

Stocker Pond Associaton - 2002 Annual Meeting Minutes (7/20/02)

at was expected to be a very quick annual meeting for the year 2002 turned out to last about an hour and a half. The primary discussion was not about the cell phone towers, but concerns about various conditions in the pond now and indications for the future, as the details below will relate.

Between the proxies and those attending, a quorum was reached to hold an official annual meeting. Present were: Thain Allan, Fred and Nan Parsons, Warren and Crystal Kunz, David and Glenda Szczesiul, Mary Ann Rayno, and Warren Heinzelman.

Past meeting minutes were read and approved. The treasurers report was reviewed as distributed with the meeting announcement. Dues collected since the report in June about equal some bills we have to pay at the moment. But in general most members are paid up thru at least last year. However, we need the dues of all the membership each year just to stay even with our expenses. (A friendly hand written reminder for those still owing dues, and how much) is given at the end of these minutes - thanks. FWP)

Old business: None

New business:

Election of officers: Based on the recommendations of the nominating committee, a motion was made and unanimously passed, to accept the following slate: President; Mary Ann Rayno; Secy Treas., Glenda Szczesiul; and in addition to these two officers, the three remaining Board of Directors will be: Thain Allan, Fred Parsons, and Warren Kunz.

Beavers: Last Tuesday the town came and did a major clean out in the inlet that leads into the pond. They are not likely to do this for us again in the near future. By Wednesday it was clear the beavers were fast at work to reverse the work done by the town. Apparently all ponds and lakes are finding a record number of beavers present this year. The road agent will be asked if some kind of wire fencing can be put on each side of the culvert going under the road. This will not stop the beavers, it is expected that it will hinder their bringing in dam making materials from up stream and plugging the culvert its self. so Thain stated that volunteers are needed to take turns going in there and doing clean out. It is a messy job, but not one we feel we can afford to pay someone else to do at 50 or 75 dollars an hour. It is also not fair to have the same people do all the work. Also a motion was made to spend up to \$50, on a one visit basis, to go in and take out the beavers if it can be done for that amount. Part of the problem is the trappers cannot get good money for the pelts until later in the fall. So it is not easy to get anyone to do it at this time.

Cell tower. First, a balloon test was done (with the assumption the tower would not exceed 90 feet). A picture was taken from the Szczesiul's beach (shown at the meeting) and the balloon could just be seen as a dot at the tree line. Further south on the beach (at Kunz and on down) the balloon could not be seen at all. Only from the interstate was it clearly visible. Those wishing to erect the tower still have some information gathering to do at the request of the town before the town decides anything final. Bigger questions that remain seem to be about an access road and the stringing of phone and power lines down from the top. So most of the remaining issues lie with the abutters. From previous legal defense on a similar situation with the Olde Farms community, it would appear legal fees could run \$3500 to 5000. It was the opinion of Thain Allan that the association would not want to enter into anything in that realm. In response to the letter Thain sent out to all of us, only about (with urging) half returned comments on the situation. The tower is to be a "brown stick" which is not very obtrusive. However, David Szczesiul stated that the already erected brown stick tower next to the soccer field in town did show some grill work and support braces etc. Also David has the feeling that IF the tower were approved and IF it did not work well at the 90 foot height, the company involved would have little problem getting approval to increase height. The current town limit for any tower is 190 feet. There may be another town board meeting on this July 25th. Also the person leasing the land stated at a town meeting that she would only have one tower on her land there. But the feeling was, if one worked well - others could follow.

Water Report: An extensive report about the pond was received from the state. Since Pat Woolson could not be present for the meeting, she submitted a summary of the report for Thain to read. Again this summary includes the highlights of state report and the state's opinions:

Since the lake/pond is relatively shallow, it is important to operate boats at slow speeds in shallow areas to minimize disturbance to sediments and vegetation.

Conductivity has increased in the pond and inlet since the SPA joined the program. It is caused by human activity. These activities include: septic systems, agricultural runoff and road runoff. Natural sources such as iron deposits in bedrock can influence conductivity. (Pat adds: since we have construction on I-89 I believe this could add to our problems)

They recommended the inlet be investigated so they can determine what may be causing the increases and report any new development in these areas.

They wanted to schedule our annual biologist visit during August so they can determine if oxygen is depleted in the lower layer later on in the sampling season. (Hypolimnion is a sign of the lake's aging and declining health).

***** Inlet weed growth has increased by more than one quarter in the last year !!!! We hope to have a new bottom depth map in the next year's report. End of Pat's summary report.

The officers have the report if anyone wants to review it.

*Weeds: Mary Ann and Glenda have been the weed watch committee for the last year and filed the following report in addition to the above. Mary Ann now has a book that fully covers this kind of plant life if anyone wishes to review any plants they might see or have on their shore line. She reports that the "grass" that lives under the water is called water bull rush, and it has increased tremendously in the three years she has lived on the pond. You need to keep your area of the pond weeded. This is best done by pulling out the weeds Vs raking. The weeds of any kind can increase in three ways: Seeding its self, breaking off, and not getting rid of the roots. Mary Ann said she can no longer kayak to the inlet due to the vegetation. This vegetation is what effects the oxygen depletion of the pond. Sunapee, especially George's Mills, is now all of a sudden over ridden with milfoil. We have to be very, very vigilant in protecting Stocker Pond from this weed and others. We need to talk with visiting fishermen and other boaters about cleaning off their boats, so we all wont soon be walking across the pond rather than swimming across.

Other weed discussion included: The fact that building will be going on at Polazzi Pond (Now being called "Bog Pond") and we will have to watch what happens there. Also, there is some considerable evidence that especially in the spring and winter with the ice coming and going, that chunks of sawdust from the lumber yard is taking its toll on deterioration of the pond. We hope to have a discussion with Cote and Reney about what might be done to help control this situation. While some felt that at some time it may be necessary to start looking into what it would take at the state level to obtain wake speed controls for the pond, at present we need to just continue to remind and educate boaters that higher wake speeds will turn the pond upside down in minutes, creating harmful agitation to the shallow areas (and with the depth of the pond only 17 to 20 feet in the deepest spots, most of the pond is "shallow").

Warren Kunz was also concerned about the fact that in the reconstruction of I-89 at in the South bound lane side just as the interstate comes up on the pond, the vegetation there was virtually clear cut (which by the way is a violation of the Shoreline Protection Act) and most of the dead trees left to rot. He felt that replanting by the highway construction people should be taking place. Others had heard that they are saying that the area in question needs to be kept free of vegetation due to the fact that motorists need to be able to see ahead up the road at this curved part of the highway. Glenda mentioned that they had installed an animal fence along this stretch up to just to where the Moose come across and stopped at that point The cutting of the trees makes the noise from the highway greater. Mary Ann is to contact Pat Woolson (who has been our contact with the highway people) to see what the story might be about replanting in the area mentioned above. Also it was mentioned that the new part of the highway, that has been repaved, seems to have helped with the noise.

Meeting adjourned: At 11:30AM

Respectively Submitted: Fred Parsons

Dues Reminder: If any figure is listed on the line below, please remit this amount to the Stocker Pond Association - Glenda Szczesiul 279 Stocker Pond Road Grantham NH 03753