

## Lake Raponda Association

### Minutes of the July 14, 2019 Stated Meeting

President Will Melton called meeting to order at 10:20, July 14, 2019. He thanked Vin and Betty Zito for stepping in at the last minute to host the meeting when the Liebers were called away by the birth of a grandson. Will remarked that it was his first year as president, his fifth as a trustee. Whereas 35 years ago meetings were more of a social event, now the Association was becoming more active and engaged in giving back to the lake and the environment. His goal as president is to have everyone become a Raponda volunteer and to have fun doing so. He asked everyone present who had not done so to fill out a questionnaire, part of the Watershed Assessment that is taking place.

Clerk's Report. The report with minutes for the August 2018 meeting, as posted on the Association website, was accepted.

President's Report. Will called on John Meyer to provide an update on the Lake Raponda Foundation (LREF), which is to become a vehicle for funding crucial needs for the lake. As an example, John cited a group of people who 35 years ago stepped up to underwrite covenants restricting development on the west side of the lake (formerly property of Camp Najerog) or helping to fund the Greeters' Program launched 3 years ago. Approval of the foundation's 501(c)3 status arrived yesterday. John is putting together a board and is looking for people who are interested in helping, especially anyone with marketing experience.

Treasurer's Report. Michaelanne Widness reported that we have received income of \$2,225 since last August 1, had expenses of \$927, thus a net income of \$1,298. As of July 14, our bank balance was \$15,289. However, expenses for 2019 are likely to exceed income. They include reimbursements to people attending meetings on LRA's behalf, gifts to hosts, refreshments for meetings, and the annual gifts to Deerfield Valley Rescue, Deerfield Valley Health Center, and Pettee Library. An upcoming cost is our share of the 2019 Greeters' Program: \$2,100.

### **Existing Initiatives**

Bob Bois reported that the Greeter Program, now in its third year, has been a real success. Through shared funding from the state, the town, and the LRA, there is staffing at the Greeters' shed for four days each week, with three Association volunteers covering other days. The state cut back funding this year; the Association is committed to providing \$2,100. The program has a real educational value, educating boaters about aquatic invasive species (AIS). Beginning in 2020, the county will take over management of the Greeter Program.

Chris Zizza, a vice president of the Mt. View Association volunteered that his association had a healthy treasury and may be willing to contribute to the program.

Beth Brody mentioned that one of the greeters had asked about the possibility of installing a temporary speed bump near the boat access.

Jack Widness reported on a FOVLAP (Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds) meeting he had attended and stories he had heard of the cost of mitigating Eurasian milfoil on lakes where it existed.

## New Initiatives

Watershed Assessment. The local watershed authority, headed by Margo Ghia, has received a small state grant to assess the watershed of Lake Raponda. Its purpose is to develop a baseline understanding of the lake that can be used for comparison purposes in the future. Margo will manage the grant. The Association is responsible for contributing volunteers to carry out much of the work of the grant. A steering committee of Jack Widness, John Meyer, Marti Watson, Bob Bois, Carol Bois, and Bob Brody are working on how to manage our obligation to the grant.

Carol Bois reported on how members can be involved:

- fill out the assessment questionnaire that was emailed and also handed out at this meeting
- attend the iNaturalist training on documenting native v. invasive plants scheduled for July 26
- attend program with Mike Clough, director of the Southern VT Natural History Museum, on (Aug 23 or 24?) at the town beach
- take part in a paddle around the lake to identify streams and culverts that run into lake (scheduled for Aug 10)
- help to "walk" the major stream beds to find runoff erosion problems

The Lake Wise Program is an important part of the Watershed Assessment initiative. Five awards have been granted, eleven properties have been evaluated, Amy Picotte's next visit is July 19. See Jack Widness to sign up for a visit.

## Committee Reports

Roads. Ben Schlatka absent. No report. Bill Hunt, the town road supervisor, is retiring in September.

Fish and Game Committee. Randy is absent. No report.

Water and Boating. John Meyer said that the buoys are being maintained; Cindy Meyer continues to do weekly water tests for lake clarity and phosphorus for the state; the town does weekly coliform bacteria test at the town beach and sends out a notice if there is a bad reading.

John Meyer commented on wake surfing. Every summer there is one boat on the lake for 2-3 weeks. A bill banning boats with ballast tanks did not pass in the state legislature. There is a state law prohibiting jet skis. (Raponda is a state-owned lake.) NY State has proposed banning wake surfing within 600 feet of shore.

Nominating Committee. Carol Bois reported that according to the bylaws of the Association, a slate of officers and committee chairs are proposed in odd years. This being an odd year, in August we will have to vote on these positions. Things are looking stable at the moment but it would be good to have some volunteers who could, in time, sequence into leadership roles. In particular, a clerk-in-training is needed.

Hospitality. Beth Brody thanked Betty and Vin for hosting the meeting. She briefly explained Sign-Up Genius, which the Association will now be using for social events and volunteer organization. The **annual meeting, August 10**, will be at her and Bob's house, 392 Lake Raponda Road. The coffeemaker does not work. It was voted to buy a new coffeemaker.

**Other/New Business**

Items with Lake Raponda Association logo. Michelle Glazer noted that T shirts and other items are available from Lands End. See LRA website for more information.

Light pollution on the lake. Dee Macey asked that a note be included in the minutes and on the web page that addresses light pollution and that encourages homeowners (and property managers) to set outside light times to “off” between 10 pm and 7 am. Will said the trustees will take up the problem at their next meeting.

Electronic notifications. Contact webmaster Alan Baker if you are not receiving information.

Burned-down house. Tom Laughlin spoke of the residence at 218 West Lake Road that burned last winter and remains a charred mess with pollutants likely trickling into the lake. Why has nothing been done? Someone noted that there was some structural work done after the fire. The trustees will bring up this topic at their next meeting.

Jim Shukie spoke briefly of what a wonderful place Lake Raponda is. He told of being rescued and given a tow home by Steve Kokinos when his boat’s motor died.

Old Home Week 2020. Does the Association want to be involved in the events (parade) for Old Home Week? In 2010 we had a float, which received second prize. Do we wish to participate in 2020? Carol Grant chaired the committee in 2010; we need a new generation to carry on.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectively submitted by Eliza Childs, Clerk

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Saturday, August 10. 4:00**  
**Bob and Beth Brody, 392 Lake Raponda Road**