



55th Annual General Membership Meeting

August 20, 2021 7 pm

Mt Lake Firehouse

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Shannon Schaaf, President at 7:04pm with a warm welcome to the 41 members in attendance.

OFFICERS ATTENDING: Shannon Schaaf, President; Carolyn Pullman, Treasurer; Nancy O’Leary, Secretary; Alice Bechok, Trustee

MEETING MINUTES: - For August 2020 Annual General Membership Meeting

Carolyn Pullman made a motion to approve; seconded by Frank Battistelli. Motion was approved unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT:

Carolyn Pullman provided an overview of the Treasurer’s Report for 2020. She informed the group that a little bit more was spent than was taken in. Investments did not do as well. For 2021 YTD: Investments are doing well for this year so far. Membership dues and donations are way up. (146 memberships to date). Lorraine Theil is a big part of that happening with the Facebook posts and the membership fundraiser. Expenses: Funds were spent on two mailings so far this year, water monitoring equipment and analysis, PO box, insurance, donation to Mt. Lake Fire Company, Zoom subscription and hiring Princeton Hydro as consultants to revamp our water monitoring program. Water is being checked and monitored. Zoom subscription is at a reduced rate through Tech Soup and is needed for the board to meet on a monthly basis.

GUEST SPEAKER: Chris Mikolajczyk, Princeton Hydro.

Chris spoke about Bob Ballou’s recommendation of thorough water monitoring to keep check of our lake. He gave us his background experience. Spoke about the dedicated volunteer water monitor programming that we have occurring. Our cooperation with our water monitoring and DEP makes us eligible for grant funding. We should be eligible for 319 grant funding. Talked about HAB – blue green blooms. HAB are lasting longer in the year than in the past-into October or November.

Election of Officers for 2021-2022:

- President: Robert Ballou was nominated by Shannon Schaaf; seconded by Frank Battistelli. Motion was approved unanimously.

- Vice President: Daniele Nevins was nominated by Shannon Schaaf; seconded by Carolyn. Motion was approved unanimously.
- Secretary: Nancy O’Leary was nominated by Shannon Schaaf; seconded by John Ward. Motion was approved unanimously.
- Treasurer: Joanne Ward was nominated by Schannon Schaaf; seconded by Bob Ballou. Motion was approved unanimously.
- Trustees: Alice Bechock, Patty Hofmann, and Lorraine Thiel were nominated by Shannon Schaaf; seconded by John ward. Motion was approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None received

GOALS FOR 2021-2022:

Shannon noted that the goals from 2012 were to increase communication, improve website and continue to expand partnership opportunities. The goals warrant review and updating. A subcommittee was formed to develop goals for going forward. Jason Heafy and Bob Ballou volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

FUTURE EVENTS:

- Porcupine Cribs: no updates as of yet. We have 20 cribs waiting to be installed. Shannon will get an update and send out an email.
- Fall Clean-Up: Looking at 10/10/21 or 10/17/21 – along Townsbury Road. Hoping for 20 volunteers
- Clean Community Grants -headed by Patti Hofmann

SUMMER UPDATES:

- Membership: Numbers are way up due to Lorraine updating Facebook page; we are at the highest number ever.
- Water Quality Monitoring: Bob Ballou provided a presentation on what the water monitoring program has been doing. The collaborative agreement with the DEP for a handheld meter (fluorometer) for detecting blue green algae is at no cost to the lake. This has been used to help detect algae at our three main monitoring stations throughout the lake. All information received from the water monitoring will be posted on the lake website. Overall, the results from the monitoring are very good.
- Weed Harvesting Partnership: Proposed a weed harvesting partnership with Liberty Twp. similar to last year. Liberty Twp is able to contribute \$10,000. Shannon proposes we contribute \$5,000 to continue the project. Motion to approve the expenditure made by Joe; seconded by Rob Bechok. Motion was approved unanimously.
- Drone Initiative: Have a drone look at the lake from an aerial view. Aerial survey and \$300 mapping software program. (Members from the Twp Committee discussed Twp. possibly covering the cost at the subcommittee meeting). Being done in the fall.

- Townwide Yard Sale: The event was very successful. We made over \$550. We are going to keep it an annual event. Thank you to the Mt. Lake Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary for their support and partnership!
- Goose Egg Addling: Bob Ballou obtained USFWS authorization to addle goose eggs during the spring nesting season. He addled a total of 37 eggs. There is a general consensus that we need to move forward with effort to manage the large population of geese inhabiting the lake.
- Clean Communities Grant: We are still collecting trash to report for the grant.

RUTH BALLOU AWARD:

Shannon announced that the winner of the award for 2021 is Lorraine Theil. Lorraine exemplifies the passion for this organization and Mountain Lake that Ruth Ballou exhibited during her years here at the lake. Unfortunately, Lorraine was not able to attend the meeting to accept the award, but her dedication and commitment was recognized by the Board and membership with a round of applause for all of her hard work.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

- Maureen Bonner talked about the native wildflower garden by the pavilion– the “Peaceful Garden” -- that was created through an ANJEC grant by the Environmental Commission. Looking for volunteers to help pull weeds and encourage the community to go and visit to see the garden abuzz with wildlife.
- Lakewide collaboration: want to try to coordinate having leaves picked up – lake wide leaf pickup.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:54 pm Shannon Schaaf moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Vicky Battistelli. Motion was approved unanimously.