

The LSCCF Board at Work – Notes from the November 13, 2021 Board Meeting

As the weather turns colder and activity on the lake slows to a trickle of boats, the pace of business for the LSCCF also slows. In keeping with its usual practice, the Board will not meet in December, and we will be back in touch after New Year's. We hope everyone in the community has a wonderful holiday season!

The **key issues discussed during the November meeting** were the harvesting contract for the 2022 season; issuance of a statement about the presence of algae pods in the channel south of the bridge and Little Lake; how best to remove the aeration equipment from Little Lake; and final arrangements for the first monthly lottery drawing in early December.

After carefully considering other options and potential conflict of interest concerns in renewing a contract with a firm owned by a Board member without throwing the contract open to bid, **the Board decided to renew its contract with Green Mountain Building Services for the 2022 season at the same price point and conditions as the previous contract.** The primary reasons behind this decision were the excellent service we have received from GMBS over the past several years; the clear and transparent exclusion of the Board member in question from deliberations over how to handle the contract; and, concerns that an open competition would likely lead to a hefty increase in costs.

As noted last month, the Board had raised questions about **the appearance of algae pods in Little Lake and the channel south of the bridge** with the Lake St Catherine Association (LSCA) and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). LSCA board member Jerremy Jones was very helpful in pulling together the various responses received from the DEC and other concerned parties, and we have now shared this information with the community. We were unable to persuade a DEC official to come down to see firsthand what was happened. Absent testing of microscopic samples, the general consensus is that the two forms of algae seen were probably harmless variation of the same type, one that is fairly common around the state this year. Should these algae pods reappear next spring, particularly the gray-green version on the bottom, we plan to renew our efforts to convince the DEC come take a look.

The Board had a preliminary discussion of **how to remove the aeration equipment from Little Lake by August 31, 2022**, as ordered by the DEC. At this

point, we envision a two-week effort that will involve hiring staff and purchasing or renting some supplemental equipment. We anticipate using the harvester as the platform for much of the work, which will be an unbudgeted expense.

All but a handful of the 300 tickets for monthly lottery have been sold. (Anyone still wanting interested in winning \$1,000 at each month's drawing should contact Michael Marine at (202) 997-2796 as soon as possible.) LSCCF Vice President Robin Barkley will film the excitement of the first drawing at the Wells Town Hall on December 7. The film (and the announcement of the first winner) will be posted shortly afterwards on our website www.lakematters.com and our Facebook page.

The Board's next regular meeting - via Zoom – will take place at 9 am, Saturday, January 8. (To avoid Martin Luther King holiday weekend, we have moved this meeting to the second Saturday of the month rather than the normal third Saturday.) Check our website for any scheduling changes.

We hope that you find this information helpful. Please direct questions or comments to Michael Marine at marinemw2@hotmail.com.