered to donate one of the prizes. Event will run from 5:30 to 8:00pm.

Correspondence:

Connie shared some letters received regarding lack of funding for the lake by the town of Litchfield.

Connie also received an email from the office of Senator Ted Murphy notifying us of an upcoming webinar on blue green algae.

New Business:

- Funding for BLPA is currently in the Morris Town Budget – we will need to keep an eye on how budget discussions proceed.
- There was a meeting by the State on the plans to install an ADA approved access at the Boat launch. 7 people were in attendance including Ken. The question about the impact of potential run-off into the lake was discussed and the state indicated it would be pitched in a way that any run-off went away from the lake. The state also indicated they were open to considering our suggestion to install a rain garden in this same area to help with runoff.
- Several board members expressed concerns about the management of the Boat Launch area (minimal oversight of boats going in and out, glass in the parking area, etc).
- CT Federation of Lakes Meeting is scheduled for April 29 in New Haven.
- Connie has secured a new person to work on the website and we hope to get the webcam up and running very soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Shurberg