

KLPA Board Meeting, 7/18/24

Present: Phil DeConinck, Steve Dolan, Lori DeConinck, Jerry Cooper, Jay Markarian

Absent: Danielle Dulchinos, Sam Morris, Lou Santore, Claudia Zent, Theresa Quinn

Minutes:

***Please let me preface these notes with my expectation that they will most likely require corrections or clarification. This was a fascinating meeting, yet technical in many areas unfamiliar to me. ***

The sole focus of this meeting was the proposed watershed plan and the efforts put forth thus far by Jay Markarian.

Initially, there was some discussion regarding the water body being known as Station Pond; Jerry clarified that the appropriate name is Kolelemook Lake. Minimal discussion of the Abenaki roots of the name. Jay mentioned that he would never use the aforementioned name, because this was the outside ring in the Merrimack basin of the Abenaki; inside the watershed of the Merrimack was the Penacook. Jerry agreed.

Jerry inquired about Lou – Steve stated that Lou has been up and back from and to New Jersey.

Jerry mentioned that he needs Lou to do a special sampling for phytoplankton, done with a net. Jay inquired about the indicator for phytoplankton. Phil mentioned the spiny flea; Jerry is interested in cyanobacteria – whether the amount in the lake is reasonable or significant.

Phil turned the meeting over to Jay once it was confirmed that he had distributed Status Report 2. The town gave him a GIS map of lots which can have a line drawn to an inventory. It can be overlaid on a topographical map to see what's coming in. He believes it would start as an inventory. It has all the shoreline lots and anything 250' out. Anything further out would be coincidental because of the percolation of the sand. Jerry disagreed, saying at 250', the ground would clean it up. Jay clarified that he was talking about septic, not washout. Jay doesn't have a problem with expanding beyond 250'. The shoreland in that band, per Jay, mostly on one side of the lake, allows for inventories and talking with people on the shoreline to get control of the phosphate loading that could be problematic. 250' back is the place Jay has seen as the place to start. Steve has witnessed a similar distance. Jay mentioned that what we have is fine glacial sand and the percolation through nature takes care of it; you have hydrolysis going, biodegradation, etc. Steve mentioned that the biggest danger regarding sewage/septic is houses right on the lake. The lots would be the beginnings – the Selectboard has not yet identified all the properties that have correct or more updated septic systems. Phil mentioned that we as the lake association wanted to do a survey to obtain that information, but he doesn't think the town has done that. Jay said that one issue was people (septic?) running right through one woman's property. According to Jay, it was very quick; the Selectboard is trying to get a handle on what's going on. Jay saw the document in some way, as preparatory work for the Selectboard to at least start the inventory. Jerry stated that we have a pretty good database of lakeshore lots and who current owners are all along the lake. Jay has one that is digitized. So we have a good idea of who lives where – there are 110 people on the mailing list. Steve offered that when he bought his place, it had an approval sticker from the 90's but he had to put in a new request because it had been archived. It all starts in inventory, per Jay. All agreed that the shared septic for 5 out of 6 houses on Sandy Beach Road should have never

been allowed. Jay suggested that the plan be updated to include roads, direction of ditches, whether it is inside or outside the watershed. If the ditches run into the lake, is there a weir, which according to Jay is 'like a small storm pond that allows the waked-in sediment to fall out of being entrained in the runoff. Like a little dam, just enough to calm the water in a pool so the pebbles and sand can settle out. Ditches sometimes will have a weir where they spill into the woods where the woods have a steeper slope and erosion could be problematic." (Many thanks for the explanation, Jay!)

Jerry stated that the LSPA plan has more scientific information than anywhere else in the state – a leader in the state, with 2 universities and 2 university professors on board. Jay needs/wants more info. He plans to speak with Geoff Lizotte. He also wants to talk to trustees and lab technicians at the Colby Sawyer lab.

Jay thinks requirements are missing – he's not happy with what he saw as parameters. This was his wheelhouse at USEDA – aquatic toxicity and land management. He feels that they (LSPA) step away from the biggest threat to the lake – Oxygen sag in Kolelemook is not like every other lake, where you may get a monolayer of oil that forms when motorboats are going everywhere. If a monolayer of oil exists on top of a surface of water, it does not allow oxygen to permeate and reach equilibrium with the water. He even feels that talk of phosphates may be off, as it doesn't work as the talk implies. Jerry can attest to this. Jay thinks we need some parameters from VLAP – he wants to see VLAP not just looking retroactively but also looking forward, which could give confidence to Kolelemook Lake users that the lake is in excellent condition. Jay would like to see this go deeper – loons, bald eagles; the sum total of what we do should be a comfort zone for people who live here, the tax base of the properties. Steve feels the tax base reflects the diversity of the homeowners – there are some shacks, some mansions. All agreed.

Jerry stated that 2 years ago, a person from Concord doing water testing went close to the bottom and phosphorus exploded. Jay would like to see a core sample for organics at 20' below the bottom of the lake. The former wakeboat was briefly discussed, leading Jay to question whether there is an inventory of motorboats on Kolelemook. There is not. Brief discussion of 2-person jet skis versus 3 person jet ski-like "boat" ensued.

Jerry did specific sampling points – Ehrlene's horse and donkey, Sid Pratt's silt. Jay will add in sampling points along 114.

Random discussion about Peter Abair putting sand in the beach but the beach was inappropriately sloped. Jerry commented that the parking blocks have helped erosion. The blocks also channel water to the side of the boat launch.

Jay commented that the beach and boat launch are an eyesore. Phil asked Jay if he had seen the Select Board minutes regarding 'slip, trip, & fall' risk on the boat launch. Jay asked if we can self-perform (like fixing things personally rather than going to the Select Board).

Following was discussion of the Select Board; are they responsive and can we self-perform? Most agreed that Steve Dzubak seems like a shaker. He was very forthcoming in discussion with Jay. Steve (Dolan) stated that how we play with the Select Board is in their best interest. If something happens to the lake, it's not just KLPA that's affected – it's the town, the boat launch, etc.

Regarding conservation, Jay was not impressed by the Osbourne-Sargent group. Their definition of conservation is not as broad as his, and their definition of science was almost lacking. He felt Jerry has done more for sodium chloride contamination through conductivity studies, whereas the O-S group thought phosphorus was what they put on the road!

Jay stated that as we identify problems, the beauty of the watershed management plan is if you have a good infrastructure in your governance by virtue of what the town does, we've taken care of and identified inventories, noted conditions of the roads (town issue), the beach (town issue); we can then identify it as a problem and offer a solution. Along 114, we know that salt may be a contributor to conductivity, and maybe a little to potassium chloride.

In terms of other problems, Jay questioned whether there is an issue where the lake exits (not at the dam, but rather across from the Historical society). Jerry stated that there was an open pond there, not very deep, when he moved here in 2006. Jerry doesn't know if Springfield filled it in or if it was a natural process with sediment build-up, as it didn't get a lot of water. There was some confusion regarding dams – Jay was talking about one across from the Historical Society and others were discussing the town dam by Tim Julian's. Jay inquired about the capacity of the latter to lower the water – 2 feet, 3 feet? Phil and Jerry both agreed on about 2 feet. Phil explained how there are 3 boards in the dam that are about 8" and if the water is flowing OVER the dam, removing the boards can have considerable impact. Jay is interested in inflow and outflow – what's coming out daily and, by looking at some of the tributaries, what's coming in. He has been told that off the point, there is a spring and usually in a small lake in winter one can see a star pattern where the water is bubbling up – a little bit of clear ice. He wants to go out with Jennifer (Polish last name?) who told him about where this winter when snow first occurs.

Jay asked if there are other contaminants or contributions to turbidity sediment. Steve responded 'just normal runoff'.

Steve mentioned that there is currently a diagram of a watershed as part of the VLAP report. Steve will send to Jay.

We will look at how the ditch systems work. Most is outflow, some of which goes back down under the road.

Jay will chat with the folks at LSAP and will challenge anything he thinks is off.

Phil questioned how the rest of the Board can help. Jay would like to first get a good first draft; however, once he is 3 drafts in, he will 'say go' and will welcome collective thinking.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori

