**Dudley Pond Association Fall Meeting**

**October 25, 2020 via Zoom**

Board members present: Doron Almog, Eric Macklin, Lisa Jacobs, Jamie Pierce, Naomi Deutscher and Mike Margossian. Absent: Tim Dreher

The zoom meeting was called to order at 7:30. The list of attendees on the call is provided at the end of these minutes. Doron presented the agenda:

1. Update on pond status
2. Vote on the DPA Officers
3. Treasurer’s report; Vote on the Budget
4. Boat ramp update
5. New member intros
6. Other issues

**Pond Status**

Norm Marowitz has taken over SWQ responsibilities and liaison to the DPA from Mike Lowery. We thank Mike for his many years in that role, keeping the SWQ and DPA’s goals closely aligned. In addition to acknowledging Mike’s tremendous contributions, Norm also thanked Toni Moores and Bob Smith for getting him up to speed.

The water quality in Dudley Pond is one of the best in the Commonwealth. The report is on the town website. There isn’t much milfoil – we are in year 2 of a 3-year treatment guaranty: just a few plants have been detected and they have wilted to the bottom of the pond. In its place emerged the tapegrass which has thrived. Several factors contribute to this- weather, lack of winter ice, lots of space, etc. and many MA ponds were similarly affected this year. We contracted with an organization, Solitude, a harvesting company who agreed to cut the tapegrass, suck it up and remove it to the shoreline. The tapegrass got out of control and Solitude wasn’t able to handle the project so we cancelled the contract. For the first time, the state is allowing us to roll over the unused funds to be used for next year’s work.

To combat the tapegrass, we had hoped to rent an Eco-harvester from Charles River Recreation to test it on our pond, but the Harvester needs repairs. If it is repaired next spring, we will test it on Dudley Pond. We are doing research to purchase our own harvester for the long term. We hope to be able to cost share with the town: It has a 3-year payback

We had a pond survey done in September which covered 104 points on the pond. We expect the report to be complete in November and it will provide a blueprint for how to manage the pond, both in the short and long term. There could be some alternate solutions after the report is presented and analyzed.

Norm opened up the presentation for questions from the members.

**DPA Board Nominations**

We had postponed the election of the current slate of directors from the Spring meeting -which was not held due to COVID-19. The same slate has agreed to extend their terms for 6 more months:

President: Doron Almog

1st VP: Eric Macklin

2nd VP: Mike Margossian

Treasurer: Jamie Pierce

Secretary: Lisa Jacobs

Members at large: Larissa Khouw, Naomi Deutscher, and Tim Dreher

The membership voted unanimously to accept this slate of officers for another 6 months- until the Spring 2021 meeting.

**Treasurer Report/Budget**

Jamie reviewed the April and October financials in detail. The DPA had to postpone the Fun Run due to COVID-19 but came up with alternative fundraising ideas. We chose to focus on individual contributors rather than corporate contributors from years’ past. We thanked our previous corporate sponsors but chose not to solicit funds from them this year. Instead, we started an individual contributor campaign and raised $10,500. In total, the Fun Run ‘alternative’ brought in over $13,000 from all appeals.

There were some questions about the usage policy of the endowment fund, and what specifically the milfoil fund is. The endowment fund was not available to use toward weed abatement until it had reached the $100,000 threshold- which it did a few years ago. Now it is now part of the operating budget. The milfoil fund receives donations earmarked for milfoil removal during the year, and those funds are used to pay our milfoil related expenses during the year. It is designed to always have a $0 balance at the end of the year.

A motion was made and seconded to vote on the 2020-21 DPA budget. It passed unanimously.

**Boat Ramp update**

The Order of Conditions has been granted to build the boat launch ramp near the Dudley Chateau. Construction will begin in the Spring but the DPW must provide additional info beforehand. The DPA may want to review the project before the work begins.

**Other items**

New member intro: there were no new members at the Fall meeting.

One of our members asked if we could schedule periodic Zoom calls to the community throughout the winter months- just to stay in touch. At the beginning of the COVID pandemic, Linda Smith set up calls with members around the pond who wanted to stay connected.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jacobs

DPA Secretary

**DPA Fall meeting**

**Sign-in list**

Fred Pearson

Gloria Broderick

Judy Currier

Bob & Linda Smith

Lisa Newton

Lynne & Steve Garone

Norm Marowitz

Marcia & Michael Filiurin

Janet Buerklin & Jack Peters

Elaine & Glenn Snyder

Mike & Karen Lowery

Alice Boelter

Jan Dunn

Cheryl Kreinbring & Tom Klem

Ann Drouillhet & Jim Ogletree

John & Marilyn Darack

Margo Melnicove

Maggie Margossian

Maryann Peabody