

Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Commission

Friday April 28, 2023

Present: Roxanne McCaffrey (RM), Michael Nathan (MN), Sally Underwood-Miller (SUM), Patrick White (PW), Gary Kleinerman (GK)

Absent: Mike Buffoni (MB), John Liodice (JL)

Present via ZOOM:

The meeting was called to order by Roxanne McCaffrey at 8:04 a.m.

- Approval of March 31, 2023 minutes. PW motion to approve, second MN, unanimously approved.
- Discussion of public awareness and education plans
- SUM The Conservation Commission brochure is complete but not printed yet.

The next meetings were scheduled for May 12, 2023 and May 26, 2023.

MN mentioned the Mary Flynn Trail signs were very well done and we could talk to whoever did this for additional signage. He talked about consolidating the signage at the boat ramp. RM said we have talked about keeping signs consistent in look. RM asked what other areas signage should be added to, other than the beach and the boat ramp. MN said we should reach out to the second owner's newsletter [Patty Caya's email group] SUM added signs could be by the dam. MN mentioned that a cable is hanging on a tree on the Mary Flynn Trail, PW mentioned it has been reported and is being dealt with by Town Hall. GK suggested maybe the Stockbridge Bowl Association (SBA) would be willing to pay for Gould Meadows signs. PW suggested trail loop mileage signs for Gould Meadows [town owned] and Bullard Woods [SBA owned] and maps. GK responded that the SBA is doing maps, bringing in a cupola. MN pointed out that the SBSC's focus is on the environment around the lake, not recreation. SUM emphasized leash your dog signs.

GK stressed the importance of creating a presentation for the lake communities to be presented at annual association meetings. RM added that a PowerPoint could be created and then not only work from it for a 10 minute in-person presentation but also disseminate in other places, such as websites. RM asked what should the key points of this presentation? RM suggested buffer zones, SUM agreed, MN – fertilization, SUM- no chemicals, GK cleanout, SUM – look out for invasive species, plant native species, GK- trees like hemlocks being diseased, PW thought we should get advice from David Cameron via the Conservation Commission (ConComm) regarding not removing all dead trees, SUM opined that we don't know if all the trees will be killed; she has diverse experience on her property with Ash and hemlock. MN emphasized keeping the presentation simple. SUM said the ConComm is working on a form regarding removal of trees in a resource area and that David Cameron had suggested making a distinction between hazardous dead trees and those in a wooded area. Remove hazardous but leave others as habitat. SUM emphasized the buffer zone. MN said he didn't really understand the no cut zone. SUM said the 35-foot buffer zone is a town bylaw, but some properties are so tiny it is not possible, and some properties are grandfathered. A percentage of property has been discussed as an alternative to this bylaw under the purview of the Planning Board. RM opined that this is a great opportunity to stress that ConComm is a friendly resource to turn to for advice.

PW mentioned that last year he and the Town Administrator went to the association meetings. MN said some of those were controversial. RM said she thought we should focus on lake issues and not muddy the waters by including administrative issues. If the administration wants to do their own presentation, fine. The Select Board holds a second homeowner's meeting annually that is well attended to address political and administrative questions and concerns. but the SBSC needs to be focused on environmental issues.

SUM – potentially contaminated boats should be covered to avoid invasive species. GK said when a boat is transported it dries and is no longer a hazard. PW said Laurel Lake was contaminated from bilge water. MN pointed out the big issue is motorboats and they need to be put in at the boat ramp. GK suggested a boat ramp brochure. SUM said that is a different audience and most boats using the boat ramp are from Lenox. MN said of that percentage (51%) most were

from three sources, Miraval, Canyon Ranch and the Arcadian Shop. Funding was discussed; perhaps from Lenox and the state should be maintaining the boat ramp facilities. RM asked for the boat washing guidelines. GK said he would send a copy of what the Zebra Mussel Committee has from the state. PW suggested adding QR codes to brochures. GK said we should post lake rules on the town web site. GK stated the Zebra Mussel inspectors are informed of lake rules.

- Stakeholder updates

Water Dept. – Mike Buffoni – No updates

Water and Sewer Commission – John Loiodice – no updates

Conservation Commission – Sally Underwood-Miller – no updates

Stockbridge Bowl Association – Michael Nathan – highway department is waiting for fuel for harvester; he will be meeting with Highway Supt. And other volunteer employee operator to discuss harvesting.

Select Board – Patrick White – both harvesters are operational, one will be primary, the other a backup starting June 1st . The Select Board endorsed the SBA proposal for harvesting. with weed harvesting. There are 8 new kayak racks at the beach asking if the lottery had been opened for kayak rack usage. RM answered, yes. Stockbridge was named a “Justice 40” community by the Federal government; an opportunity for 300 grant programs for marginalized, underserved, overburdened communities. He suggested it could be used to expand the sewer system.

Stockbridge Harbormaster – Gary Kleinerman – Have 4 open slots at the Zebra Mussel station that will be covered by Moose Foran and GK

Stockbridge Sportsman’s Club - Roxanne McCaffrey – no updates

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne McCaffrey