

## Minutes 7/23/19 LFA-WQAC

Lake Fairlee Association – Water Quality Action committee

July 23, 2019 638 Robinson Hill Road, Thetford (Gepharts)

4:30 PM

Attending Fred Peterson, Noah Greenberg, Ridge Satherthwait, Bob Greenberg, Dale Gephart (Chair)

The mission of this committee is to develop, on behalf of the Lake Fairlee Association (LFA) a plan of how to deal with the rising Phosphate Levels in Lake Fairlee to the point it is becoming eutrophic.

Ridge outlined the history of the LFA in initiating the saving of the dam and in being the regular agency to keep the Eurasian Milfoil under control.

Attending our meeting was Noah Greenberg here on a vacation to visit his family. He is a consultant in water quality management in the state of Colorado. He was very helpful at this meeting explaining some of the science, politics (Federal, State and local) and systematic approaches to problems such as ours.

Annual Lake monitoring of water quality (phosphorus, Chlorophyll, turbidity (SD) has been provided over the years by volunteers. John Tarbell is currently monitoring our lake. The VDEC has alerted us via the "Score Card" that the mean summer phosphate has risen to 15.2 ug/l. A committee member pointed out that the curve on the graph has become more erratic and that fewer samples have been taken. He suggested that another cycle of more complete data will be important.

This committee has already been in touch with Danielle Owczarski at the VDEC who has been very supportive of our activity. She plans a site visit to the lake in mid August. She has sent us a list of suggestions which, as itemized below, took up the rest of the meeting.

1. Establish a lay monitor to measure in-lake summer phosphorus trends - **volunteer John Tarbell**
2. Establish a cyanobacteria monitor to track harmful algae bloom - **volunteer Dale Gephart anr.lakesvolmonitoring@vermont.gov**
3. Establish a 3-5 year tributary monitoring program to track external sources of phosphorus in the surrounding watershed - **volunteer Await site visit**
4. Collect spring and summer depth profiles to track internal loading - **VDEC**
5. Collect spring runoff total phosphorus - **VDEC**
6. Conduct biological monitoring of priority tributaries - **VDEC**

7. Initiate “Lake Wise” assessments around the shoreline within 250-ft - **Lake Fairlee Committee, VDEC & volunteers**

**We will place posters at the LFA meeting and promote “Lake Wise” in Dale’s talk**

8. Initiate Private Road assessments in the Lake watershed - **Lake Fairlee Committee, Watershed partner & volunteers**

**We will follow up on the 2017 report (10 recommendations) from Better Back Roads to the Select board of Thetford.**

9. Hold a Septic Social - **VDEC and Lake Fairlee Committee**

**In planning phase with advice from West Fairlee (Peggy Willey)**

10. Develop a Lake Watershed Action Plan to synthesize current water quality and assessment data, identify significant sources of phosphorus that are contributing to increased total phosphorus trends, and list a number of priority actions to address those sources. - **Lake Fairlee**

**Committee, VDEC, Watershed partner, towns, volunteers, consultant**

**Work on this at the Next meeting of this committee with VDEC staff in attendance September??**

11. Implement practices - **Lake Fairlee Committee, VDEC, Watershed partner, towns, volunteers**

**We discussed what should happen at the LFA annual meeting this week.**

**We will stress the immediate need for more data collection but also will state that BEST PRACTICES for waterfront, watershed and lake use remain very important no matter what the phosphate level.**

12. Continue monitoring to track response - **VDEC and volunteer monitors**

**We discussed new members for this committee**

**NEXT**

**Exchange emails about Our Questions: the science of lake management – limnology  
– “dissolved oxygen?” - “vertical loading” - “effect of annual climate changes on  
water quality” - “ effect of eradication measures form milfoil”**

**THANK YOU**

**John McKinley and David Forbes for also volunteering for this committee**

**Next Meeting .....Date not set**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Dale Gephart**

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