Lake Boon Commission

Meeting Minutes

Oct 7, 2020

A meeting of the Lake Boon Commission was held on Oct 7, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The meeting took place by telecommunications using Zoom, because of coronavirus-related state limits on public meetings per the Mar 21, 2020 order of Governor Baker.

**Members Attending:** Kris Krablin (Chairperson), Dan Barstow (Clerk), Conray Wharff (Commissioner)

**Recorded by Stow TV**

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:00 pm

* Note: a power outage occurred in parts of Stow and Hudson about 6:30pm. However, the three LBC members were able to participate, as well as several members of the public.

**Public Comment**

* No public comments.

**Announcement re MVP Grant**

* Dan announced the official award of the MVP Grant, which is a 2-year grant for $154k

**Meeting Minutes**

* LBC deferred review of minutes from Aug 19 and Aug 27, 2020, until the next meeting .

**Bills for Payment**

* Dan presented three bills for reimbursement, relating to the Drawdown Permit Application. Conray moved, Dan seconded and LBC unanimously approved reimbursement
  + Hudson Sun – public announcement = $56.45
  + Stow Independent - public announcement = $65.00
  + USPS – send NOI to MA DEP = $ 7.50
  + Total $128.95
* Kris presented one bill for reimbursement, relating to the Drawdown Permit Application. Conray moved, Dan seconded and LBC unanimously approved reimbursement
  + Mailings to abutters in Stow and Hudson = $701.10
* Conray presented one bill for payment to Solitude for weed treatment. Dan moved, Conray seconded and LBC unanimously approved payment
  + Stow portion $1,562.50
  + Hudson portion $ 781.25
  + Total $2,343.75

**2020 Drawdown Activities – Discussion / Decision**

* This part of the meeting solicited input from the public on the optimal dates for the annual drawdown.
* This year’s drawdown will begin Oct 19, 2020 for completion by Dec 1, 2020, in compliance with the drawdown permit. Residents were notified by email on Oct 5, 2020, along with public announcement in the Stow Independent. These dates were also discussed with Stow Conservation Commission on Sept 29, 2020 and with Hudson Conservation Commission on Oct 1, 2020
* Dan explained that the permit currently specifies drawdown start after Oct 1 and finish by Dec 1, with two weeks advance notice for residents. There is no perfect date, as it is a compromise between early drawdown to enable residents to do work on their docks or shorelines vs a later drawdown to enable residents to enjoy their boats on the lake during the fine weather and fall colors of October. LBC requested input from residents to determine the overall preferred target.
* Dave Siewirski acknowledged the challenge and said we need flexibility.
* Conray commented that the most important thing is at least 2 weeks advance notice.
* Lori Hawkes asked for doing this after Columbus Day
* Dave Gray said 20 years ago, this was generally done between Columbus Day and Halloween
* Laura Diamond asked if LBC needed to send formal notification to abutters. Dan responded that email suffices, and that this year’s certified mail was only needed because of the NOI for a permit.
* Kris asked about how much advance notice is required. Dan said the current permit requires 2 weeks, but other residents have requested more notification, such as 3 weeks.
* After additional discussion, a consensus emerged for drawdown to begin sometime between Oct 15 and Oct 31, with three weeks advance notice. For example, Oct 1 notification for Oct 21 beginning of drawdown. Dan will communicate this to Stow ConCom and Hudson ConCom during subsequent meetings on the Drawdown permit.

**New Drawdown NOI status**

* Dan gave an update on the new permit request for Drawdown, currently in review by Stow ConCom and Hudson ConCom. Discussion is going back and forth between the two towns over a series of meetings, in order to end up with a single set of Orders of Conditions for both towns.
* The new OOC will not include the obligation for an escrow in case wells go dry from the drawdown, since the normal drawdown of 14” hasn’t caused any problems. For the Drawdown, LBC will need to notify abutters, roughly 100 in Hudson and 250 in Stow. This will be discussed further at the Aug 27, 2020 LBC meeting.

**Buoys and Boat Removal/Storage**

* Kris will work with volunteers to remove the buoys. Kris and Conray offered to split storing the buoys at their homes.
* Conray commented that the boat needs repairs, to discuss in more detail in the next meeting.

**Amended Hudson FY21 LBC Budget**

* Kris reported that the Hudson portion (1/3 = $1,667) of the cost for police patrol of the lake is a warrant article for the Nov 16 Hudson Town Meeting

**Old Business / Follow-ups**

* Boat trailer registration – Kris commented that this is still in process.

**New Business**

* Drawdown – update on permit application
* MVP grant – steps to begin this state-funded project

**Date of Next Meeting**

* TBC, 10/28/20 was suggested

**Meeting Adjourned:**

* Dan moved, Conray seconded and LBC unanimously approved adjourning.
* Meeting adjourned 8:16 pm

Approved by LBC on: Oct 28, 2020

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