

Annual Meeting of the Mousam Lake Region Association July 24, 2010

The Annual Meeting of the Mousam Lake Region Association was held on Saturday July 24, 2010 at the Acton Fairgrounds in Acton, Maine. The meeting was called to order by President Glen Baxter at 9:15 AM.

Glenn welcomed us and thanked the board for their ongoing vigilance in watching the lake by monitoring the boat ramp, and doing the plant patrols.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of last year's annual meeting minutes.

Ruth Hamm, town councilman spoke about the towns of Acton, Shapleigh, and Sanford getting together concerning the working of the dam. There will be a committee to act as Board of Directors for this issue.

The tax rate will be set on Tuesday night; there will probably a slight raise. She also noted that people were using the ASYCC, which she said was most important.

Glenn thanked the town for their support.

James Verity gave the treasurer's report and thanked people for their donations. Both the dues payments and donations are up. The motion to approve the treasurer's report was made seconded, and passed.

Linda Fraser spoke about the Membership, \$12,600 was collected in dues, and \$6850 in donations was made. There are 420 members as of this date, in 2002 there were 475. 30% of the members give an extra donation, 19 people didn't renew, and there are 20 new members. She asked the members to pick up a trifold as you leave; it tells the benefits of being a member of the MLRA.

Skip Bartosch reported on the Health of the lake. He stated that is it the best it has been in 6 years. The dissolved oxygen is checked weekly the 2009 the average was 7.20 ppm at 40' and in 2010 it was 8.20 ppm. The secchi disk (measures water clarity) in 2009 was 6.5 meters and in 2010 was 6.6 meters.

The Loon count was taken on July 17th this year between the hours of 7 and 9 AM. In 2009 4 loons were counted, in 2010, 9 adults, 4 chicks, and an additional nest. Skip also stated that people can't randomly put navigational aids in front of their homes; homeowners can only put swim buoys out to define a swim area. The aids that are in place may not be removed by homeowners. The state will address the incidences of inappropriately placed buoys. He also suggested that if you rent, to please make the renters aware of the rules. There will be a boat safety course given by Bob Anderson in Acton. There are a few openings for August and in October. It is recommended that

everyone should take the course. He also announced that there will be a 50/50 raffle and door prizes to be given at the end of the meeting.

Pat Baldwin spoke about the water quality and said that the lake was not healthy, 50% of the people around the lake were not members that the board was given money to use to take care of the lake. She stated that we need to go back to see how we got better. She also said that there should be articles in the newsletter about water quality. She also stated that more volunteers were needed.

Other issues brought up were about the newsletter, it needs to be out earlier than the last issue.

It was suggested to have more signage at the boat launch on the rules of the lake. It was mentioned that signage has to be approved by the state. It was also brought up that rules are given to all boat owners when they register their boats.

Several board members spoke on how the newsletter and website would help to address these issues.

Skip Bartosch spoke about the need for a Secretary and that MLRA is still facing the same issues as in the 1960s, i.e. water quality.

Larissa Crockett from the town of Acton spoke about how the town and the private road associations are working together. There will be some zoning changes (with more set back restrictions) made in November and hopefully this will help shift the some of the water quality problems to the "inland" property owners. The ASYCC received \$22,000, \$11,000 of which was released on Thursday and the rest will be released in August. Lake properties provide 75% of the town's income, this is most appreciated. In return these owners can use the library and the transfer station. Acton is now recycling # 1-7 plastics. Recycling raised \$22,000 last year. She suggested going to their web site and to Channel 26 for info and contacts.

Jack Kelly noted that the board is in transition so that it is a bit behind. He has worked on cleaning up the public beach and makes frequent trips there to pick up any trash. There will be a Port-a-Potty there until September. The state has been asked to repair the guard rail.

Pat Baldwin addressed the "swimability" of that area. Skip said that it needed to be checked and if there is a problem the public health office needed to be notified. Norm Baker brought the potential problem for an accident when people cross from the parking area to the beach.

Glenn pointed out that the board is doing what they can but that they needed to do a better job.

Dennis Roberge spoke about the plants found in Mousam, and so far we are okay, but there are lakes nearby that have serious problems. Boat inspections are key. Dennis

has worked diligently and daily to check the lake out for invasive plants. This job is a big one and requires much time. Help is greatly needed to help with this ongoing work.

Roger Moore brought up the fact that the money made from the golf tournament went to the ASYCC and should the MLRA need money for something we have no control. He suggested that we use it to hire help to aid Dennis.

Mark Rousseau brought up the fact that there are many other non public accesses to the lake so that we all need to be policemen and keep our eyes out for invasive plants. Mr. Jaime Fajardo asked specifically what to look for, it was brought up that there are websites to go on to see pictures of the invasive plants. Linda Fraser brought out the fact that our new website will have many links to help with identifying plants as well. Jaime Fajardo volunteered to help Dennis with this endeavor. www.mousamlake.org.

John Lonergan, our warden spoke. He said that they have stepped up patrols, that there are new deputies who will help as well. There have even been some "plain clothes" patrols. Underage operators, having the proper life vests aboard, and headway speed issues are all things he addresses. The mixing of alcohol and driving a boat do not mix! John also noted that an 11b 1 oz bass was caught in our lake, that it is just shy of the state record! Another member thanked the ASYCC and the warden for all they do and offered to help Dennis with his job.

Amanda Loomis spoke for the ASYCC which is in its 10th season, the longest running in the state. The ASYCC works on erosion control and boat inspections. In 2009 they worked on 16 projects, 10 on Mousam and 6 on Square Pond. This year their goal is 25, to date they have done 10. They man the public ramp from 6am to 8pm. As for plants found on boats or trailers last year 18 plants considered invasive were taken. Last year's count of 2300 boats on Mousam and Square Pond has increased this year. She encouraged people to call them for help with projects around their homes. She also mentioned the Golf tournament and the need for more teams.

Ray Chartrain spoke to the business of why the ASYCC receives the golf tournament money. When first starting the tournament it was easier to gain sponsors for the ASYCC than the MLRA.

Elliott Levine announced the winners of the Boat Parade. There were 12 participants.

Large Boats:

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| 1st Place: <u>Santa's Folly</u> | The Thyng Family |
| 2nd Place: <u>The Lemonade Stand</u> | The Chartrain Families |
| 3rd Place: <u>Aloha</u> | The Adams Family |

Small Boats:

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| 1st Place: <u>The Flintstones</u> | The Coleman Family |
| 2nd Place: <u>Rock n Roll</u> | The Estochen Family |
| 3rd Place: <u>The Little Wooden Boat that Could:</u> | Mr. Bradley and Grandson |

Glenn Baxter reported on the Fishing Derby stating that the results are in the newsletter and website.

Glenn thanked the Lakeside Cafe for supplying the coffee and donuts, Mardens for the Rod Kits for the children for the Fishing Derby and the other vendors who have helped in many ways.

Linda Fraser spoke about the website; she told us that in the last 10 days there have been significant improvements made. The mission is to provide information on conserving the lake and a venue to show the wonders of the lake. There are many opportunities on the site to contact people for questions and information. There are also links to find out about invasive plants. There will also be a place for members to log in to get "privileged" access such as a Lost and Found, bulletin board, and financial reports of the MLRA. Lake Education is the biggest section. Linda welcomes ideas for improvement of the site.

Rich Eagleston reported on the updates to be made to the Bylaws. These updates include: adding an Assistant Treasurer position, the description of the authority of this position, (to act in the absence or incapacitation of the Treasurer), the changing of the fiscal year from April 1st to March 31st to January 1st to December 31st, and finally the updating of the non-profit status from a Section 501(c) 4 to a 501(c) 3. The motion was made seconded and passed to approve these changes.

In the past year there have been two resignations from the Board, Bill Sherman and Ray Cressey, leaving three 3 year terms and one 1 year term to be filled. Positions filled by Glenn Baxter Skip Bartosch and Bill Sherman are the 3 that need to be renewed. Chris Leupold of 23rd St offered to volunteer to fill the position vacated by Bill Sherman. The motion was made seconded and passed to approve him to serve.

To fill the 1 year vacancy nominations were requested. Mr. Jaime Fajardo volunteered. The motion was made seconded and passed to approve him.

Senator Nass spoke, thanked us for having him come to our meetings. He reported that there was no significant legislation affecting the MLRA this year. He appreciated the efforts of the MLRA. This is his last year to serve; he introduced Ron Collins, a candidate for his replacement. Mr. Collins spoke about the importance of our input. James Campbell also spoke, this being his last term as well. Diane Waterman is a candidate for his replacement. She addressed the group to introduce herself, thanking James for his service and for the opportunity to come to our meeting.

Glenn brought up new business. The date and time for the golf tournament was given. Friday August 6th, 2010. 8:30am registration and 9 am shot gun start.

There will be a photography contest. Information will be given on the website, the contest will run from Jan to Dec and winners will be announced on Dec 30th. The winner will also receive recognition at the Annual Meeting.

The 50/50 Raffle was won by James Verity, winning \$60.25.
Door Prizes and Gift Certificates were awarded to several people.

Glenn asked for a motion to end the meeting. It was made seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

Minutes taken by: Joy Chartrain as per request of Linda Fraser