

8/6/2022 WLA Annual Meeting

BOD present: Val Perkins, Kim Bonin, Brian Campbell, Marcia Feener, John Miller, Bonnie Moore, Ted Starkweather and Deb Steadman

9:30am Val called meeting to order.

Mayor Jo Brown was the guest speaker who gave attendees an update on the City's current growth and projects in various stages. She provided a presentation on paper; Val will get a copy electronically if anyone is interested. The highlights of her update included status on the long coming Legace boat ramp maintenance. Unfortunately, the process is ongoing in the hands of VHB and looks like the maintenance will not happen before March 2023 if permits are issued this year. She did mention funding for the design and permitting is set aside but the actual work is not. The cost is unknown at this time and where the funds come from is not defined.

Mayor mentioned she would look into opening Griffin beach ramp temporarily.

City improvements downtown include: Cumberland Farms expected Sept 2022, Peabody Place finish ph2 Jan 2023 to include 22 assisted living units and 8 independent living units. The Stanley Mill will be coming down soon, can't be saved. Stevens Mill is a \$40M project, summer 2023 with 152apts, studio and 1&2 bedroom units for \$1300-1500/mo. Also, Kettlehead Brewing production will be in that basement Dec 2022.

IOOF building condos all have commitments. Toad Hall will become an Irish Pub with occupied condos on 2&3rd floors.

Trestle Bridge is being studied, it may have to come down instead of repaired but a new one will go up. Mill City Water Park employees funded by non-city money.

Franklin is going to be marketed as "Franklin Falls", as it once was.

A feasibility study is being done for a small boutique hotel in town, no further details.

Some mill relics are going to be distributed and displayed throughout the City. Again, the Mayor will provide an electronic copy of her presentation if you would like a copy.

A side note, the meeting was held in the library on the third floor. It was a very warm and humid day, with fans going to try to cool us. It made it hard to hear people talking. Several people including the mayor mentioned how hot it was in that room. The Mayor suggested calling the Elks Club as the City has used it for meetings as well and it has AC and a sound system. This option will be followed up for future meetings.

Neil Twomey asked the Mayor about the residential building on Chance Pond, the mayor did not have any information, it is private builders. Neil also asked how long it will take VHB to get permitting for repair of Legace boat ramp. The Mayor explained she cannot speed up the engineer's process but did mention that the permitting for the Water Park took 4 years.

Buddy Potts asked the mayor if Fiber Optics were being considered in the city. The mayor responded that there is Broadband being brought in and there will be an option for service.

After the mayor left the meeting, Val suggested people contact the City Manager for updates on the Boat ramp maintenance status.

Val asked the membership if anyone had questions or comments about the meeting minutes from last year, no comments were made. Neil Twomey made a motion to accept the minutes and Brian Campbell seconded the motion. We had 27 voters, the minimum to meet quorum requirements.

John Miller presented the Treasurer's report and highlighted some expenses and income, one of which was this year's yard sale being the largest profit to date, \$3006.00.

Alan Rainford made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Neil Twomey seconded it.

Val explained that a DES biologist did a visual survey in June from a boat in Chance Pond to check for any milfoil, he found none.

Bonnie Moore snorkeled in Chance Pond in July and also found no signs of milfoil. The Sept 2021 treatment has so far been successful with milfoil mitigation. Val encouraged anyone using the lake or Chance Pond to be aware and report any signs of possible invasive species, Weed Watcher packets are available if some training is needed.

Dean Skiff asked Bonnie Moore if she learned or saw anything while milfoil training that was worth sharing. Bonnie replied that while Aviva diving and performing milfoil extraction, an observation of the water clarity in Webster Lake and Chance Pond is much clearer than waters she trained in.

Val explained to the membership that Joan Ingersoll resigned as Vice President and Secretary of the WLA board and asked if anyone was interested in joining the board. Buddy Potts expressed interest and described himself as a newer owner on the lake and retired executive from a private elevator business in western MA. He was previously on a lake in Maine and active there. Buddy also offered to be the Secretary for the board meetings. The membership voted in favor.

Debbie Steadman, a 5 term board member, volunteer and manages the Lake Host program for Webster Lake announced her retirement from the board. There was a burst of applause for Debbie's service from the membership, Debbie said she will continue to coordinate the Lake Host program but said it was time to let some new people join the board. Kim Bonin nominated Neil Twomey as a board member, Neil accepted and Mark Lorenze seconded the motion. The membership voted to accept Neil as a new Board member.

Val explained that two Lake Hosts were hired for the summer but one resigned in July and Val explained the need for more volunteers to cover unexpected vacancies on both Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 7:00am to 3:00pm. Volunteers could take 2-hour shifts on either day and online training is only 30 minutes and your first shift is shadowed by someone previously trained as a Lake Host. Duties are to basically check off a list of whether the boats are motorized or not, what body of water they are coming from and going to, and if the owner allows an inspection of the trailer and boat, a visual inspection is completed. Brian Campbell asked Deb Steadman how many saves were made this year and Deb replied one save last year and one submission was made last week with results pending.

Neil Twomey nominated Bonnie Moore for Vice President of the board and keep John Miller and Val Perkins as the Treasurer and President then made a motion to accept these nominations and Mark Lorenze seconded them. Mark also volunteered to be a Lake Host when needed.

Val explained there is a tackle trade-in program from the Loon Preservation Center, any tackle to be traded can be given to Val. A Legacy Fund to benefit the WLA mission was proposed and welcomed by many at the meeting. John Miller will set up a dedicated savings account for the Legacy Fund and if it reaches an appropriate value an independent financial advisor could manage it. Mark Lorenze offered \$100 donation to start the fund and Laurie Salamie said she would donate to the fund in recognition of Deb Steadman's service on the board.

Buddy Potts suggested setting up an Amazon Smile account and volunteered to do that if agreed. Everyone agreed with this free account that could generate money for the WLA.

Val asked the membership for help writing articles for the newsletters. The next newsletter will be published in the Fall (around Columbus Day) and articles would need to be submitted by Labor Day. Denise Steadman asked what type of articles are desired. Val suggested articles can be funny, serious, current, and historical and so on as long as they pertain to the lake. She mentioned Sheila Rainford is putting together a presentation on the history of the Webster Lake Association and that might be a nice article. Sheila offered to share a copy of her presentation when finished.

Val explained the by law revisions to be voted on but with the heat some members had left the building and we no longer had a quorum to vote. There was discussion and questions about the changes and pros and cons. Some requests for clarification, wording changes or deletions were made by several. Since the vote could not be held, the comments were documented and will be further considered for revision before voting can occur with a quorum of voters.

Reminder that the WLA has no legal power or authority, its mission is to protect the quality of the lake and educate people on how to do that.

Next WLA event: Ice Cream Social and Food Drive at Rose Pavilion on Sept 3 from 2-4pm....

Respectfully, Bonnie Moore