

SEBASTICOOK LAKE ASSOCIATION MINUTES

July 6, 2013

The meeting was held at the American Legion Hall in Newport on Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Ellmer gave us an informational article from the Rolling Thunder. Muffy read it aloud. It is a Flag Salute Tribute. "Some people call me Old Glory, others call me Star Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your Flag, the Flag of the US of A. Something has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you.

I remember some time ago, people lined up on both sides of the street to watch parades and naturally, I was leading every parade, proudly waving in the breeze. When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it against his left shoulder so that his hand was directly over his heart. Remember?

And you, I remember you, standing there straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat, but you were giving the right salute. Remember little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you, with her right hand over her heart. Remember?

What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, I have a few more stars since you were a boy. A lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago.

But now I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down your street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets and I may get a small glance and then you look away. Then, I see the children running around and shouting. They don't seem to know who I am. I saw one man take his hat off then look around; he didn't see anybody else with theirs off so he quickly put his back on.

Is it a sin to be patriotic anymore? Have you forgotten what I stand for and where I've been? Anzio, Guadalcanal, Korea and Vietnam. Take a look at the memorial honor rolls some time – look at the lists of those who never came back, but helped keep this republic free. One nation under God. When you salute me, you are actually saluting them. Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again, so when you see me, stand straight, place your hand over your heart, and I'll salute you, by waving back."

The Secretary's report was accepted as typed and written.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as printed.

We have not paid the VLMA or the COLA dues as of yet, but we will continue to do so (\$250 to the VLMA and \$200 to COLA). We will also continue to pay \$100 annually to the Ferrell's for boat fuel.

Committee Reports

BBQ-Barb Cloutier – The chuck wagon committee has done it again. Hamburgers, hot dogs, potato chips, salads, and desserts. We have an excellent committee. We hope you all will stay for the BBQ. Socialize and enjoy the BBQ.

Fireworks – Mike Vining – Mike isn't present. Cliff said the fireworks are on for tonight around 9:00 pm. John Michaud helped Cliff mow the field. They mowed it yesterday morning. Muffy read the list of donors. The

donors are: Tony & Lorraine LaConte, Rolling Thunder Express, Amoroso Corp, Crosby Funeral Home, Hartley's, Bud's Shop 'n Save, Maine Fireworks LLC, Newport Fireworks LLC, A.E. Robinson Oil Inc., Howard Insurance, Prays Service Station, Spring Street Greenhouse & Floral/ Tim Underhill, Goody & Roz Gilman, Gilman Electric Supply, Randy & Debbie Davis, Newport Glass Inc., Avis Adams, Galen & Jane McKenney, Ronald Irons, Frank & Francine Dobler, John & Mary Kate Cole, Peggy Porto, Norine Santarpia, Steve & Darlene Hawks, Moe & Muffy Pare', Robert Berg Enterprises Inc, Newport Chiropractic and Josh & Mary Ellen Tardy

Membership – Allan Fernald - We now have a current membership of 321. We are down three people. The current number that has paid is 235. It was 239 last year. We are really only down one considering the difference. We had revenue of \$2350. The winners for the worst paying areas are: Camp Benson and Maplewood. Reach out to anyone that lives over in that area. Durham Bridge is the other one. Those areas account for 80% of the people not paying. If we could get the major areas, that would help a lot. A lot of the issue is that they don't understand what we do. Seven new properties were purchased this year. If it's inheritance, they bring the attitudes of the parents' right along with them. When they are new people that is when we usually have luck with membership.

Buoy/Dam – Dick Stone – We are functioning as normal. The laptop we were using quit. The GPS is so old it won't load onto a new computer. We put the buoys out as well as we could remember. Tim from came up and adjusted them in within the next few days. If anyone sees one that has come off the chain, please let us know. I am going to pass around a clip board for anyone to sign up to help. We are all getting older and would like to have some help. We need to raise some money for a new GPS program. We will also have to buy a new laptop to be compatible with the new GPS system. They go in around Memorial Day and out around Labor Day all dependent on the weather. Muffy did some research and an adequate laptop and GPS about \$750. \$500 for laptop and \$250 for GPS. Muffy asked for a motion to not exceed \$1000 for this purchase. The motion passed. It was also brought up to look at the Hummingbird brand. The buoy committee stood up for applause.

Newsletter – Deb Ferrell – Victoria Alexander Lane joined the crew this year. Leone Sullivan is also new this year. Deb passed around a list for everyone to look at. She is asking for everyone to verify their addresses both summer and winter addresses. Deb received a lot of newsletters back in the mail this year. Does anyone have any changes or suggestions? If you are interested in being part of the committee, please let us know as well.

Water quality – Deb Ferrell – Deb passed around a graph for everyone to look at. The black line was the reading this past Wednesday. This shows all of the readings before 2006. 4.6 meters is the deepest we have had. This was the reading this past Wednesday. Has anyone seen anything different this year in the water? It was mentioned about some new weeds, some leafy. Muffy and Deb will go over and look at them. Deb showed everyone the equipment they use to measure things. They take samples for phosphorus. It costs about \$125 a month. You look through the tube and when you can't see the secchi disk any longer that is what is considered the clarity reading. Every two weeks Deb uses the Dissolved Oxygen meter. The probe is dropped down every foot. It is a 50 foot probe and they drop it down the deepest area of the lake of 60 feet. We always try and go in about the same weather conditions so the readings are comparable. The phosphorus levels are reported to Dave Hallowell (DEP lake biologist). Things have been about the same. You want 15 parts per billion or less. Less than two meters with these two things you are considered an algae bloom. We need buffers on the edge of the lake to stop the pollutants from running into the lake. Grass doesn't stop them. A member mentioned: The phosphorus level in the spring is very high. We also have a lot of rain in the spring as well. Who controls the level of the water in the spring? The town and Muffy calls the town almost every day. If anyone is interested in doing the testing, please contact Deb.

Drawdown date – Deb Ferrell – The committee meets every year. The last couple years we have been trying to do it the third week in September. We really haven't seen a change since we have been doing it then instead of the week after Labor Day. I am assuming we will still do it the same this year. Muffy said we had talked about keeping the water in the lake low later and would it make a difference. DEP didn't think it would really make much of a difference. We try to keep it at 2/3 of the level but with the weather it fills up naturally in January. It was asked about the fish ladder. How low can the water be drawn down? We don't go any lower than eight feet. Lower than eight feet and ice can form around those stakes at the fish ladder. We can't draw down below eight feet.

There's an invasive control plant workshop this year in Dover-Foxcroft. If you check the newsletter, it is on July 19th. If you sign up for it, it will give you a really good overview of invasive plants. What to do, what they are, etc.

Website – Deb Ferrell - Deb started an informal lake Facebook page. It will give us a place for the newsletters, the minutes, pictures, lake monitoring information. Deb is looking for \$500 to start up the website. There will be an annual cost of \$112.00 (100 for maintenance and 12 for the domain name). There was a motion made to do it. It will also save us money from mailing out the newsletters to some. Maybe we could also have dues paid online or donations could be made this way as well. It was mentioned to maybe increase the amount to \$1000. The motion was amended and then passed. No more than \$ 1000 this year only to start up the website. Muffy said the website will also allow us to post a lot of information from COLA or updates from others around the lake to keep everyone informed better.

MUCK – Muffy said she has had a lot of phone calls about the “muck.” Some people actually lost a shoe. Some people said it was just soft. Muffy went to seven or eight beaches. Most people said it was where they put their dock in or where the water comes in. Dave Hallowell said we had no rain in April. His theory is that it is the runoff and it is going to harden up. We had a lot of rain this year in May and June and not April when we aren't in it as much that time of year. The best explanation was that it was from the runoff. If it is continuing to be a problem please let us know. Some said it has been there for years but it is getting worse. Dave says there is a natural runoff and if it gets so bad you can get a permit from DEP and have it dredged. Maybe if we keep the water low enough it will freeze and the muck will improve.

Muffy mentioned Mr. Carlton Brackett. He just passed away at 94 years old. He was a lovely gentleman and his sister-in-law was BJ Banton. He grew up in Newport and enjoyed many summer activities on Lake Sebasticook. He requested that in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the SLA.

Next year is the Bicentennial celebration. If anyone is interested in being part of the committee, please contact the town office. The celebration is around the 4th next year. So we were asked by the Bicentennial committee to move our meeting to July 12, 2013 next year (the second Saturday) instead of the first Saturday in July. Does anyone have any concerns about moving the date next year? The town asked if we wanted to do the fireworks on the 4th of July next year. Could we possibly merge the two things of the Bicentennial and the 4th together? It is up to us if we wanted to do this. Our choices are to work with the town for the 4th, suggest the 5th as the ending of the celebration or the night of the 12th the night of our lake association meeting. A suggestion was made for the 5th of July. A lot of businesses are going to be approached for fundraising as far as floats, etc as well as fireworks. It was suggested again for the 5th to be the first choice and then the 4th. There is a big price difference if we don't have them on the 4th. The 5th is much cheaper. We were asked if the lake association members wanted to have a canoe race or a boat show. Details about the Bicentennial will be put into the newsletter.

Mr. Ricker wanted me to tell you about the flashboards. Muffy read an e-mail that Jim wrote to her. "The newest gate that the L.A. promised to expend up to \$2,500 for has not been built, waiting for draw down to work safely on the dam. We may not need this third gate due to the increased draining ability of our new gate. Last year was one of our quickest draw downs in the past 20 yrs. Of course steady rains will have the same effect as it has in years past. Another interesting fact is that maximum draw down with our new gate and the two sets of flashboards really discharges more water than the river can adequately handle during the first week or so of drawdown. After this time of course the only drain ability is the new gate. The old Guilford property rear parking lot could be easily flooded if all three discharge areas were opened at once. We will continue to monitor the new gate systems and try our best to keep water levels constant. We are not able to satisfy everyone all the time but with the exception of a few property owners, most folks have been very understanding and work well with the town. The original set of movable flashboards will be rebuilt this fall and the entire control system will be updated. As always if anyone has any questions or concerns please feel free to contact my office."

Muffy had water testing kits out from Clearwater Labs in Newport. But, there is also another option in Waterville that might be cheaper. Dick Stone has the address.

The water clarity is very good. Over 14 feet! A big applause to everyone for your help with keeping the water clean.

Has anyone seen any loon chicks? Two have been seen out around the County Woods road.

Dinner is ready!

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Toni & Lorraine LoConte
Amoroso Corp
Bud's Shop 'n Save
Hartley's
Spring Street Greenhouse & Floral
Tim and Wendy Underhill
Goody & Roz Gilman
Randy and Debbie Davis
Moe & Muffy Pare'
Newport Chiropractic
Avis & Dana Adams
Peggy Porto
Robert Berg Enterprises Inc.
Frank & Francine Dobler
Crosby Funeral Homes
The Rolling Thunder Express
Maine Fireworks LLC
Newport Fireworks LLC
A. E. Robinson Oil Inc
Howard Insurance
Josh & Mary Ellen Tardy
Steve & Darlene Hawkes
Norine Santarpia
Gilman Electric Supply
Prays Service Station
Newport Glass Inc.
Galen & Jane McKenney
Ron Irons
John & Mary Kate Cole**