

Lake Massapoag Advisory Committee

Meeting of January 31, 2024

Minutes of Zoom Meeting

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

Guests: Josh Philibert, Conservation Administrator, Danica Cucchi, GIS Coordinator, Leandra McLean, Board of Health, Matt Ladewig and Margaret O'Brien, TRC, Ian Cooke and Anna Yie, NepRWA, Rory McGregor and Suzi Peck, MVP Core Team, Jaime Pickles, Everwood Day Camp, and John Tucci, EverBlue Lakes.

VOTES

- Motion to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2023, meeting: Dan moved, Laura seconded. Yes votes: Ken, Eman, Gary, Dan, Debbie, and Laura.
- Motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2023, meeting: Gary moved, Laura seconded. Yes votes: Eman, Ken, Gary, Dan, Debbie, and Laura.
- Motion to approve language drafted for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article regarding permitting digital publication for advertising public hearing notices: Dan moved, Debbie seconded. Yes votes: Eman, Dan, Ken, Debbie, and Laura. Abstain vote: Gary.
- Motion to apply to renew the Geese Addling Permit with the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife: Laura moved, Dan seconded. Yes votes: Eman, Gary, Dan, Ken, Debbie, and Laura.
- Motion to accept the TRC Lake Massapoag 2023 Annual Report with suggested edits for the conclusions section: Laura moved; Gary seconded. Yes votes: Eman, Gary, Dan, Ken, Debbie, Laura.
- Motion to request \$525,000 from CPC for funding high-dose alum treatment within the 20-foot contour range: Gary moved; Laura seconded. Yes votes: Eman, Gary, Dan, Debbie, Laura, and Ken.
- Motion to approve asking CPC for permission to reallocate \$7,500 from current CPC funding for weed remediation to EverBlue Lakes to perform an assessment of barrier, bubble and/or filtration solutions to limit spread of fanwort and invasive weeds from the lagoon into South Cove, and upstream into Fletcher's Cove, and provide data for formulating an aeration plus bacteria to address cyanobacteria blooms and weed presence in the coves: Gary moved, Ken seconded. Yes votes: Ken, Gary, Dan, Debbie, and Laura.
- Next meeting Wednesday February 14, 2024, 12-1:30 pm.
- Motion to adjourn at 1:54 pm. Gary moved, Dan seconded. Yes votes: Dan, Ken, Gary, Debbie, and Laura.

DISCUSSIONS

Love our Lakes Campaign

The LOL newsletter sent out with the Town of Sharon water bill has resulted in 40 sign ups so far. Targeted e-mailings and sign-up opportunities at upcoming events will be used to increase numbers.

Education Advisory Group

Eman, Laura and Debbie met with Zach Snow representing the Sharon High School Biology faculty to discuss how lake water lab testing is currently integrated into the curriculum, and includes pre- and post-test assignments utilizing LMAC's website, www.LakeMassapoag.net. The environmental studies teacher and two middle school teachers were unable to attend but will join future meetings. Future lesson planning includes establishing a "climate change lens", engaging students in projects, LOL outreach, and potential soil testing.

DEP Contract

Laura is still waiting for DEP to countersign the grant contract. Laura and Hiliary King will discuss navigating potential ramifications the delay has created in funding activity related to the MVP grant timeline.

Warrant Article

Members voted to ratify language for an Annual Town Meeting Article regarding legal requirements for publishing public notices for public hearings in newspaper of general circulation. The warrant proposes to amend Conservation Commission bylaws to accept publications in digital publications given the demise of local print publications.

Geese Addling

The 2023 egg addling contract prevented 11 new geese. Members voted to resubmit the permit application to the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife for 2024. The motion was approved.

TRC Lake Massapoag 2023 Annual Report

Members voted to approve the TRC Lake Massapoag 2023 Annual Report with suggested edits to the text and conclusions section.

Hazard Mitigation

Laura previously presented as an individual at a Hazard Mitigation meeting for review. Members will vote at the next meeting on whether to ratify her comments for formal submission.

CPC Funding Request

As a follow up to a placeholder funding request to CPC, members discussed the specific request from LMAC. Final sediment core analysis results from the lab will inform TRC's final dosing plan for the high dose alum treatment. CPC votes on the request on February 7, 2024. LMAC

considered oxygenation strategies as well as high dose alum treatment. Initial talks with the town administrator did not support increasing the annual weed mitigation portion of the budget. Members voted to ask for \$525,000 which would fund the first stage of high-dose alum treatment in the 20-foot contour range. TRC projects a three-phase effort with three treatments about 5-10 years apart. There was discussion of the potential to switch to oxygenation in the future if further research is favorable and cost/benefit analysis warrants the annual operating costs on top of equipment purchase or lease.

EverBlue Lakes Proposal

Members voted to approve reallocating \$7,500 from current CPC funding to perform testing which would provide data for formulating a plan to reduce the spread of fanwort. Potential infrastructure options include aquatic barriers, bubble curtains, filter grass, filtration check dams, aeration and biological (bacteria) treatment.

Meeting Schedule

Members voted to meet next on February 14, 2024, at noon ahead of the upcoming Conservation Commission meeting on the 15th. Materials from John Tucci's presentation at the Science Advisory Group, and the final TRC alum report due next week, will be circulated in the interim.

Adjourn

Members voted to adjourn at 1:54 PM.