

Meeting of Lake Committee 3 pm September 7, 2022

Present; Lenny Reich, Paul Feinberg, Pat Donohue

Donohue called meeting to order at 3:02pm

New Business:

Reich had sent around an email from Town Manager of Oakland that Oakland is considering a mooring ordinance. The meeting will be on September 12th. Reich asked in if any of us can attend. Feinberg is not available and Donohue will get back to Lenny as to his availability

Donohue had asked Richard Greenwald about the enforcement issues around the mooring ordinance and he said most of the complaints are abutter's placement of their moorings obstructing and/or infringing on the property line. Feinberg informed the committee that there may be violations near the public landing. Feinberg will look into it and get the names, if possible.

Apparently in Winthrop there is question of whether a town has the legal right to regulate moorings.

Donohue will check out Belgrade stream and see if there are any new ones. Reich informed us that Belgrade unlike other Towns there is not an area of high concentration of moorings.

The new town manager joined our meeting, Lorna Nichols. Donohue explained that we had been working on the scope of the CEO's job. She introduced herself and also advised us that there is a committee being formed to screen and interview applicants for the vacant CEO positions and thought it would be a good idea that a member of the Lake Committee be a member of that committee. Feinberg and Reich volunteered.

Query do we have a quorum today. We are short two members and how do our bylaws read?? So we voted unanimously that we have a quorum.

We spoke of our concern for the absence of Michael Barrett.

Motion to adjourn, passed at 3:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Feinberg secretary

Minutes of The Lake Committee Meeting November 2, 2022

Present: Pat Donohue, Paul Feinberg, Lenny Reich, Michael Barrett and Michael Guarino

Donohue opened the meeting.

Did not send out an agenda but wanted to present for possible discussion the idea that is in the Town's comprehensive plan to have a conservation committee ("CC"). Our committee does about half of what the CC would do but the CC would involve land as well. We are now dealing with land and roads like proper ditching to avoid erosion and talking with the Road Commissioner. The Town has not yet formed the CC.

The consideration is whether there should be an independent CC or whether the scope and duties of the CC should be folded into the Lake Committee. How do we all feel about this.

Any ideas on where our focus should be. Did a good job with the new Code Enforcement Officer. Pat met with him and is hearing that he is doing a good job. Feinberg sat with the committee that interviewed him

Feinberg asked whether it is Donohue's idea that the CC be combined with the Lake Committee. Mary Vogel thought it might be a good idea. The Select Board would need to agree to give the Lake Committee more charges. Public Access is in the comprehensive plan and might be included.

Reich asked is the Town being asked to purchase open space? Donohue said not really that it is more about water quality and working with the Planning Board. The Planning Board does not deal with land use but just regulations.

Reich says this would require some diligence to see what other towns do as Belgrade seems to be quite minimalist. Without the Town be willing to spend money there is not much that the CC could actually do. Donohue said that the Town needs that 60% of the land must remain as undeveloped.

Barrett injected that the Town does not have to acquire the property but rather can incentivize property owners, like tax incentives. Is there a way to convince people to reserve their land? Donohue stated that the 60% open land is critical to keep the phosphorous balance otherwise those regulations would need to be stiffened. Reference was made to the ability of KD Cobb to determine the open land with photographic analysis.

Feinberg queried whether from a human resource point of view, a we do not have enough people to volunteer to do the work. Our committee has vacancies not filled. Feinberg asked about the progress of the Comprehensive Committee and whether more would get done.

Guarino said he made sense to join committee's as we do not have so much work and land and water go together. He thinks that's would be practical to so join. The Comprehensive Review Committee has never implemented the CC and it could attract more involvement.

Barrett said that we have a lot of hunters in town and there would be more interest in those to preserve open space. Donohue agreed that it is a bigger constituency. That strategy might attract more volunteers.

Reich said there are a number of other town's that have conservation committees. Feinberg asked what is the next step to move forward. Donohue agreed to look at the Bridgeton area and their chain of lakes, to find out who is already doing this in communities of less than 10,000 people.

We could find out what the cost would be and if there are grants for this. KD Cobb might be a resource for this.

Reich looked at Manchester on line and they have a conservation commission. This kind of inquiry might be valuable. Feinberg asked whether there was a regulatory board regarding wetlands in Belgrade and apparently there is not. Manchester does have a significant program with many committees being a part of the commission.

Guarino inquired whether we are looking for issues to deal with that might be duplicating what other groups are doing. Donohue spoke of the watershed expertise in all of the Land Trusts and Lake Associations.

Reich said to figure out what needs to be done and one way is to ask what is not being done that you would like to see the CC in Belgrade might do. Because the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee has not implemented the CC. Let's find out what the needs are before reinventing ourselves .

Donohue agreed to see what Manchester is doing. Barrett said that all of the Committees need volunteers and Guarino lamented of the need to get younger people involved. Younger folks will do a specific job like the survey work but not sit on boards.

Guarino said he was looking through notes of earlier meeting and asked about whether anything came out of those complaining about the rafting and partying. Apparently the warden service is the resource. Donohue informed us that there was a Planning Board meeting about the 100 foot dock property and going in for permits after the fact and there was 15 or more from that cove complaining. The Planning Board basically responded the way we did that if they stepped on the land then it could be addressed.

Feinberg suggested that we draft an anti-drafting ordinance when and if we deal with dock issues. The response was good luck with that.

Feinberg suggested we deal with the docks in the future. Guarino also suggested meeting with the new CEO and the erosion control of ditching which would entail meeting with Jason Stevens, the Road Commissioner.

Donohue asked what we should deal with in December. One is docks and then there is having the CEO come before us to learn of the issues he is facing.

Donohue asked us all to muse over what we may do with the concept of the CC being part of the Lake Committee and to report back at our next meeting.

Our next meeting is December 7th. May have to change time to accommodate the CEO who drives a bus.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Feinberg, secretary