

Sturbridge Lake Advisory Committee

**MINUTES of 03/15/12 Meeting**

7:00 PM

Sturbridge Town Hall

- Call Meeting to Order
  - Meeting called to order 7:07 PM
  - Attending: Fran O'Connell, Bruce Gran, Marita Tasse, Bob White, Kristine Hudzick, Terry Riccard, Dave Mitchell (chairing in the absence of John O'Brien)
- Minutes from 02/16/12 Meeting
  - Motion to approve minutes as written - moved by White, seconded by Bruce Gran
  - Passed Unanimously
- Review of Annual Report
  - Draft Annual Report reviewed and accepted with noted changes to committee roster
  - Motion to approve Annual Reports as revised - moved by White, seconded Bruce Gran
  - Passed Unanimously
- Develop educational material explaining the Sturbridge Watersheds, Tributaries and Storm Water Drains and how they affect the Sturbridge Lakes.
- Article Submissions
  - First introductory article written by John O'Brien has been reviewed by SLAC and comments/revisions offered. The Committee reviewed a final draft with revisions incorporated and approved. Dave Mitchell to finalize revisions and to send to Marita to pass on to Stonebridge Press (have two local newspapers)
  - Marita will provide second article with emphasis on use of lawn fertilizers, lake-friendly landscaping, and special grasses (e.g., pearl seed). It may be useful to identify stores or websites that feature low or no-phosphorus fertilizers or low fertilizer requiring plant species.
  - Future articles topics were considered - boater safety, fishing, aquatic weeds and invasive species, lake management, shoreline clean-up.
- Update on Presentation for TRHS (David Mitchell)
  - Presentation was given to Steve Kelly's class on 2/17/12. Students were very receptive and interested. Talked about suggesting internship for juniors (i.e., next year's seniors) to do some field activities for lake associations in fall 2012.
  - Discuss design logo and offering it to art class (Paul Metcalf) or technical design (Larry Labelle) class for design competition. Dave Mitchell to draft invitation and design criteria to suggest to classes - will send around for SLAC review and comment.
- Boaters Safety Course for 2012
  - Contact was made with Chief Ford regarding scheduling, but did not arrive at a date yet. SLAC would like to have the class presented before Memorial Day. Need to communicate with Ford again to fix date.
- MPIC & SLAC

- The Executive summary of the Master Plan was reviewed by the Committee with particular notice of the identification of lakefront protection zoning as a means to protect lake. Discussion indicated that SLAC members present would potentially support such a zoning concept, but that further details would be necessary for a thorough evaluation or approval.
  - Dave is to draft a letter to Jean Bubon (Town Planner) expressing SLAC's interest in and general support of the lakefront zoning concept and request that a Master Plan Implementation Committee member come to a future SLAC meeting to present the ideas and potential options further .
- Old Business
- Internship Updates
    - The student interns with SCC have produced a first draft of the water quality database for the Great Pond data. Dave reviewed the spreadsheet and made some revisions and recommendations and returned to Erin Jacque. The students are working on entering all of the 10 years worth of data, can also input historical data that we will make available (Chris Mazeika - South Pond data ?), and will start to run some analyses on potential longterm trends. Dave will keep tabs on and periodically review their progress.
- New Business
    - The Community Preservation Act (CPA) was discussed and its potential use for lake protection noted. Many members indicated that they thought the CPA was a good means to preserve open space and could potential used to secure open space or critical parcels (e.g., shoreline areas) in lake watersheds. This was just a general discussion and no votes were taken.
- Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm