

## Salem Lakes Association Annual Meeting

July 20, 2019

The Salem Lakes Association Annual Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Roger Cartee. He welcomed everyone and invited them to begin the pot luck breakfast. The breakfast was accompanied by socializing and renewing old friendships.

The formal meeting began with a Moment of Silence for lake residents who had passed away during the year. Armand Labrecque and his wife were in attendance and were recognized as founding members of the Association. Dennis Bond was thanked for his efforts in putting out the buoy on the Sunken Island and, along with others, the float in the Derby Fourth of July parade. Roger recognized members who had helped on July 13 with the very successful Coin Drop on Main Street in Derby which netted a record \$2203.99.

Paula Staples presented a report on water quality testing. The quality and clarity of the water in the lakes has not changed much over the last few years. She referred members to the website [www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov](http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov) for the most up to date survey results.

Ed Wells introduced Meghann Carter from the Northwoods Stewardship Center in East Charleston. She gave an overview of the work of the Center which includes

- Education - both after school and summer camps
- Stewardship Institute which focuses on sustainable forestry practices
- Conservation Corps which this summer includes a watershed crew which is involved in projects that promote water quality

Meghann also gave an overview of the Lakewise Program which makes recommendations for water practices near lakes and ponds and which provides recognition to property owners who are using practices that promote lake water quality. She focused specifically on septic systems which can be a big issue near bodies of water. Septic systems are looked at closely when homeowners apply for Lakewise certification. Maximum points are awarded if the system is located at least 50' away from water sources, is in good condition, is pumped regularly and has a leach field free of woody vegetation.

Meghann also recommends leaving a buffer of unmowed grass/bushes between the lawn and the lake. Planting native bushes such as blueberry can help with this. She advocates no "lawn to lake" mowing and says the more native greenery on the property the more effective the water runoff control. She noted some handouts she had made available and invited the membership to the Septic Social next Saturday, July 27 at Maidstone Lake.

Roger then asked for approval of the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made by Pat Whitney, seconded by Paul Major and passed by voice vote to accept the report. A motion was then made by Paul Major and seconded by Pat Whitney to accept the Secretary's Report which was also approved on a voice vote.

The Nominating Committee report was presented by Roger and it showed three Director positions up for approval this year. One position is a vacancy and Roger asked for nominations from the floor. There were none and the slate was approved on a motion from Andrea Ogilvie and second by Pat Whitney. The Board will continue to try to find someone to fill the vacant position.

Andy Major gave a report on the Monitor/Greeter program for this year. So far the boats reported are

- May            20 boats            0 dirty
- June            138 boats            2 dirty
- July            150 boats            2 dirty

Andy reported that the program will continue to be fully staffed until Labor Day weekend as this year's budget was reduced. The program received a generous allocation of \$15,000 from the Town of Derby but only \$7,000 from the State of Vermont which is about half what has been allocated in the past. The Board will consider funding monitors for weekends in September. There was a question about where "dirty" boats mostly came from and the answer was from Memphremagog and specifically from South Bay.

Ross Ogilvie and Ed Wells gave a presentation on the Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) plan that they have developed. They have already met some of their goals which include

- Forming an EWM Management Team
- Applying for bottom barrier permits
- Locating and hiring divers
- Acquiring bottom barriers and buoys

Ed reported that the barriers placed last fall by A & E Divers have been removed and during the 9 dives so far this year, new barriers have been placed around the boat launch area. The group has acquired 150' of screen-type barrier materials from the Shadow Lake group which was successful in eradicating EWM from their lake. He also reported that we have a Rapid Response license which enables immediate treatment of a new area. Rob Patton and Brooke Robley are the divers this year and Chris Cano from Shadow Lake is serving in an advisory capacity,

Ed stated that the team has surveyed the lake and placed buoys where EWM was found. They will continue to survey and monitor and pull the bottom barriers by October 1, 2019. They anticipate spending about \$5600 on divers and supplies this season along with providing 300 volunteer hours. He appealed for members with boats and those who would be willing to assist with the divers to let him know. Volunteer hours are in-kind offerings for the annual grant. Long term, the group hopes to have a fundraising campaign to support the installation of a boat wash at the access and have the Salem Lakes free of EWM by 2028.

Ross then spoke about the Buoy Watch program and invited anyone interested to adopt a buoy which they would check once a week. He showed the locations around the lake where buoys had been placed. Roger noted that the Aquascopes owned by the Association could be signed out from the access area and used for this purpose. If lake residents are interested they can contact the association at

- [salemlakesassociation@gmail.com](mailto:salemlakesassociation@gmail.com)
- Ed Wells                   802-578-3037
- Ross Ogilvie             802-922-5440
- Roger Cartee             802-766-4704

Ed noted that the Vermont Invasive Patroller (VIP) group will be having training next Saturday, July 27 and 10 am at the Derby Town Beach. This is a great opportunity for folks who want to learn more about invasive species and their control.

Bob Vidile spoke about reporting any flood damage and had forms for members to use. The Town of Derby is collecting information about flooding issues and damage so anything no matter how small should be reported.

Meeting was adjourned by Roger at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon H. Kelley

Secretary.