

Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Commission

Friday January 13, 2023

Present: Roxanne McCaffrey (RM), Michael Nathan via ZOOM (MN), J Jim Wilusz via ZOOM (JW), John Liodice (JL), Gary Kleinerman (GK), Mike Buffoni (MB) and Sally Underwood-Miller (SUM).

Absent: Patrick White (PW)

Present via ZOOM: Pat Kennelly (PK)

The meeting was called to order by Roxanne McCaffrey at 8:02 a.m.

- Approval of November 4, 2022 and December 2, 2022 minutes. Motion to approve- SUM, second MB, approved unanimously.
- Discussion of public awareness and education plans

RM asked Jim Wilusz to lead off the discussion. JW stated he received information from SUM re: Conservation Commission. He said the group should think about the content of brochures; that goals or mission statement should be included along with other high level information regarding services and responsibilities. Links to relevant information (i.e. the Wetlands Protection Act) could be included as well as direct contact information to a designated member of the group represented.

RM asked SUM if the Conservation Commission was developing a brochure; SUM responded she was under the impression that one general one was being considered. RM responded that she had created one flyer to highlight best practices for property owners around the lake and thinks it makes sense for various departments to create department specific brochures. MB agreed, adding that the Zebra Mussel Committee has concerns about boat launchings occurring in areas around the lake and not at the state boat launch. He mentioned short term rental owners perhaps displaying information about the boat wash and the importance of renters complying with precautionary measures. MB indicated that years ago, signs were put up in various areas like the causeway and the beach. GK added that we need to communicate with the homeowner groups. RM added that there are a number of ways to disseminate information including reaching out to realtors dealing with properties in the lake area, nurseries that do landscaping ensuring that they are recommending native species, and perhaps seasonal press releases. GK suggested two members of the SBSC put together a "dog and pony show" for the homeowners groups and the second homeowners meeting to inform them about rules, regulations and best practices.

JW asked that members send him flyers or brochures to him and he would have his graphics person look at them. PK (President of the Stockbridge Bowl Association) said they have the contact information for the homeowner groups and the SBA would be happy to assist in getting information out to those groups. MN asked if in addition to all information going to JW, can it go to the entire SBSC membership? RM said that she has started a spreadsheet which was shared with JW and compiling all input into one, sharable document would be possible. JW reminded that we need to be mindful of the Open Meeting Law; information can be reviewed by members but only discussed among the group in an open meeting. RM recapped that the discussion included a brochure for Conservation Commission, one for Zebra Mussels and the general best practices and asked MB if one could be done from the Water Department's lake sampling. MB responded that we could ask GZA to provide an overview, RM said that the annual report generally has detailed data but includes a summary which could be used to generate an understandable report for the public.

RM called for public comments or questions – none.

- Discussion of potential CPC application(s).

RM started the discussion by saying that according to Patrick White, dredging would not be something we would be applying for since he and Mike Canales have an idea about how to fund that, but asked are there any other ideas about possible applications for CPC funds? The boat ramp discussed re: how to best expedite redesign to reduce runoff. No application ideas for CPC funds were brought forth. Pat Kennelly suggested perhaps the water chestnut removal could be considered for CPC funds.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 24, 2023.

- Stakeholder updates

Board of Health – Jim Wilusz – no updates

Water Dept. – Mike Buffoni – The harvester replacement engine is in the shop and it will be installed in early spring.

Water and Sewer Commission – John Loiodice – no updates

Conservation Commission – Sally Underwood-Miller

Stockbridge Bowl Association – Michael Nathan – The dredging working group had a meeting with GZA re: dredging to get a timeline and a regular schedule of update meetings – RM added that the Lake Management Plan will be sent to NHESP.

Select Board – Patrick White – no updates.

Stockbridge Harbormaster – Gary Kleiner – GK has received a request from Moose Foran of the SBA for the SBSC to endorse the tree project at Bullard Woods which is proposed to treat for wooly adelgid and emerald ash borer. SUM stated it will require a permit – GK responded they are aware of that requirement. MN asked for an overview of the project. GK explained that it would involve spraying insecticide on the trees 100 or 150 feet from the water the cost of which would approximately \$10,000. For the effected trees closer to shore, they would need to be injected which is more costly. The actual endorsement would be for their application for CPA funds. RM added that she knows the Forestry and Agriculture Commission had reservations about spraying in Ice Glen and they went with injection. RM asked SUM what Conservation Commission's take on this is. SUM said "we are on the fence"; this is a difficult situation since on the one hand we want to save the hemlocks but on the other hand, there is still a lot we don't know about it and the same with Forestry and Agriculture. RM added that with Ice Glen, it was a very detailed proposal which identified trees and their condition and then targeting specific trees; some trees may be too far gone to be saved. MN asked how long after application does it take to see results? MN opined that if we could treat some and know the results for the Conservation Commission to take into consideration that might be useful. MB asked what is the experience in Ice Glen; RM said it may be too recent to know but it is an excellent point by MN and we can monitor the response in Ice Glen. SUM mentioned that the local forester in an Agriculture and Forestry meeting has said that "the hemlock forests are artificial to some degree". It would not normally be as dense as it is. MB added that when conifers are taken down around the reservoir, the hardwood always prevails. SUM responded, "That is the natural succession". She continued, saying, a more diverse forest is less vulnerable and perhaps tamaracks are a suitable replacement for lost hemlocks. RM asked if tamaracks are susceptible to wooly adelgid – SUM answered no but doesn't know why. MN asked do we know what the timeline is for the loss of trees? GK stated that the requested funds are for a study of the trees and that they have already lost some in Bullard Woods. JL made a motion to endorse the request for CPA funds for a study of the trees in Bullard Woods, RM second. Approved unanimously.

Stockbridge Sportsman's Club - Roxanne McCaffrey – no updates

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Roxanne McCaffrey