

Minutes of the Sylvania Lake Association Meeting - Aug. 24, 2007, Fowler Town Hall

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Lake Association President, Lea Dickson

Approval of Spring Meeting Minutes 6/15/07

Corrections: correct date of Fall meeting. Approved: Linda Undercoffler. Seconded: Linda Scott --- approved by acclamation

Treasurer's Report: Mona Allan

General Fund	\$1,383.04
SWAT Fund	\$1,612.00
Concert Fund	\$815.00
Youth Fund	\$200.25
Book Update	\$6,241.97
TOTAL	\$10,252.26

Committee Reports

I. Standing Committee Reports

Sanitation and Water Testing Committee- Dave McGrath (water testing)

- Annual Total and Fecal Coliform bacteriological determinations - ALAP program (lake aging process) Report from ALAP is online. We have hard copy to sign out. Also online: Visit from Lisa and Mike deAngelo from Paul Smiths. People who have been trained: Carlton Force, Faye and David Lockwood, Lea Dickson, Shari Barnhart, Jeanette Perry, and David McGrath. Jody Hatch is also a water testing volunteer and is waiting to be trained.
- We are using two testing methods. One, sample water for colifom (bacteria) and take to local area lab. St. Lawrence County Public Health does not recommend drinking water from lake without disinfection treatment. Two, the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program compares our lake to other lakes in the Adirondacks. End of June testing. Dave McGrath and Gale Ferguson did July test. Dave and Lea got sample first of August. Only doing 2 spots. We will have results this winter. On the negative side of the ALAP report there are two possible reasons we showed high conductivity and chloride, road salt runoff and faulty septic systems.
- (no official report on sanitation, but see discussion at end of minutes)

Fish and Game Committee- Gale Ferguson, Gary Scott (water level, beaver activity, fish stocking)

- Report from Gale says four beaver dams were taken out by Jeff Lacy, Ferg, Dave McGrath, Les Amann and Jeff Amann.
- Dave Lockwood asked about sightings of schools of walleye in the lake. Carlton's father caught one in the 1950s. Dave L. said the divers reported seeing lots of walleye. They school. Bart Vanslyke said they are excellent eating fish.

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- Dave Lockwood said he knew of a trout stocking opportunity. Will check with DEC to see if these brown trout are alright to stock.
- Water is flowing but Linda Scott said that Gary reported another beaver dam has been built.
- DEC fish stocking has been completed. Trout only.

Navigation Committee- Lea Dickson (boat safety course, shoal markers, speed markers, patrols, signage)

- No boat safety course. Not enough interest. Let it ride for next year. Last Saturday Ralph Undercoffler taught a course in Edwards for Trout Lake people.
- Shoal markers- very expensive. Experiment in front of Stacy's challenge of how much weight to put on it. It floated away.
- There were no DEC/Sheriff patrols this year. But watch out next year.
- New milfoil warning sign donated to all boat launches in St.L county. Placed at Pumphouse.
- Ralph Undercoffler: There is a requirement that all boats stay 100 feet away from shore. Float/Pontoon boats go closer to shore than anyone. They can literally look in his window. Very disconcerting to look out your window and see a boat load of people peering in. Even if you are going less than 5 miles per hour, it is still true. Bart VanSlyke: people who are fishing will come within 50 feet of his camp. Example of someone who caught their line in their tree, then flicked their cigarette butt into the water. Bart told him what's what. Ralph: Is there anything we can do about size of boats on the lake? Lea: It's all about our "open fishing status." A group met in June, 2006, with DEC about signage and parking. Lea met with mine officials in September, 2006. In July, 2007, she also met with Bob Morehouse, who owns a portion of the Pumphouse area. He has agreed to participate to determine ownership the land. Who has right away...? Mine official has offered to host meeting of stakeholders.
- DEC cannot do anything to help us limit or restrict boat traffic /motor size. They would, but lake property owners must agree. Then there could be an all out ban of certain crafts. Town must get involved. We are trying to improve signage and education.
- The fishing access is an agreement made by DEC and the mines. We are inserting ourselves into the discussion. The fishing access agreement is probably null right now since the mine company that made the agreement doesn't exist. DEC has liability now. The parking at Pumphouse is blocking Morehouse and Indian Head Trail. DEC won't police the parking because there aren't specific parking spots designated.
- Linda Undercoffler: maybe we could try to do the policing informally. The put-in boats are a big problem. Allan Lehigh: personal watercraft put-ins are also a problem. Lea: We can take care of our own but no one feels comfortable approaching the put-ins. They won't put any speed limits on the lake unless every property owner agrees. DEC won't limit speed, just horsepower.
- Ralph: navigation reminder. People who are towing people on tubes are the most dangerous people on the lake. People are looking backwards. Its the driver's responsibility to have a spotter. Jetski users pulling a tube without a spotter are illegal.

II. Special Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

Nominating Committee- Ann VanSlyke, Katie Pistolessi, Olive Horning

- Two new officers on the board: Jodi Hatch, secretary and Allan Lehigh, Director, is taking Donna Besaw's position- New to nominating committee- Linda Scott, Katie Pistolessi, Olive Horning (chair) Many thanks to Kelley Lacks and Donna Besaw for their past service and to Ann VanSlyke for her years of service on the nominating committee.

911 Committee- Joe Lacks

- Fire and Rescue for Gouverneur, Edwards, Harrisville, and Antwerp received maps of Sylvania Lake roads. Maps were delivered by Joe. Thank you to Bill deLorraine for making the map.
- A reminder that people still need to call 911 to verify their location. Directions: Dial 911 and tell the operator that it is NOT an emergency. Ask if it is a good time for them to verify your location at Sylvania Lake.

Pest/SWAT- David Lockwood

- Milfoil harvest 2007: 150 cubic feet was harvested, compared to 80 last year. We had 4 boats. 80-90 percent of the harvest was still done by two boats. Novice diver on one of the boats and only one active diver on another. Carole and Tony Anderson again supervised the divers. Any novice or handicap divers will be on their own boat next year. Recommendation from divers: Floating markers. More diving bags. Pontoon boats with ladders. Would like to have 2-3 dive boats available on Sunday of the weekend for re-certification. Stick to the plan. Divers would like to help with the pre-harvest survey. Accommodations were excellent, food great. We are getting better. The Lockwoods had a dinner for all the divers and spouses and Sandy Kraker had a party for everyone involved. A special thank you to Bob's Market who donated sub sandwiches for Saturday's lunch.
- The SL Board wants to remind property owners of their personal responsibility to take care of their own weeds. Weeder winders are available - 4 or 5 have been made by Roy Smith and are available to anyone who wants them. The board has recommended laying mats with rebar in several locations. Leave for a year or two and then move it. Dave L: They may sell mats with weights that are intended for this purpose. Rosalie Force: Where is the milfoil? It seems to be spreading with the weeding activity.
- Our areas of concern continue to be the West Shore ridge, in front of Gothams, the other side of Porters, the area in front of Old Beach.
- We can scan the milfoil map and make it available on the website.
- Host families and all the lake volunteers will be acknowledged in the Fall newsletter.
- The board will be receiving a report with recommendations from lake volunteers and pontoon drivers from co-chair Sandy Kraker

Sylvania Lake Legacy 1807-2007 - Shari Barnhart

- Thank you, again, to the wonderful committee Katie Pistolessi, Olive Horning, Mary Whalen, Linda Scott, Jeanette Perry, Crystal Leonard and Marilyn LaPierre.

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- Correction to the book, p. 76. The photo of Tom and Anita Sleeman's camp is incorrect. Stickers with the correct photo are available from Shari B. or Mona A. Apologies to the Sleeman family.
- The committee ordered 250 books and sold every one. Requests for additional books are being taken. The printer has a minimum order of 50. When we receive 35 names, we will order 50 additional books. All orders must be prepaid. A notice will be put in the Fall newsletter.

III. Social Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

- **39th Annual Charlie Ferguson Fishing Derby- Gale Ferguson and the Force Family**
Caitlyn McKelvey won the largest panfish division with a 9 1/4 inch Rock Bass. Cody Syrek won the Small-mouth Bass Category. Hunter Gilette won a trophy for the large mouth bass. Mike Reilly captured a trophy for an amazing 112 Rock Bass caught. Thank you to the Force family for providing the trophies and to the Ferguson camp for organizing the event. The LaPierres originated the event 26 years ago.
 - **39th Boat Parade: Lea Dickson, Barb Maloy, Linda Scott, Shari Barnhart**
Thank you to Harland Brown who again did the beautiful plaques. Awards were distributed. Everyone won. There were 3 boats - Leonard Camp's Salute to Hollywood, Kirby Camp's Follow the Yellow Brick Road, deLorraine's Margaritaville. Parade Wranglers Linda Scott and Barb Maloy also received plaques of appreciation. Judge certificates were awarded. Boat Parade Judges were Mary Jo Whalen, Katie Pistolessi, Dave and Linda Syrek, Dave and DeDe Walters, Mike and Jodi Hatch and Dan Estey. Movies of the past three years are on web.
 - **Concert Committee: Gale Ferguson**
Thank you to Gale Ferguson, who has been a one-man-show for concert organization. Everyone enjoys the events, so the Board decided to put it in the budget. The Board received a letter from Len Warner, regarding the environmental problem of the flares and their pollution. It was decided not to use road flares in the future, so that source of funding was lost for the concerts. Maria McGrath will make a 40th anniversary quilt. This quilt had been raffled for the concert fund in the past so this contributes to loss of concert funding. Concert funding is now in the regular budget. There will be a Floating Bagpipe Concert on Saturday of Labor Day weekend. (Correction: concert was Friday, Aug.31)
 - **Newsletter:** Send submissions to Shari Barnhart or Lea Dickson.
 - **Publicity:** Thank you to Joanna deLorraine for organizing our publicity this year. Everyone appreciates seeing the articles in the Tribune Press.
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Refreshments/Raffle of the Maria McGrath Quilt, "Sylvia's Heart" - Faye Lockwood - Quilt won by Linda Syrek. Congratulations!

Old Business

- **Budget Overview- Lea Dickson**
Lea presented a budget worksheet (not part of the Treasurer's Report) that detailed our expenses from 2003 to projected expenses for 2008. Any questions, call Lea 287-4043.
 - **Constitution Revision- Lea Dickson**
Recommendations: Remove Junior Board members. Add Social Committees to standing committees. Remove dues from document.
 - A motion was made by Allan Lehigh to amend the constitution to "Add Social Committee to Standing Committees." Second: Faye Lockwood. Approval by acclamation.
 - A motion was made by Ralph Undercoffler to amend the constitution to "remove Junior Directors from the constitution." Article 4 Item 10. Second: Al Lehigh. Approval by acclamation. Note: there are no age restrictions on officer or director positions. Young lakers can hold any office or head any committee.
 - A motion was made by Mary Jo Whalen to amend the constitution to change dues schedule in the constitution to "Annual dues to be paid in the current year January - Dec. 31 of that calendar year." Second: Joanna Orford. Approval by acclamation.
 - A motion was made by Allan Lehigh that annual dues should be determined by association membership at the Spring meeting. The motion was "to remove dollar amount from the constitution." Second: Ann VanSlyke. Approval by acclamation.
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New Business

- **Election of Officers**
Mary Jo Whalen moved that the nominating committee recommendation is approved. Seconded: Bart VanSlyke. Specific motion "to elect Jodi Hatch, Linda Scott, Katie Pistolessi and Allan Lehigh to their recommended positions."
- **SLA 40th Anniversary Committee**
Plea for help. Clipboard was passed. Birthday party will be June 13, the Friday before Father's Day.
- **Flare replacement**
Replace road flares with GlowStick-Snap lights - they can be purchased and sold as fund raiser, or not. The Board will make decisions of how/when to purchase and sell.
- **Welcome to Sylvania Lake signs**
Signs will be purchased for all roads. Reminders about litter and quiet times, etc. Minimum order (10) will give us signs for every road and have signs left over for replacements. Cost: \$400.00. The hardest part will be coming to consensus about the guidelines. Linda Undercoffler: Would it be worthwhile to reproduce the signs to post in the camps. Formerly we had cards or listing in the newsletter. We have to refine the list of rules and guidelines. Linda? See the Sylvania Lake book for current guidelines.

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- **Mosquito/black fly spraying** - Dave McGrath is investigating. Presenting as information only. He called Duflo \$1200. -\$1500. per spraying. Recommend to spray two or three times the first year and then once every year after. Dave Lockwood: small trout live on the black fly larvae. Mary Jo Whalen: Phoebe birds and bats eat mosquitos. Lea: There are some associated health concerns to look in to. Ralph: Can't fight mother nature, the black flies and mosquitos have been here forever; at least they don't eat the trees. A show of hands of those present: "How many people are in favor of spraying for mosquitos and black flies." No one. Everyone was NOT in favor of spraying. Lea: abstained.
- **Sylvia Lake Association Stationery**- We have very old stationery. Lea got permission from the assembly to get new stationery.
- **Tax petition presented**- Association maintains neutral position - Petition was offered.

Other Business (discussion)

- Bart V: It seems from the attendance at the Book Party that everyone is interested in Sylvia Lake. But the attendance here at the meeting is so poor. How can we get people interested in coming to a meeting?
- Faye L: People should pay dues and we should charge a minimum amount to attend a party.
- Dave L: How can people live on the lake and not be members of the Association?
- Sonny G: What is our septic tank code?? It seems that many people are so out of compliance. Are they "grandfathered?" Lea: You can't grandfather a health issue. Dave L: If you smell it, you must call the inspector. The health department will close the offending camp. Ralph: We recently did a huge upgrade and got inspector and permit. They had to position the system to meet code and protect the well. Lea: people are spending thousands to upgrade. The philosophy from the town is they would rather people upgrade and not be exactly on code, than not to upgrade at all.
- Mona: The LaPierre family made \$60.00 from their ice cream social, on the night of the concert, which they are donating to the Association. As Treasurer, Mona recommended we donate \$500.00 to the Sylvia Lake website. A show of hands indicated unanimous approval.
- Maria McGrath has made quilts for the past four years. Faye Lockwood moved and Linda Scott seconded that we donate \$200.00 to Maria for her expenses on the quilt materials. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Ralph: Under the topic of Rumor Control- On the website, a caption under one of the milfoil photos said, "The Undercofflers were back for a second year"... but the picture was of Ralph and Sandy Kraker's wife, Joline in the boat. The webmaster offered to correct the caption, but Ralph and Linda declined, saying it was good for laughs, leave it as is.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ralph Undercoffler.

Seconded by Linda Scott.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM

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Minutes respectfully submitted by Shari Barnhart, sitting in for the secretary.