

LAKE ANNA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Spotsylvania County Holbert Building
9104 Courthouse Road
Spotsylvania, VA. 22553
MINUTES – January 25, 2017 MEETING

DETERMINATION AND CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Heidig called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ann Heidig, Chair; Chris McCotter, Vice-Chair; Richard “Dick” Shrum, Treasurer; Jim White, Orange County; Greg Benton, Spotsylvania County; and Sarah Perkinson, Dominion Power.

** Mr. Cebula arrived at 7:11 p.m.*

Absent: Gary Bullis, Spotsylvania County, Toni Williams, Louisa County

Others Present: Paulette Mann, Spotsylvania County Committee Secretary

Ms. Heidig welcomed new representatives Mr. Benton and Mr. Williams, who was traveling and not present.

CITIZEN'S INFORMATION PERIOD

There were no speakers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion and vote: Mr. McCotter made a motion, which carried by a vote of 4-0-1, to approve the minutes for the September 28, 2016 meeting. Mr. Benton abstained due to the fact he was not present for the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dick Shrum distributed a copy of the Treasurer's Report to the Committee, and provided a review of the 2016 YTD balances of the checking account. He discussed that the balance of the checking account was \$24,060.65 and the balance of the CD was \$60,410.28.

Discussion ensued among the Committee regarding the fact that the CD is almost at maturity and the Committee will need to discuss this at the next meeting.

Also discussed was the buoy set-aside money of \$2,000. Ms. Heidig inquired if that was sufficient.

Ms. McCormick stated that it should be enough. She also discussed the potential need to hire divers to remove posts that are no longer in use and that are a hazard to navigation.

Discussion also occurred regarding budget requests made to each locality. Ms. Heidig stated that she sent a request to Orange for \$500.

Mr. White stated that he does not get a sense that any funding will be approved.

Ms. Heidig requested \$1925 from Spotsylvania.

BILLS FOR REIMBURSEMENT

Mr. Shrum stated there were no bills for reimbursement at this time.

Ms. Heidig brought up the meeting schedule for the year. The Committee discussed that the meetings would be held on the fourth Wednesday, rotating Counties, in March (Louisa), May (Orange), July (Spotsylvania),

September (Louisa), November (Orange).

Mr. McCotter inquired about pulling out of the channel and the navigational marker that is there.

Ms. McCormick stated that it is not being used that way.

Mr. Benton stated that Spotsylvania County has a dive team and may be willing to assist for a nominal amount or donation. He stated that he would inquire about this and report. He stated that he is a dive instructor and is very familiar with this. He stated that he could always cut them off at the surface.

There was discussion about what to do with them once they are cut at the surface. Do we leave them? There was a question whether there is an ordinance that requires them being pulled out completely. They discussed that they would be water logged and extremely heavy.

Ms. Heidig suggested that Ms. McCormick and Mr. Benton get together regarding this, provide, an estimate for the cost to remove them.

Motion and vote: Mr. White made a motion, which carried by a vote of 6-0, to approve the Treasurer's report.

There was discussion about providing a 10-year overview of the funds for LAAC but it has been difficult collecting all of the correct documents since there are three secretaries for the Committee.

PLANNING SESSION

HYDRILLA

There was discussion that Mr. Doug Smith, Environmental Subcommittee Chair, had circulated a report from the Hydrilla Committee. Instead of there being 45 acres of hydrilla in the lake, there was actually only 1.6 acres of hydrilla. Thirty times more carp than needed were placed into the lake. There was also discussion that too many amateurs were involved and a lot of what was thought to be hydrilla was actually skunkweed. Discussion ensued regarding pulling back and being very careful about the use of carp. There are still too many in the lake.

Mr. McCotter stated that he wants the record to reflect that he did not and will not vote for the use of carp.

WAKE SURFING UPDATE

There was a discussion that DGIF has begun their meetings and that the LAAC is disappointed that this has been drawn out for so long. They are considering regulations statewide.

Mr. McCotter stated that it is not just a Lake Anna problem but also a statewide problem for Buggs Island, Lake Gaston, Smith Mountain Lake, etc. He stated that he went to a stakeholders meeting yesterday and that the meeting was excellent and provided an opportunity for many to share. He stated that he sincerely thanks Spotsylvania and Orange counties and we are within our right to go to DGIF and appeal. He stated that he is proud that the LAAC championed this issue. There was also discussion about doing an education campaign in the future. The 50-foot setback established back in 1998 is totally inadequate.

Mr. Shrum stated that it is destroying personal property and risking safety.

There was discussion about how long this is taking and Ms. Heidig reminded them that it is a political issue and feels it most effective for law enforcement. She stated that it is much more effective to be a law versus a regulation.

Ms. Perkinson inquired who would carry the bill forward.

The Committee stated that it would be our delegates.

BUOY DISCUSSION

Ms. McCormick stated that she does not have much to report but will as soon as the weather breaks and she can get out on the lake. She mentioned that Mr. McCotter has agreed to replace a light for her that they are aware is out.

OLD BUSINESS

The LAAC deferred request for no wake buoys and asked the water/safety navigation committee to look at developing a policy. Ms. McCormick stated that at Dillard's Bridge they have a request for the buoys to be moved back. She stated that wake surfers and larger boats are coming through and breaking adjacent seawalls. She stated that they sat down with Sgt. Schuller and they feel this may be a slippery slope because as soon as they do this one, others will request. These buoys were put in for safety reason. She stated that Richard Street with Spotsylvania County is in total agreement that they need to be moved. She stated that once we make that change we would have to perhaps, do it for others.

Mr. Benton stated that it is very narrow in that arrow and is in full support of moving them.

Mr. Shrum has concerned that it would be a slippery slope and he has two questions:

1. Exactly how wide would it be because we cannot put the no wake buoy on the bank
2. How many other places do we have these issues?

Ms. McCormick stated that they do have a policy that allows for moving them:

1. Safety (narrow area)
2. Erosion
3. Property Damage

They also explained that they had Richard Street and Deputy Schroeder come out to observe and they both agreed that it is very bad and needs to be addressed. They believe they should be moved back approximately 600 feet in the wider area by the common area.

Mr. Shrum stated that it seems to be a reasonable request.

Mr. McCotter raised concern that 30 homes could be affected because of two people. Some may be adamantly opposed. He suggested deferring action and letters being mailed to all the owners of record so that they can voice their concerns.

Ms. McCormick briefly discussed a lawsuit against Dominion regarding the hot side. DGIF cannot use state funds for a private waterway and the hot side is considered private. Dominion has to pay and be the authorizing agency for navigational aids. She stated that she spoke to Peery Agee and he gave us permission to install and maintain the current ones. She inquired if the Committee still feels that Dominion should pay for them since they are the authorizing agent and owner of the private side.

Ms. Heidig stated that she agrees with DGIF that we should not spend taxpayer money for a private lake.

Ms. Perkinson inquired about the ballpark estimate to get them back up and running.

Ms. McCormick stated that it would be at least \$2000 to get them back on track but they also need access to maintain them.

Mr. White stated that it seems the best approach would be for Dominion to make a request to LAAC to install and maintain. He stated that he feels that is the best role for them to play.

Ms. McCormick stated that Dominion views the lake differently. They look at it as a place where they keep hot water versus a recreational lake for fishing, boating, and swimming.

Mr. Shrum stated that he lives on the warm side of the lake and Dominion is a partner with LAAC. He stated that Louisa should contribute some monies since all of their residents live on that side.

Ms. McCormick stated that we are talking about 11 buoys.

There was discussion that this is clearly a partnership with Dominion because there is a MOA that DGIF has with Dominion.

WEBSITE

Mr. Shrum expressed his desire to align the LAAC webpage for each of the three participating Counties. The following suggestions were made:

- Standardization of County websites
- The possibility of a link to a mutual page;
- Include links to resources related to Lake Anna
- Make LAAC minutes searchable
- Possible creation of a LAAC website

Mr. Shrum stated that he has been in contact with Bob Hardy in Louisa and he is 100% ready to help them. He suggested that Bob should reach out to Paulette Mann for her assistance. Orange County is unwilling to help because they would have to pay someone to assist.

Ms. Heidig stated that one of the concerns that she has is that we do not have a primary point secretary for the Commission and it is rotating. The chair determines Admin support. The historical records of the Committee are fuzzy because of this.

BYLAWS

There was discussion regarding the amended bylaws. Some members have not had the chance to review them and Mr. White stated that he would send them out to the Committee members with the redlines. He suggested that this item be carried over to the next meeting. There has been confusion about the term for officers. In addition, there is a cooperative agreement that Virginia Power is a voting member.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McCotter mentioned issues at Dike 3 with a hole in the fence, trespassing occurring and litter. He stated that it is a mess but knows that there are plans to expand a use there with a pier. There was discussion about safety issue and cleaning up of litter from this committee.

Also briefly discussed was the fact that Louisa is no longer in FEMA flood insurance program and whether this was an issue for LAAC to be involved in.

Ms. Perkinson stated that Dominion sent a letter to FEMA in support.

Mr. Benton mentioned a website www.savelakeanna.com concerning wake surfers.

NEXT MEETING

The next LAAC Meeting will be held in Louisa County on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion and vote: Mr. Benton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shrum to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 6-0.

Paulette Mann, Spotsylvania County Secretary

Date