DPA Aug Exec Comm Meeting

21 Aug 2019

Present: Doron Almog, Eric Macklin, Mike Margossian, Jamie Pierce, Karen Lowery, Mike Lowery, Bob Smith

Absent: Lisa Jacobs, Larissa Khouw

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm.

Agenda

* Fun Run
* Weed management
* Donation for a public amenity

Fun Run

* Karen has developed some ideas for how to prepare for the Fun Run and lists of proposed tasks for each volunteer. She will share those at the next meeting.
* Karen noted that we have a record number of supporters this year (49 corporate sponsors and 42 contributing sponsors).
* Two corporate sponsors donated gift cards. The disposition will be decided at the next meeting.
* Karen thanked Marcia Filiurin for the solicitation letter to members and abutters, which was very successful.
* Karen reported that the DPA was been provided two Town boards, one at intersection of Rt 20 and Old Conn Path and the other at the intersection of Rts 20 and 27/126. Posters to post at these locations are needed. The placard designed by Melissa Smith is artistic but may be too difficult to read at the speed cars may be passing those locations. The Board approved asking Chris Lowery to design a placard.
* Karen has requested authorization from the Board of Selectmen to place A-frame postings at the intersections of Plain St and Rt 27 and of Old Conn Path and Rt 27. The placards can be posted on the Mon preceding the event (i.e., Sep 16).
* Karen and Jamie noted that very few registrations are mailed in, making distribution of brochures less useful; however, one of the perks of being a corporate sponsor is public display of sponsors' logos on the brochures. Karen invited Board members to take copies to distribute.
* Karen proposed that Official sponsors receive complimentary registrations. Karen proposed offering 10 complimentary registrations to each Official sponsor. Jamie noted that it is unlikely that all 10 would attend. Jamie suggested that we experiment this year with 10 and see how it goes. The Board approved.
* Karen distributed letters from the prior year
* Mike M noted that some materials on the website need to be updated. Mike M will follow-up with Jamie and Mike L to be sure that current information and materials are posted.
* Mike L noted that implementation of payment via Venmo, suggested by Larissa, has been very successful. Jamie noted that nearly $2000 has been contributed via Venmo.
* Jamie noted that the previous maximum total contributions for the Fun Run was $13,500. This year contributions totaled $18K, $10K from corporate sponsors and $8K from contributing sponsors, noting again the benefit of Marcia's efforts and availability of Venmo payments.
* Doron will check with Tom Klem to confirm that race bibs have been ordered. Mike L noted that Tom had inquired about the Official sponsors for inclusion on the bibs.
* Lisa has traditionally submitted the application to the Health Dept for a food permit. This will be pursued in Sept.

Reimbursement to the Town

* Jamie noted that the 25% of Town expenses that the DPA has agreed to reimburse the Town to defray the costs of weed management in Dudley Pond may exceed the amount budgeted at the Spring Membership meeting. Jamie noted that this overage could be handled by amending the budget at the Fall Membership meeting or by splitting the DPA payments between two calendar years (but within the same fiscal year for the Town).
* Mike L reported on conversations with the Town Administrator and the Town procurement specialist. Given the wide fluctuation from year-to-year in cost of weed control in Dudley Pond, it may be possible to establish a warrant account that would not revert to the Town at the end of each fiscal year. This would ease budgeting by the Surface Water Quality Committee.

Water quality

* Mike L reported that the E. coli levels measured at Mansion Beach was quite low at the most recent check. Mike L has been using a series of auditory deterrents of the Canada Geese that usually congregate there. Removal of goose poops prior to rainstorms has also been helpful.
* Roughly 50% of the Pond was treated with ProcellaCOR twice. Water testing 2 days following application was below limit of detection at the first treatment and just above the limit of detection on after the second application. The treatment was been very effective. In Filiurin Cove, where milfoil growth was too dense to permit boat traffic, no milfoil remains. Mike L noted that the short residence time in the water column precluded any effect on milfoil away from the treated areas.
* Mike L reported that tapegrass is more of a problem than in previous years. Parts of the Pond are too dense for motor boat traffic. He estimates that the cost of a harvester to mow the Chateau Cove and the Outlet Cove would be approximately $11,000 each. This is in excess of the $7,000 originally budgeted for the whole Pond.
* Additional tapegrass stands are present near Mansion Beach. These stands are too dispersed to make Solitude cost effective. Use of a mower and trailing the suction harvester by Aquatic Vision may be an option.
* The next SWQC is on Aug 29. Mike L will be discussing options for securing additional funds.
* Given the cost of renting a harvester, Mike L is considering the possibility of that SWQC might purchase a small harvester that could be used as needed, stored at the Dept of Public Works garage, and used by Town employees.
* The Lakes and Ponds group at the DCR that tapegrass has become more invasive across the Commonwealth.

Donation for a public amenity

* Funds were donated to create a public amenity to enhance enjoyment of the Pond. Options include a second bench at Mansion Beach, a bench at Rocky Point (where Mike L noted a makeshift bench is currently being used), or a table at Mansion Beach, among other options.
* The Board voted to request permission from the Town Recreation Dept to install a second bench at Mansion Beach to be located in the shade on the side opposite to the existing bench. The Board voted to approve.
* Mike L will approach the Rec Dept. Doron will ask Bob Smith about procuring a second bench.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Macklin