

Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Commission

Friday October 7, 2022

Present: Roxanne McCaffrey (RM), Sally Underwood-Miller (SUM), Michael Nathan (MN), Gary Kleinerman (GK), (JL), Jim Wilusz via ZOOM (JW)

Late arrivals: Patrick White via ZOOM (PW) 8:37 a.m.

Absent: Michael Buffoni (MB), John LoiOdice (JL)

Meeting was called to order by Roxanne McCaffrey at 8:03 a.m.

- Approval of September 16, 2022 meeting minutes, SUM moved to accept, JW second – all those in favor, Aye – SUM, RM, JW, MN. Minutes approved.
- Discussion of public education topics/methods of communication:

RM suggested Jim Wilusz lead off the discussion. JW asked if the draft LMP would be put out to the public for comments. RM responded that the various drafts have been available as part of the SBSC meeting packets for SBSC meetings. Once the final version is agreed upon by the SBSC, it will be passed to the Select Board, who will also take comments and questions from the public. JW mentioned that there are many areas to address; FAQs, best practices, wetlands regulation, septic maintenance, etc. and do we incorporate these into the Lake Management Plan (LMP) or is it a separate task like brochures? RM pointed out that there will be different focuses on the type of information to be addressed such as from the Conservation Commission and the Board of Health & Tri-Town Health and different means of how to disseminate that information. RM mentioned that for distributing information, there is the Town website, brochures, postings in public places and the use of CTSB via a program to discuss these topics. RM suggested that the SBSC identify bulleted topics and the various means to inform the public about these topics. MN pointed out that the residents around the lake are primarily second homeowners and they do not necessarily see the “same things as we do”. MN suggested that the Conservation Commission and the Tri-Town Board of Health get together to create a brochure of what needs to be considered when building. GK pointed out that in July there is a second homeowners meeting that could address topics as well as at the various homeowner associations annual meetings. RM added that the second homeowners have a closed group on the Internet that could be used to inform second homeowners. RM reviewed what they had so far for bullet points to address: Septic, herbicide/pesticide use, buffer zone. SUM added tree cutting, MN added nutrients, such as fertilizer, RM added that the press could be used to publish articles about areas of concern. RM said she had put together a brochure titled Protect Your Investment early on about best practices to prevent erosion, limit nutrient use, landscape using rain gardens, etc. for lakefront homeowners that the group had yet to discuss.

RM suggested that the members put together the information that they feel people need to be informed about. JW said he could put together information about septic systems and Board of Health-related items, such as FAQs and handouts and that each sector could put something together and offered to help finalize the information after the group fine tunes it. He suggested SUM put together the Conservation Commission best practices and FAQ. JW also addressed dissemination, mentioning websites, chambers of commerce and stated that Tri-Town is preparing to update their online permitting portal soon and said information could be added to the certificate of compliance online. JW suggested that information could be incorporated into building permit and Conservation Commission applications. SUM asked about supplying information to Realtors and RM responded, “good point”.

GK said brochures could be easily handed out at the boat ramp. JW said he could have the information gathered together if it is sent to him.

JW volunteered to be the clearing house for the information and MN offered his help.

SUM did not want to be discouraging, but said that in her experience even after being informed, people just do not see the connection. MN and RM said that they agreed and RM pointed out that it is incumbent on the SBSC to disseminate the information. RM asked if the SBSC needs to look at our bylaws – should they be “beefed up” in certain areas and make recommendations for changes?

SUM added that the Conservation Commission (ConComm) was putting together a “fairly comprehensive” document of performance standards. SUM expressed concern regarding the woolly adelgids that are impacting the hemlocks around the lake, changing the environment around the lake. The ConComm requires replanting when diseased trees are removed. RM asked SUM if in the Town Bylaws this applies to the 35 buffer only and SUM replied it applies to the 150 foot in the Lake and Pond Overlay District, the Town Wetlands bylaw states 200 feet and the Wetlands Protection Act states 100 feet – the strictest taking precedence. RM then asked “what do we do in terms of enforcement?”. SUM replied, “When we hear chain saws, we go look”. SUM stated the ConComm is reactive, not proactive but they would like to be more proactive.

RM asked Pat Kennelly attending via (ZOOM) if she had input. Pat said the SBA could certainly help with distribution via their annual meeting, sponsoring seminars and suggested talking the garden club, the Laurel Hill Association, et al. to get the message out. She stressed keeping it simple and MN agreed with Pat about the importance of simplicity. RM agreed about reaching out to garden clubs and suggested we could encourage nurseries and the Berkshire Botanical Garden to put on workshops and programs to cover these types of topics. SUM stated she thought Dennis Mareb of Windy Hill Nursery would be a good person to put on a native plant program since he is very responsible in that regard. SUM also suggested reaching out to an arborist - GK added the tree warden - to talk about how to protect your trees. SUM said the preferred treatment around the lake would be by injection rather than bark spraying. MN asked if any program was in place to treat the trees around the lake – SUM responded some homeowners were treating.

PW suggesting inviting Ken Gooch to a seminar on treating trees. MN said he thought the town should consider partnering with property owners around the lake to treat the trees and asked the cost of PW. PW not responding due to a poor connection via ZOOM. RM and GK stated it is costly. RM asked if Michael Canales could investigate the possibility of grants for homeowners. RM stated she thought arborists were the key and that people should be encouraged to consult with an arborist when they have distressed trees to determine whether it is salvageable or not. SUM stressed how big and expensive this issue is – GK stated they had lost large hemlocks at Bullard Woods this year.

RM called for comment from the public – no response. RM summarized that JW would be the clearing house for Public Awareness information. MN repeated his offer to help. RM asked for any other input on the subject from members.

#### Stakeholder Updates –

Stockbridge Bowl Association – Michael Nathan - MN said he took the harvester out in late September and the water lilies have not come back. He is hoping that a late September harvesting can become part of the process since it inhibits regrowth when done late in the season. MN then asked Pat Kennelly about the SBA plan to assist in a more robust harvesting Notice of Intent. Pat confirmed that this was the case. He stated the SBA is developing trail maps for Gould Meadows. RM asked where those would be posted – GK responded at trailheads and maps to carry would be provided. SUM added that anything at Gould Meadows must go through the ConComm. MN assured SUM that that will be done.

Selectboard – Patrick White – Mentioned the possibility of an MVP grant application for dredging to pursue.

Conservation Commission – Sally Underwood-Miller – Added that climate change would impact the harvesting schedule in future and should be considered. RM advised that Mike Canales and Hugh Page have already had that discussion.

Board of Health – Jim Wilusz – No new updates.

Stockbridge Harbormaster – Gary Kleinerman – The Zebra Mussel Station is winding down and will be done after Columbus Day (Oct. 10)

Stockbridge Sportsmen's Club – Roxanne McCaffrey – No new update.

Final call for Public Comment – There was no public comment.

There being no other business, RM moved to adjourn, MN second – all in favor -meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne McCaffrey