DPA 2016 Fall General Membership Meeting

Called to order at 5:15 pm Oct 30, 2016

DPA President Doron Almog welcomed the assembled members, thanking them for their attendance. Doron introduced the proposed agenda for the meeting:

* 2017 Budget presentation and vote,
* presentation by Mike Lowery on the health of the Pond,
* discussion of a new invasive clam species, and
* discussion of events aimed at increasing interaction among DPA area residents.

Doron presented the year-to-date income and expenses for calendar year 2016, noting anticipated income from memberships and anticipated expenses from the Town of Wayland to cover 25% of the Town's expenses for weed control in the Pond. Doron presented the proposed 2017 calendar year budget for the DPA. Lafe LaClaire proposed to change the line item for "Weed Control" to "Invasives Control". The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. The proposed 2017 budget with amendment was approved by voice vote.

Mike Lowery presented a summary of the previous state of weeds in the Pond and the recent treatments used in the summer of 2016: Fluridone treatment in 2008, triclopyr in 2010 and 2013, fluridone again in 2016. Carefully managed chemical treatment and hand-pulling has extended the treatment intervals to 3 years. The favorable effect on tapegrass this year was unanticipated. It is anticipation is that tapegrass will return in the summer of 2017. Early treatment in the spring was believed to have affected better control this year than in previous years. Tom Klem asked why treatment was changed from triclopyr to fluridone. Mike explained that triclopyr is used for spot treatment.

Mike reported on water clarity and purity of Dudley Pond. *E. coli* levels exceeded 235 cfu/100 mL at Mansion Beach sampling point on two occasions. This typically occurs after a large rainstorm that washes waste from Canada Geese and Mallard Ducks that tend to congregate on Mansion Beach. Overall Trophic State index (TSI) values of 30 to 44, calculated from chlorophyll a concentration, Secchi depth, and dissolved phosphorous concentrations, were the lowest on record.

Mike described concerns about sediment and erosion at Mansion Beach washing down Lakeshore Rd from east of Mansion Beach. There is currently no curb to channel road wash toward the catch basin. Mike advised that this issue should be pursued with Conservation and Highway.

Mike described a new invasive species in Dudley Pond: Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*; 2 cm). The clams are hermaphroditic, allowing them to spread from a single individual. Two 1 foot by 1 foot by 3 in sediment samples were taken by John Darack and Mike Lowery and delivered to MA Division of Fish and Wildlife. Densities of 1548 and 258 per square meter were estimated. Are they a nuisance? In other locations, Asian clams clog intake pipes, but there are no such pipes at Dudley Pond. Asian clam feces can lead to algal blooms. They are controlled by hard freezes, benthic mats (which are expensive and have not been successful at Lake George). Native species in the Dudley Pond would be affected by benthic mats as well. Lisa Newton is spearheading efforts to monitor and control Asian clams.

In 2017, SWQC plans to lobby the Town of Wayland for periodic septic inspections and repairs and improved storm water control around Dudley Pond. Mike requested that new reports of Asian clam infestations be brought to his attention.

A question was asked about trash bins at Mansion Beach. Can the Town sent to Recreation and Public Works requesting regular control. Trash bins at Rocky Point, there report to Conservation since they are the land owner at that location. Doron is pursuing this issue.

Karen Lowery presented a summary of the 2016 Dudley Pond Fun Run/5K. She recognized the top finishers, including Shirley Jacobson, the first place finisher in the 80+ age group. She thanked the contributing and corporate sponsors and the volunteers who assisted before, during, and after the race.

John Darack noted the opportunity for Pond clean up offered by the very low water levels caused by the drought this summer. Even after the recent rains, large areas of shore-side are still exposed. John encouraged the membership to use the opportunity to pick up broken glass and other debris that has accumulated under water. John recalled annual or twice-annual Pond clean-up days when community members would take rakes and shovels and bags to pick up trash around the Pond with arrangement with the Town to carry away accumulated trash. John invited a member to spearhead an effort at cleaning and clearing along the Pond edge and down the outflow stream.

Karen presented an idea from her growing up in VT of a DPA Square Dance and Sugaring Off Party in the late winter with dancing and refreshments. Karen has been searching for a caller. Lynn Garone suggested swing dancing as another option. Others interested invited to talk with Karen afterwards.

Doron offered other ideas, e.g., a block party. Please reach out to Board members with any ideas. Bob Smith recalled that the DPA used to have a Newcomers Welcome packet, e.g., might include a year's free membership to better retain new residents that come to Newcomer's Dinners. Newcomers Committee has fallen by the wayside, looking for volunteers to help.

Bob mentioned that Jim and Linda Thompson are moving away after many years living near Dudley Pond and contributing to the DPA. A going away party is being held in their honor in recognition of their many years of service to the Fun Run and to the Dudley Pond community. Allison LaClaire proposed that a letter of appreciation from the DPA be written and presented to Jim.

The minutes from the Spring Membership Meeting were presented on the display screen. It was moved to accept the minutes as presented and was passed by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Macklin, standing in for Lisa Jacobs.