

Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Committee

Friday May 21, 2021

Minutes

Present: Jamie Minacci, Roxanne McCaffrey, John Loiodice, Mike Buffoni, Gary Kleinerman, Michael Nathan, Charlie Kenny. Members of the public. Absent: Jim Wilusz, Gary Johnston. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Minacci at 8:01.

Minutes: CK volunteered to take the minutes for the meeting. He would distribute them to the other committee members as well as file them with the Town once they were approved. The minutes of the previous meeting, May 7, 2021, were discussed. There were several corrections with respect to the previous minutes. MB thought that the last sentence should be changed to read “last month” instead of “last week.” GK mentioned that the updates had given information that the Port-A-Pottys would be located from Memorial Day to Labor Day when it should be from Memorial Day to Columbus Day. CK thought approval of the minutes should be restricted to verifying that the transcription was proper and not verifying that the content of the minutes was correct. RM thought that the minutes that had been approved were not April 19, 2021; they were April 16, 2021. The minutes of May 7, 2021 were approved as amended above.

Reports:

Harbour Master: Chairman Minacci mentioned that the employees that were sought by the harbormaster had been approved. GK reported that the Zebra Mussel Prevention Program would be underway, and that 400 gallons of water supply would need to be available for the pressure washer. and the lake would be open on Friday and stay open through Columbus Day. MB said the fire department had filled up the tank for the pressure washer so the zebra mussel cleaner would be all set.

Board of Health: CK described the origins of the Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Committee and how it was formed with the support of the select board and the finance committee in order to establish a scientific basis to prevent cyanobacteria blooms as well as a scientific basis to manage the lake and water in it and the surrounding area, and a more permanent commission-type level within the Town government. He thought everyone on the committee should be proud of the accomplishment and hoped that they would encourage the Town to support the transition from committee to commission level.

Sewer and Water: MB reported that testing would begin within the month and that the vacation schedules would have to be worked out with that in mind. He said that the Curtisville Bridge project was just about done and had been black-topped. He mentioned that the DEP would be coming to do a watershed testing which is done every three years. There would be a DEP report forthcoming that Mike would forward to everyone. RM asked about the level of the water in the lake, and Gary said it was satisfactory. He thought it was good to keep it a little high with the weather we had been experiencing. Mike clarified that the DEP watershed testing would be for the drinking water reservoir. CK asked that the Board of Health get a copy. JL agreed with MB on the importance of avoiding letting the cove turn into a bog.

Conservation Commission: JM presented the conservation commission report, stating that they were still trying to get a resolution for the Mahkeenac shores issue related to the rocks in the water. GK was going to investigate floating docks. JM asked RM to weigh in about the harvesting program.

Select Board: RM said that she thought that the NOI would be coming before the conservation commission on May 25, but it did not happen, so she thought that the NOI would eventually come before the conservation commission the first meeting in June. She said she had received a lake management plan memorandum that she would share with the rest of the committee. She thought that could be discussed at the next meeting. It was not known why the harvesting project was not on the agenda for the conservation commission. Chairman Minacci thanked RM for her efforts with respect to the warrant item and also agreed with MN about the setting of priorities by the committee. Anita Schwerner from the audience asked if Greg Wellankamp might be able to make a special presentation before the committee. She was concerned that the dredging would not go south of the pipeline to the cove. RM agreed that it would be appropriate for Greg to come to the Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship committee's meeting, and she thought that it would be appropriate for the committee to actually take a vote to see if the members thought that the cove should be included in dredging. MN thought that the dredging ideas always included the cove and he thought that Greg agreed with that. CK wondered if this had not been included in a report of the 3D dredging project report. He thought that the engineering rationale for draining the cove related to the need for increased capacitance if the flow above the dam was improved. MB thought that just channel dredging would be permitted in the cove area, but he hoped that eventually the entire cove could be dredged. He noted that NHESP was labeling it a potential habitat. MN also thought that the potential habitat idea would actually support dredging the entire cove because he thought the silted-in areas were not really available habitat for the snail. He noted that no snails were currently living in the cove area. He made a motion that we "look at the information regarding the cove dredging with an eye to proposing to the Town that we ask GZA to expand the dredging project to include the cove." MB added that the cove was the only area that the water drained out of the lake and that if it was not managed well, it would turn into a bog, in which case it would not be able to be touched because of its status as a bog, similar to the Lily Brook excavation area. He encouraged dredging of the entire cove. MN added that originally the NHESP agreed that the entire cove should be dredged. The committee voted to approve unanimously a motion by RM further to investigate the need to include the cove in a future dredging project.

SBA: MN suggested that there be an improvement in the way warrant items that were potentially related to the Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship committee's functions should be presented to the committee for the committee to weigh in. He knew that the warrant items had been discussed for quite a while now, but observed that it would have been potentially valuable to have the Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship committee as a group discuss the warrant items rather than having to participate individually at the various select board meetings. He particularly would have liked to have added things to the warrant item. MN emphasized his concern about dredging and emphasized the Greg Wellankamp had a lot of knowledge about this and it might be valuable for the committee to hear him make a presentation. He thought that the pace the GZA was proceeding with the dredging project was slow and that Greg could help to speed that up. He thought that the Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship committee could get a list of the agencies that might be involved in the process and possibly expedite the bureaucratic path. MN thought that those things could be added to the warrant article. RM thought that those particular statements about the priorities were very important and were good points, but that they did not necessarily have to be added to a warrant item. There was further discussion and it was agreed that MN's points were good and would be goals for the committee in the future. RM agreed that the committee had a lot to be proud of, and she confirmed that if the committee were upgraded to a commission we could hire a secretary and we would have a budget. She thought that the goal of the commission would be to eventually have the commission members make specific recommendations to the select board as a group. MN thought that any Town business that was related to the Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship commission should be sent as a formal notification to the commission that the commission should be included in it. CK thought that some of the lack of communication and priorities was related to the fact that the committee did not have a formal secretary. He agreed in spirit with MN's statements. MN thought that GZA might come in to

discuss the engineering basis for the dredging, especially to get the steps that needed to be put into place in order to do the dredging.

There being no further business, The meeting was then adjourned at 8:55, and Chair Minacci reminded everyone that the next meeting would be at 8 a.m. on June 4.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Kenny MD. May 28, 2021