

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting on May 17, 2018

**Location:** Point Breeze Restaurant in Webster, MA 01570

**Attending:** All Members Welcome

### Proceedings

#### I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Jason Piader.

#### II. New Business

##### 1. Acceptance of Minutes from 11/14/2017.

##### 2. Treasurer's Report.

Greg Gongaware gave the Treasurer's Report.

##### 3. General Announcements

- In February, Kathi Kelleher resigned as Treasurer. Greg Gongaware has taken over the position.
- Einstein Ice-Out contest was a phenomenal success this year.
- Paul Laframboise reported the lake is currently 2" higher than the Army Corps of Engineers would like. This is due to the heavy rain this spring.
- Paul Laframboise also reported the surplus beaver population particularly in South Pond. The over population of beavers could be a threat to property in the area. The beavers are unpredictable so should be approached carefully.
- The town is proposing a marina be put on Memorial Beach. Paul is suggesting the WLA set up a committee to aid in gathering information. The committee would work in unison with the Town officials for the purpose town marina at Memorial Beach.

##### 4. Bald Eagle Update .

Gloria Ricker reported on the bald eagles residing on Webster Lake. The eagles have returned to the island. We have two new eaglets this year. There was speculation Mass. Wildlife was going to band them. However, seeing there are many nests in the Worcester Area, they may not have time to come to Webster. We will not be naming the Eagles until they make their first flight. That will not be until the beginning of July.

##### 5. Clipper Herbicide Study Presentation.

Jason Piader gave a presentation on the herbicide Clipper. He explained the problematic invasive weeds in the lake and the current treatments. Jason told what Clipper is, its benefits, how it is regulated by the State of Massachusetts and the proposed study the Mass DEP has agreed to be done with Clipper on Webster Lake. Finally, he went over the cost and where it will be used.

The two invasive weeds on Webster lake are Variable Leaf Milfoil (*Myriophyllum Spicatum*) and Fanwort (*Caboma Carolinian*). Both are native to the Southeast of the U.S. The invasive weeds were

transported to the lake by fishing and other recreational boats. They produce large dense mats that block light and restrict water activity. The shade they create destroys native vegetation. Consequently, aquatic life dependent on native vegetation has to relocate or die. They both spread by fragmentation.

The two herbicides used to treat them are **Reward (Diquat)** and **Sonar (Fluridone)**.

**Reward** is a broad spectrum weed treatment and does not seep into the ground nor disturb aquatic life. It is quick (within one week) and low cost. However, it is ineffective with dense weeds or those with an extensive root system. It does not work in muddy or water with turbidity.

**Sonar** is the only herbicide used to control Fanwort in Massachusetts. It has a broad weed treatment spectrum, no threat to groundwater, low toxicity to humans and fish. Adversely, it slow acting (60 to 90 days) requiring multiple “bump” treatments and expensive (\$1400.00 per acre). Finally, it is very toxic to shoreline vegetation if irrigation occurs within ¼ of treated area.

Lake residents frequently ask why we using chemicals to eliminate weeds. Other treatments besides chemicals are mechanical hydro-racking, weed mowing, diver-assisted suction harvest (DASH), diver hand pulling and to draw down the lake level. Each has its own drawback, primarily cost.

**Mechanical hydro-racking** is \$10,000-\$20,000 per acre, not including removing debris. Racking breaks the weeds so it is not the best option when weeds spread via fragmentation.

**Weed mowing** is \$800.00 per acre. It is used for plants that propagate through seed production, not fragmentation. This could actually make invasive weed spread worse.

**Diver Assisted Suction Harvest (DASH)** is very expensive; light density area is \$8000.00/acre, moderate density area is \$16000.00/acre and high density is \$24,000/acre and the results are seasonal.

**Diver Hand Pulling** is even more expensive than DASH.

**Draw down the Lake Level** is not possible in Webster Lake.

**Consequently, Herbicide treatment is the most cost effective option for annually treating the 150 acres of Webster Lake.**

**Clipper (Flumioxazin)** is less costly than Sonar (\$500.00/acres vs. \$1400.00/acre). Contact is only one day. It controls algae. It has a multiyear cumulative effect. There is a reduction of weeds following successive years of treatment.

Using it yearly is permitted in all states except MA. There is a prohibition of the application of Clipper to a single area for three consecutive years after an application. The exception to this restriction is repeat targeted treatments in consecutive years in the immediate vicinity around shoreline structures (boat launches, docks, swimming beaches, dams, water intake pipes) and drainage ditches.

In the fall of 2016, the WLA lead by Jason Piader, sought reprieve from the regulation restricting herbicide treatment of an area of the lake for three consecutive years after a single Clipper application. After repeated requests, the MassDEP made a lake visit. The Lake Association requested to submit a proposed study. In November 2017, the study was submitted. In May 2018, the study was approved. The proposed study includes six treated areas and one control area. The treated area is 57 acres while the control area is 10 acres. The dosage is 100 pounds per billion. It is a pre&post treatment intercept survey. There is 1 data point per acre study with a total of 67 points per study. There are measurements of water depth, percent cover and biomass data at each point using an underwater camera. The study has a two year post treatment observation.

The area to be treated is in the map.



**Raw Cost \$67,375.00**

Task	Cost				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Pre-treatment survey	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00		
Treatment	\$17,375.00	\$17,375.00	\$17,375.00		
Post-Treatment Survey	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Reporting	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
<b>Yearly Totals</b>	<b>\$21,125.00</b>	<b>\$21,125.00</b>	<b>\$21,125.00</b>	<b>\$2,250.00</b>	<b>\$2,250.00</b>

**Adjusted Cost to Account for Current Treatment: \$25,809.00**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Yearly Cost of Survey	\$21,125.00	\$21,125.00	\$21,125.00	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00
Current Treatment Cost of 57 acre Treatment Area	\$14,022.00	\$14,022.00	\$14,022.00		
Additional Cost of Survey	\$7,103.00	\$7,103.00	\$7,103.00	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00

Many thanks to Sen. Ryan Fattman, Rep. Joe McKenna, Mass DEP (Office of Wetland and Office of Research & Standards and Solitude Lake Management.

Particularly thanks goes to our President Jason Piader for his hard work and persistence.

## **6 .Webster Library Presentation.**

Tom Klebert gave a presentation on the new library. He gave a brief summary on its inception and the journey to get this far. Tom showed slides of the interior and exterior. He explained what the new library will offer in order to keep pace with our technological world. The library still needs to raise more money to complete it. Tom explained the tiers of donating to the library.

As he discussed in his presentation to the WLA, the donor plaque will be made of wood and designed to look like a real library bookcase, with donor names laser printed onto wooden book 'spines' that will be randomly placed on the bookcase shelving.

Donors at \$250 and above will be recognized by spine sizes as follows

\$250 - \$1,000 donation 1-1/2" book spine

\$1,001 - \$25,000 donation - 2" book spine

\$25,001 donation and above - 2-1'2" book spine

A person's name will be inscribed on the 'book spine'.

In addition a donor will be listed in the donor recognition book which will include the names of all donors as well as any desired tribute. The donor name in the book should be identical to the inscription on the book spine. However an additional memoriam can be added to your name(s) in the book if desired.

The donation levels to be recognized in the donor recognition book are as follows:

\$1 - \$499	Supporter
\$500 - \$999	Friend
\$1,000 - \$2,499	Contributor
\$2500 - \$4,999	Patron
\$5000 - \$9,999	Advocate
\$10,000 - \$49,999	Builder
\$50,000 - \$99,999	Benefactor
\$100,000 and above	Legacy

## **7. Adjournment.**