

Town of Craftsbury Selectboard Minutes

~unapproved~

July 20, 2016

Agenda

- Big Hosmer Pond Discussion

The Selectboard met at the Craftsbury Town Hall on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 7 PM. Selectboard present were Bruce Urie, Jim Jones and Susan Houston. Perry Thomas (facilitator, Vermont Lakes & Ponds), Walter Smith (Derby Police), Russ Shepland (Fish & Game Dept), Hannah Smith (Vermont Lakes & Ponds attorney) and Albert Stringer (Marine Division State Police)

Other people in attendance: Bill Slocu, John Patterson, Belinda Paterson, Raymond LaPoint, Nancy Moran, Lydia Jones, Emlyn Jones, Steve Seafe, Sandy Thurston, Holly George, Sarah George, Mark George, Colleen George, Stephen George, June Pichel Cook, Samuel Dougherty, Linda Libby, Rob Libby, Elinor Osborn, Pepa Miloucheva, Andrea Carpentier, Patrick Guelakis, Sung-Hee Chung, Dick Dreissigacker, Judy Geer, Hannah Goerge, Kathy Fair, Topher Bordeau, Dan Haulis, Rita Benjamin, Brian Machesny, Mike Geore, Denis George, Jeanne Locke, Paul Locke, Ron Davis, Steve Glass, Geoffrey Purdy, Tony Jones, George Hall, Parker Washburn, Ted Beery Lucy Hankinson, Audrey Mangan, Andrew Reed, Peter Graves, Stephen Whelpley, Brian Gluck, Mary Davis, Richard Davis, Thaila Thomas, Ben Cardinal, Elizabeth Vogt, Maggie fellows, Riley Peters, Bernard Peters, Harry Miller, Jane & David Francis, s. Christopher Jacobs, Walt Gutzmann, Annelies McVoy, Sammy Leo, Kristen Fountain, Dan Roock, Mary Peters, Andrw Johnson, Cody Thomas, Joe & Kristy LaMare, Heather Mooney, Hallie Grossman, Amy Schultz, Eric Schultz, Russ Spring, Buz Congram, Chasidy LaMare, Pam Jasperston, Pavel Cenkl, Susan Durklee, Ethan Dreissigacker, Alex Howe, Emily Dreissigacker, Rocky Query, Cliff Riffles, David Sutherland, Patrick Kane, Kaitlynn Miller, Elizabeth Guiney, Linda Ramsell, John Brodhead, Paul Sargent, Linda Sargent, Suzanne Griffiths, Robert Griffiths, Mathew Derr, Julian Sharp, Michael Gibson, Tim Patterson, Matt Guba, Matt Stungel, Jon Hammond, Bob Fair, Lindsay Davis, Adam Trevits, Jessica Trevits and Emily Maclure.

Bruce welcomed everyone and asked people to sign in. He introduced Perry Thomas, Manager of Vermont's Lakes & Pond Program. Perry said no particular agenda, except to listen. She explained that Great Hosmer Pond is one of the State's public waters and we are all trustees, together responsible for safety (protecting water, quality habitat). Each voice is important, all people here have right to use the lake. Perry asked for comments to be brief, following the guideline of comments, going well, concern and remedy.

Perry introduced Hannah Smith, Vt.'s Lakes & Ponds Program Attorney DDC. She is prepared to petition for change in rules if so decided. Perry also introduced Walt Smith, Derby State Police; Albert Stinger, Vt. State Police and Russ Shotland, Vermont Game Warden.

--What rules/restrictions on Hosmer Pond?

Walt explained that about 1995, Great Hosmer Pond (along with some other bodies of waters) was exempt from the 5mph limit because of traditional waterskiing.

Russ said that he applies common sense unless a public safety concern. Usually power boats are a violation due to lack of expertise or lack of knowledge rules. Those can be resolved thru discussion. Measuring distances between vessels are a bit of a challenge, need to rely on common sense. More education is best way to address situations...

-Any petition to change rules, I feel will be a lose lose situation for everyone... The problem is tolerance of what other people do. Let everyone do what they want to do is a win win situation, motorboat/non motorboat.

-Is there speed limit rule 5 mph within 200 miles of shoreline?

(Perry noted is the law that Great Hosmer Pond is exempt from. There was a process in the 1990s that studied the conventional waters and regional areas. Places like Lake Eden and Great Hosmer where decided to be except).

- submitted her written comments to the Selectboard. Question on the 5 mph within 200 yards shoreline.

--concern fishing or any recreation again. Business dictating use of Big Hosmer. Monopolizing body of water. So extensive, use of lake scullers to exclusion of other uses. Remedy? Keep numbers down and no weekends.

-Issue here for some of property owners on Hosmer and some community members. Issue is that scullers, motorboats, canoes, fisherman, etc. all should have equal legal right to water. Need to determine way we can all use the lake and be more tolerable of each other. We reached out last year asking to cut down sculling hours down for this year, only a few small changes. Not remotely to what was asked. We will need to decide on ruling for safety, define commercial and non-commercial activity. There is no way we can be out there fishing, etc. at the same time when there is 35-40 sculling boats out practicing. Remedy: make rules that establish commercial use and recreational use.

-The COC does not make money, it is a non profit business. It brings in a million dollars to the local economy, employs 104 people and pays over \$146,000 in property taxes and \$100,000 to rooms and meals. It also enables programs for the community. The commercial property, Hosmer Point, the campers use the lake 4-1/2 hours/day. Due to response from neighbors, the COC has taken off a sculling weekend and extended some holidays to include the Monday. We've tried to have scullers off Saturday afternoon, have meetings instead. We've also done 2 electric launches, quieter and the coaches don't have to talk as loud.

-I have a joy of fishing and boating. The COC is a tremendous asset, with community outreach that is thoughtful and considerate of the lake. It would be wonderful if the special statute was reconsidered.

-As resident, understand goals of COC. Been there since 1976. Craftsbury Schools, wellness center, economically Hosmer Pond is why center exists today for employees and town. Milfoil is threat, percentage of COC funds work on managing that problem, monitors water quality levels, phosphate, etc. Sculls present since 1970s.

-not all commercial body property should dictate use. Some neighbors note done enough 33 years recreating on Hosmer. Very easy to paddle and avoid sculls. We should be happy they try to scull in middle of lake.

-Russ asked COC what would be an acceptable proposal for them. He is looking for common ground. Judy said they've tried, seems to make worse. Could do better of explaining the schedule though. Camps use 7:30-9, 11:30-1, 4-5:50 right now.

- can't fish when camps are going. If not constantly looking out, will get run into.. no remedy.

-gratefully comments coming together to hear each other. What are you passionate about? Rowing has been my passion since I was 18 years old,. Rowers have few opportunities to be in water, people come from all over the world to row on Great Hosmer Pond. Take treasure in it, I plead with you to share it with others in the rowing world. I live near Camel's Hump and understand, have to share it with visitors too .

- It's not the same when it's in your backyard and you have to live it. It is your home. family property over 60 years, co-owned 3 waterfront properties, pay lot of taxes. None of us would say COC is not good for the community. Point is we all work hard full-time so we can go up on the weekend and go out and fish etc. but we can't enjoy the lake anymore. Woken up at 6 am. Not asking to go away, please cut back so we can have some small personal time and joy the property.

-Very beautiful water, with loons, except for milfoil. I do think there is multi-use going up, stand up paddle boating and kayaks. Main concern too much frustration to make compromise realistic. I noticed July 4th boats that went out were Vt. Plates, no scullers. Appreciate the proposal idea, good to start somewhere. More communication. I don't think it's done as well as it could be. Remedy-smaller, closed room with representation from all sides.

-In Cambridge, Mass, have large rowing program with kayaks, canoes, yacht club, access ramp, make it work with 6 mph speed limit.

--win/lose for public. My passion is water skiing, 62 now, started 8/9 years old. We don't go out with other scullers. One boat can't go out when scullers are practicing with 40 sculls in the water. Remedy-division of time

-sad-loss is land owners for past hundreds years. Now everyone want to be on the lake. Someone is making money is taking away from land owner use. Landowner gets 0.

-I love to swim and paddle boating. Scary to go out when water skiers out there. That has impact on small lake.

-We have 2 thriving stores in town, thanks to landowners, COC, Sterling College, and people coming in to use the lake.

-It's my 23rd summer here, seen changes there. 7th summer on Hosmer Point. I'm not a commercial guy, just working with children, showing them getting into a shell for first time to canoe or kayak. Thankful for use of Hosmer Pond.

-Would like to see a clear, proposal of fishing, swimming and recreational kayaking.

-My passion for camp is 6th generation of George Property, want grandchildren to use body of water and not fear sculls running into them. The motor boats haven't been a problem, I've seen, with slowing down. People aren't going too fast, it's not the motor boats. There's too many sculls on the water at one time. No one else can be on the water when over 40 sculls are out there.

-the sculler hours doesn't affect the rest of us when we are out recreationally sculling.

-Used to enjoy water skiing, now transition to sculling. Once was harassed sculling, but mediated with lakeside neighbor and resolved. Haven't experienced since then.

--Schedule for commercial scullers: camps 7:30-7am, 11am-1pm, afternoon 4-5:30pm. There is a misconception that all scullers are COC and they aren't. Other scullers use the Great Hosmer Pond too. Plus there is community rowing, etc. Have lived in Craftsbury 3 years. Have experienced high speed motor boats, things are not okay; not common but has happened. Need for smaller mediation session.

-On camp 40 years, never problem. Scullers and motor boats. I've rowed against rowers, I don't see as issue. Respect for paddle boats, issue of taking into account who wants to be on lake. I paddle 12 times/year. Concerned with conflicts with speed boats.

-lots of classes we don't know about, just regular camps, Olympic rows and people in community going out. It still originates from COC, responsible for the sculls on the lake. We just ask that we can enjoy it too.

-tried some mediation in past. Not a mediation, a discussion, attempt to mediate. Problem town has, now our problem. We don't see problem going away. More and more people using it, looking for any solutions.

--Do have hope for a solution, sharing and tolerance. Incredible team here with their input and your input.

My camp is oldest on our lake, 1924. COC has tried but still a problem. We pay a lot of taxes, we need to find middle road between all of us. I agree it's a commercial business, but we all have rights.

--you are coming to our back dooryard, have respect.

-promoted mediation, believe mediator didn't do her job. I think mediation could be money well spent-fisherman, COC, Hosmer Point, campers, etc.

- See speed reduction big problem, not just us. I know some scullers are going more than 6 miles per hour. Gets a little tricky with all the scullers. Gotten better last few years. People tell them to watch now, used to get yelled at and now scullers are nicer about it.

-Perceptions, not about motor boats. Can't use water when scullers out. Some must be profiting, town and local areas, COC adds to it. 2 years ago, visit Craftsbury time laps photo lake. Lots of perceptions, emotional reaction to sculling. Don't hear people being screamed at now.

--lived on pond full-time for 40 years. People that live around Big Hosmer are just as passionate at COC. I also used to test the water here. I live here full-time, can't go anywhere else. I see it all, lots of rowers coming in. Remedy, not going to let it dominate life. Snowmaking very loud. Lake will never be what it was. Need to go on as it is.

-I work in transportation, ways to get surveys, get objective, not biased. COC has put a lot of thought in their schedule. Prohibiting sculling on weekends will also be affecting people like me that work during the week and can only scull on the weekend.

-survey wouldn't be accurate because fisherman don't come to Big Hosmer anymore.

-mediation, can all sit to talk about what passionate about.

-Thank you to the Glasses for donating public access, great gift (clap).

-Are there any traffic patterns established, places like Green Wood Lake.

-Would do you absolutely have to have, look for common purpose.

--How do we handle differences? It may not be complicated rules, need to defy them and few parameters. Rules can be publicized and motor boats use guidelines.

--why are scullers exempt from life jackets?

--US Coast Guard made rule. Vessels following supposed to have enough on board.

--concerned with person shining bright lights at the camps in the middle of the night, contacting State Police.

--Thank all for being here. Thanks to JohnBrodhead for his water quality work for many years (clap).

-If anyone interested in rule making, contact Hannah Smith.

Meeting ended 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Warren
Selectboard Clerk