

Lake Massapoag Advisory Committee

Meeting of December 12, 2023

Minutes of Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Laura Henze Russell, Chair, Debbie Tatro, Vice Chair, Ken Hyman, Dan Lewenberg, Colin Barbera, and Eman Lasheen; Gary Bluestein was not present.

Guests: Josh Philibert, Conservation Administrator, Jana Katz

VOTES

- Motion to approve the minutes from the October 31, 2021 meeting: Ken moved, Laura seconded. Yes votes: Colin, Debbie, Dan, Ken, and Laura.
- Approve Eman Lasheen as chair of Education Advisory group: Dan moved, Laura seconded. Yes vote: Colin, Debbie, Ken, Dan, and Laura.
- Motion to approve FY25 Town budget, Town free cash request, and CPC placeholder: Gary moved, Debbie seconded. Yes vote: Ken, Gary, Eman, Debbie, Dan, and Laura.

DISCUSSIONS

DEP Contract: DEP is still reviewing and has not yet signed the grant contract, hopefully forthcoming soon.

Newsletters, Banners, & Lawn Signs: Donna Whitehead suggested posting the LOL banner on the website.

Testing: NepRWA does not yet have Sucker Brook Sept. and Oct. results from MWRA lab at Deer Island. Results of TRC core sediment sampling expected Jan-Feb 2024.

FY25 Budget

Laura and Dan proposed a draft FY25 budget of \$46,350 which is a 3% increase over FY24, plus an additional increase for funding for a part time administrative position, for a total FY25 budget request of \$54,150, which represents a 20% increase. To enable continuation of the Love our Lake newsletter after the MVP grant, the proposed weed mitigation budget was reduced from \$28,000 in FY24 to \$25,804 in FY25, about an 8% decrease. Additional Town requests include up to a \$1M free cash allocation for High Dose Alum treatments and other longer lasting mitigation. Weed mitigation may be better considered a Reserve Fund rather than operating budget request. They also proposed submitting a placeholder to CPC for \$100,000, for potential local match for a second MVP grant application, as the current grant ends June 30, 2024 (the DEP grant is for two years through Dec. 30, 2025). The final budget may include a targeted donation again from Camp Everwood or other stakeholders, and also asking the Recreation Department to fund a day of Memorial swim beach area raking at \$1,250.

Addressing phosphorous levels and the presence of invasive weeds are the priority for FY25. LMAC is monitoring the effectiveness of previous treatments while making long-term mitigation plans which will likely include high dose alum, weed mitigation, and pilot programs.

Gary, Ken and Debbie, members of the Weed Committee, said a cut or even level town funding for weed mitigation was not sufficient, as the CPC grant for weed mitigation and sediment coring was a one-time effort. Gary proposed increasing the weed mitigation budget to \$50,000, and Laura to increasing the part-time position to one day per week, resulting in a FY25 budget request of \$80,490, a 79% increase. Following discussion, LMAC voted to request \$80,490 FY25 budget amount, submit a Free Cash request of up to \$1M for high dose alum and plus a reserve for other long-term mitigation, and a placeholder for a \$100,000 CPC grant request.

LOL Banner: Potential banner locations including the fence at the rotary by the Boat Launch area and a street banner on South Main St. in center of town. Ask Recreation Advisory and Select Board.

Regulatory Updates: Rep. Ted Philips is looking into potential legislative action to pursue.

January Working Group Meetings

Science Advisory Group: First meeting in early January to review Clean Flo technology, others to follow on lakewide and area mitigation strategies.

Planned Education & Outreach initiatives include:

- 1) meeting with Sharon Camps Everwood and Wonderland to discuss curriculum development and projects, education and engagement on Love our Lake actions, and targeted To the Lake Walks on each camp's grounds,
- 2) meeting with faculty from the Sharon High School Biology Department, environmental studies teacher and Science Coordinator,
- 3) reaching out to residents, nonprofits and stakeholders to engage in the Love our Lake campaign and Watershed Based Planning, including Sustainable Sharon Coalition and its Youth Group, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Sharon Garden Club, Friends of Conservation, Massapoag Yacht Club, Sharon Historical Society, Men's Club, Council on Aging, etc.

CLOSING

- Next meeting will be a joint one with MVP Core Team Tuesday, January 31, 2024 at 12 noon.
- Motion to adjourn: Gary moved, Debbie seconded. Yes votes: Eman, Gary, Debbie, Dan, and Laura.