

Annual Meeting of the Mousam Lake Region Association, July 25, 2009

The Annual Meeting of the Mousam Lake Region Association was held on Saturday, July 25, 2009 at the Acton Fairgrounds in Acton, Maine. The meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

Opening Remarks from Association President Glenn Baxter:

Welcome and introductions—The President welcomed members to the annual meeting and introduced the members of the Board of Directors, State Senator Richard Nass, State Representative James Campbell, Shapleigh Selectman Charles Mullins and Acton Selectman Larissa Crockett.

Glenn then recognized outgoing board members, Jim McClaine, who as Treasurer was instrumental in obtaining the MLRA's 501©3 tax exempt status, secretary Mary Gannon, and director Stephen Eastman, who hosted many of the board's meetings at his camp. Special recognition was given to outgoing director Polly Mapes who acted as social director, liaison to area businesses and helped with the MLRA's fishing derby and boat parade. Polly now becomes the 6th board member to become a Director Emeritus for her more than 10 years of service to the MLRA.

The President also recognized the Acton/Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corp for their many projects on camp properties which help to combat soil erosion from dumping into Mousam Lake and Goose Pond. The ASYCC was also recognized for their Courtesy Boat Inspection, which has helped to prevent invasive aquatic plants, such as Eurasian milfoil and hydrilla.

Glenn also thanked the Lakeside Café for their generous donation of the coffee and donuts for the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes from the Last Annual Meeting: Mary Gannon

Secretary Mary Gannon asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last annual meeting which was held on Saturday, July 26, 2008. A motion was made, seconded and all approved last year's annual meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jim McClaine

Jim reported that the Treasurer's Report shows the MLRA finances are doing well, with donations at the almost budgeted amount of \$6,000. On the expense side, \$9,500 has been donated to the ASYCC for Lake Enhancement programs and after the profitability of the Golf Tournament is known, the budgeted amount of \$14,000 should be met. The Balance portion of the report shows the MLRA to be financially strong with \$9,208.51 in the bank account and the General Reserve Fund CD at SIS Bank showing a balance of \$11,067.48. Also in a CD at SIS Bank is the Water Quality Improvement Reserve Fund which has a balance of \$10,220.43. A motion was made, seconded and all approved the Treasurer's Report.

Membership Report: Bill Sherman

Bill reported that the current membership is at 442, with 414 members having paid their 2009 dues. Additional donation monies totally \$5,888 was made by 120 of the 414 dues paying members. There are currently 18 inactive members, which represents members not paying their 2008 and 2009 dues, but who are still receiving dues notices. Bill stated that the MLRA board is working on an Outreach Program to try and increase membership rolls which has been steadily declining. Part of the reason for the decline in membership has been the turnover in lake properties. Suggestions from the audience to combat the decline in members included giving free MLRA membership for 1 year for new camp owners and giving local realtors packets of information regarding the MLRA to be given to new property

owners. Glenn welcomed MLRA members to contact board members regarding this issue. After the meeting, Bill reported that 54 family membership units were present for the meeting.

Report of the Health of the Lake/Lake Markers/Lake: Skip Bartosch

Skip reported to the membership that he takes water samples from the lake almost every week. From last year to this year, he said that the transparency readings from 5 stations (different locations on the lake) at 15" to 20", the clarity is about the same. Skip stated that the dissolved oxygen reading is down at 4 out of 5 stations at 16" to 17". The lower oxygen level has been caused by the usual amount of rain we have had this year and the runoff into the lake it has caused. He mentioned that there is an aquatic plan session Saturday, August 15th at 8:30am and people will be going into Goose Pond with their kayaks. Skip reported that the loon count shows that there are currently 3 loons living on Mousam Lake which is down from last year's count of 4. Unfortunately, Skip had to report that once again our loons lost their nest this year due to unusually high water.

Using the Lake Watch Boat, Skip gave out about 47 State of Maine booklets that explain boating rules and regulations. He thanked Lakeside Marina and the Acton Trading Post for their part in storing, maintaining and the docking of the Lake Watch Boat.

Skip explained that the navigational markers on Mousam Lake are installed using GPS and their placement is regulated and controlled by the State of Maine. He stated that other than the placement of swim markers, no other navigational markers can be placed or moved by the camp owners on the lake. Also, Skip reported that once swim markers are placed, no one, including the camp owner may bring a boat into the swim area. He stated that camp owners may mark their docks to avoid boat collisions.

Skip stated that we need to take care of our lake for future generations. Additional testing will be done at different levels in all the Maine lakes to track water quality issues. A question was asked about the dam at the end of the lake and Skip informed the public that Sanford Parks and Recreation controls the dam. The board keeps in contact with Sanford about the dam and wants to keep the water at the best level for good water quality.

Beach Report at the Foot of the Lake: Jack Kelley

Jack reported that the snow fence was installed last fall and therefore there was no damage to the plantings on the beach. There was a beach clean-up in May and another clean-up by Amanda Loomis and the ASYCC in June. At the June clean-up more plantings and mulch were put in. Jack also reported that the porta potty was installed for the season.

Greetings from Town Selectman: Larissa Crockett

Acton Selectman, Larissa Crockett reported that there are new zoning laws which will be voted on by the public in November. She stated that Tom Cashin has zoning informational packets available to the public and that there is a zoning informational meeting Saturday, August 1st at the Acton Town Hall. There will be more public hearings in the fall. She stated that lake owners pay 75% of the taxes in Acton and that the new zoning laws are intended to protect lake property owners. Larissa also stated that she is working to put a volunteerism program in place in Acton.

Boat & Safety: Bob Anderson, Boating Education Instructor

Bob Anderson of Acton stated that a boating safety card, much like what is mandatory in the State of New Hampshire, will eventually be coming to Maine. This eventual new law will require that all boaters, no matter their age, will be required to take a boating safety course. He stated that a course for \$5 is available in Maine and to contact Maine Fisheries & Wildlife. Bob reported that children under the age of 15 cannot operate a jet ski. He also stated that

if any motor is put on a boat, even if it is a canoe, it must have a milfoil sticker in place. Skip Bartosch stated people should call the Gray Office if they see any problems on our lakes regarding underage driving of boats and any other safety issues or to call the Sheriff's Department.

York County Soil & Water Conservation District: Glenn Wildes

Glenn stated that Soil & Water Conservation Districts are all over the country. The Districts in Maine are funded by State and County money and by grant programs. He stated that grant monies are the highest supporter of the YCS&WCD. The major emphasis of the District has changed as it used to be about agriculture and now is more about nutrient information and soil erosion. YCS&WCD engineers are used by towns that don't have an engineer for development. The Districts work on water quality issues and watershed surveys. They work in regards to active construction and road conditions. The Districts put in funding to the State DEP to get grants on a competitive basis. The York County District has 1 part time office manager, 1 part time engineer and 1 full time project manager. Glenn stated that Mousam Lake was the earliest lake to get grant monies for water quality and has so far received \$750,000 in grant monies, which is the highest in the State.

Remarks by Acton/Shapleigh YCC: Amanda Loomis

Amanda reported that the ASYCC, which was founded in 2001, is committed to protect Mousam Lake, Goose Pond, Loon Pond and the Square Pond watersheds. The ASYCC provides free technical service and reports. If a site is accepted for work, the owner pays for the materials which are brought in by the ASYCC and are then provided with free labor. Amanda stated that in 2008 the ASYCC completed 20 projects. According to Amanda, the ASYCC is involved in 2 programs. One program is the Courtesy Boat Inspection which helps protect our lakes from milfoil, Eurasian milfoil and hydrilla. The other program is the erosion soil crew which provides technical support and sometimes free labor for camp owners.

Golf Tournament: Bill Sherman

Bill stated that the MLRA has been an incredible supporter of the Acton/Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corp. He reported that the primary fund raiser for the ASYCC has been the golf tournament. In 2008 there were 89 golfers and 46 corporate and individual sponsors. The \$5,600 profit from the 2008 golf tournament was passed onto the ASYCC. Bill stated that the 2009 golf tournament is currently in the planning process. He stated that once again Metrocast has donated \$1,000 to the tournament, which they did in 2008. Bill also stated that there were golf brochures available for the members and that he was looking for more volunteers and sponsors for this year's tournament.

Boat Parade & Fishing Derby: Glenn Baxter

Glenn reported that there was a great turn out for the fishing derby but would like to see more people involved with the boat parade. He asked the membership if they would like the boat parade to be on the weekend of July 4th next year or the week after. The membership voted to have the boat parade on the weekend of July 4th in 2010. A member from the audience remarked that the sign at the foot of the lake was very effective for the meeting and should be used for other MLRA events.

Boating Parade Results:

Large Boat:

1st Summer School; Thyng family

2nd Noah & Family; Sullivan/Leland families

3rd Meagan's Birthday Bash; Eagleston family

Small Boat:

1st Noah's Ark; Hammerstrom family

2nd Hawaii; Harrington family

3rd End of Day; Goodnough family

Fishing Derby:

1st Wesley Verity 8yrs HEAVIEST 2.52 lb. Bass

2nd Karin Leupold 12 yrs. LONGEST 1.88 lb Bass

3rd Shannon Gibbs 2 yrs. YOUNGEST ANGLER to catch a fish

15 kids entered the derby/ 25 fish were caught!!

Website & Newsletter: Rich Eagleston

Rich reported that new software for the website has been purchased for a more dynamic look and better capabilities. He hopes to create of site that will be compatible with Facebook and Twitter. The newsletter is sent out quarterly and is also available on the website. He told the membership that to please send any information and ideas to him that could be placed on the website. The website is: www.mousamlake.org

Nomination & Election of New Board Members: Glenn Baxter

Glenn reported that Richard Eagleston and Jack Kelley were up for reelection. New nominees were: James Verity for a 3 year term, Dennis Roberge for a 3 year term, Elliot Levine for a 2 year term, Mark Rousseau for a 2 year term and from the floor Linda Fraser for a 2 year term. A motion was made, seconded and all approved the slate of board members.

Greetings from State Representative James Campbell:

James reported that there is a composting bill currently being considered. He hopes that it will be in the hands of the Maine DEP, who he determines will do a better job in handling the problems with run-off.

Greetings from State Senator: Richard Nass

Richard stated that 3 bills have passed that will help with lake water quality. He said the Mousam MLRA is one of the oldest associations in the State. He stated that according to the DEP there are 44,000 private roads in the State of Maine. He also reported that there are 12,000 miles of private roads on 6 thousand lakes in Maine. He stated there have been changes in the laws regarding liability of directors and volunteers on private roads and that with the public purpose doctrine, tax money can be spent to help water quality problems on a private road. The problem will be what a town can or be willing to spend on a private road. He recognized Bill Gannon and Jack Kelley for their work on the State Committee regarding private roads and road associations.

New Business:

A question regarding a date change for the annual MLRA meeting was brought up. Larissa Crockett suggested that it should probably be at the end of June. The question needs to be investigated and was tabled for a year.

Raffle & Door Prizes: Polly Mapes

Polly handled the drawing of the door prizes. The winner of the 50/50 raffle won \$55. Pete Hamilton won a \$50 gift certificate from Springvale Hardware, Warren Cummings won a \$25 gift certificate to Ted's Fried Clams, a bag of goodies from Country Designs was won by Karol Baker and David Mount won a water chair from Parker Marina.

Motion to Adjourn: Glenn

A motion was made, seconded and all approved adjourning the meeting at 11:05am.