

STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 27, 2020
6:30 p.m.
TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET

Present:

Chuck Cardillo, Roxanne McCaffrey, Patrick White and Mark Webber

Call to Order:

Chuck called the meeting to order.

First on the agenda was discussion and appointment of Deputy Director of Emergency Management. Chuck noted that the position had remained unfilled for a time now. Chuck recommended Scott Muir who was the Emergency Manager in the past, very qualified and Chris was in agreement with his appointment. Patrick asked if it should be the Fire Chief and Chuck said it should not be as he would be tied up on the fire end. Chuck added that Scott comes with a lot of experience. Mark noted that at this point it is meant to be fill in position as Chris takes family leave. Patrick asked if it was to be a temporary position and Chuck and Roxanne agreed that it was to be a permanent Deputy position. Patrick felt that it should be an advertised position. Roxanne said that this is an appointed, stipend position. Chuck made a motion that they appoint Scott. Roxanne seconded; vote: Roxanne: I, Chuck: I, Patrick: opposed.

Next was discussion on appointment of a member for School Committee vacancy. Chuck said that Dan Weston resigned from the committee and they are looking for candidates to fill the position until the November election and there are three years left on Dan's term. Mark noted that procedurally any interested party should contact the Administrator's office. Then at a joint meeting of the Select Board and the remaining two Stockbridge members of the school committee a decision and appointment would be made. Pat asked about the term and Roxanne stated that it was for the remainder of Dan Weston's term, after which there would be an election. Mark agreed that it was not election based.

Next was discussion on the appointment to the Regional School District Planning Board (Eight-Town). Chuck is on this Board and with a school committee member, there was one opening remaining. Mark said that they have an interested party. Chuck noted that as a State board, the Town Moderator, Gary Johnston will need to appoint them all.

Chuck next addressed the continuation of Hearing on New Annual All Alcoholic Beverages General On-Premises License Application for The Norman Rockwell Museum at Stockbridge, Inc. located at 9 Glendale Road. Chuck made a

motion that the Board approve the alcohol license for the Norman Rockwell Museum. Their current entertainment license ends at 11:00 p.m. The alcohol license will follow the hours set by the State (MGL CH 138). While the Town could set an end time of 11:00 p.m. for alcohol, research showed that the Town has followed State guidelines for all approved licensees. Roxanne noted that this is assuming there are no problems such as noise and complaints. Typically, with entertainment licenses ending at 11:00 p.m., there are not problems with the alcohol. Chuck asked for comments. Chuck made a motion that the Board approve the annual liquor license for the Norman Rockwell Museum. Patrick seconded. Vote: Roxanne: I, Patrick: I, Chuck: I.

Next was Thomas Coote with his report on Stockbridge Bowl. Tom referenced and gave a short version of the report below:

August 7, 2020

Report on the Distribution of Invasive Plants and
Marstonia lustrica in Stockbridge Bowl

Background

Otter Environmental Services (OES) was hired by Foresight Engineering to evaluate the status of invasive plants and the rare snail *Marstonia lustrica* within Stockbridge Bowl as part of an NOI application to conduct limited weed harvesting. This work was explicitly designed to evaluate the submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) community and the presence of the snail in water depths between 8'-15' which have been designated for harvesting. Specifically OES was to determine the extent of beds of Eurasian milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and Curly-leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) that either individually or combined exceeded 50% coverage, which would then be subject to harvesting. In addition, a survey of the pre-designated harvest areas was conducted to evaluate the presence and density of *M. lustrica* for the purpose of determining which areas if any had relatively high levels of the snail and should therefore be avoided during the harvest.

Results of the Snail Survey

There are three main "populations" of *M. lustrica* within the lake (GZA 2017): population #1 (the north end of the lake from the boat launch going north and east of Kripalu Beach), population #2 (midway down the southwestern shore, including the waters around the island and down to the constriction point of the channel), and population #3 (the southeastern shore located around the town beach). These populations have not been biologically determined and are mostly noted for convenience of conversation. On July 27th staff from OES conducted a lake survey targeting the identified populations of the snail, anticipating large beds of invasive plants within which to sample. Upon arrival it was clear that there were no beds of invasive plants within 8-15' of water. The only bed of milfoil found was a small patch of about 20 m² at the north end of the lake in less than 8' feet of water. In order to complete the snail portion of the survey we sampled in approximately 6-8' of water where we could reach plants. The only place we found significant stands of SAV in more than 8' that reached the surface was off of the town beach. The results are attached, but in summary there were significant numbers (> 0.25 ind/m²) of *M. lustrica*, particularly given the limited sampling conducted. However most of these samples were taken at least 4' below the surface so harvesting in those areas is unlikely to impact the snail this season.

Results of the Plant Survey

On July 28th staff from OES, along with staff from Foresight Engineering, surveyed the perimeter of Stockbridge Bowl in 8'-15' of water down to the constriction point of the channel. This initial survey was followed by an additional survey of the lake and channel by OES staff on July 31st, including depths less than 8'. The first survey focused on the predetermined harvest zone of the lake, while the second survey focused on less than 8' including the full length of the channel, and along private docks. In both cases these were not exhaustive surveys but were grab samples focused on finding and identifying invasive plants, along with whatever came up in a net, or could be collected from the surface. The result is only a partial list of all plants in the lake, although we believe the attached list represents most of the common plants in the system.

On both occasions no extensive beds of invasive plants were found, with the exception of 1) the very small patch of milfoil at the north end, and 2) what appears to be the widespread *Najas minor* (lesser naiad). Concerning the later there may well be more than one species or similar appearing plants in the lake. It is a short plant and is often mixed in with the native *Chara* species.

Within the main lake in waters 8'-15' there were virtually no emergent plants with the exception of native *Potamogeton* species, found around the lake in very small patches and in larger patches on the southeastern shore including off of the town beach. In waters less than 8' deep there were also relatively small patches of emergent native plants, with some clearly growing densely around docks.

While extensive beds of milfoil were not found in the lake or the channel there were single individual plants around the perimeter of the lake and higher densities in the channel. Most of the milfoil found was not reaching the surface of the lake, but were sparse and relatively short. There were some areas of the channel where milfoil was reaching the surface.

Plants that are clearly a nuisance for recreational purposes, particularly around some docks and within the channel, include extensive beds of native species, including *Potamogeton* sp. *Nymphaea odorata*, and *Ranunculus aquatilis*, along with a variety of low growing genera such as *Chara* and *Utricularia* sp., as well as thick beds of the invasive *Najas minor*. The extensive beds of milfoil and *P. crispus* typically found on the lake were absent.

Plant Species found in Stockbridge Bowl

Native Plants found throughout the lake and channel:

Eloдея canadensis Michaux (northern water-weed)
Nymphaea odorata Aiton (white water lily)
Potamogeton cf. *pusillus* L. (tiny pondweed) Native
Potamogeton robbinsii Oakes (Robbins Pondweed)
Potamogeton amplifolius Tuckerman (big-leafed pondweed)
Potamogeton nodosus Poir. (long-leaved pondweed)
Potamogeton perfoliatus L. (perfoliate pondweed)
Ranunculus aquatilis L. (common water-crowfoot)
Sparganium emersum Rehmman (green-fruited bur-reed)
Utricularia sp. (bladderwort)

Introduced/Invasive plants:

Myriophyllum cf. *spicatum* L. (spiked water-milfoil, Eurasian milfoil) – throughout the lake in shallows and mostly as single short plants.
Najas minor All. (lesser naiad) – throughout the lake and channel, although there may be more than one species present.
Potamogeton crispus L. (curly pondweed) – one single plant found floating on the surface, no others observed.
Trapa natans L. (water-chestnut) – small patch at the entrance to the channel.

Notes

The clarity of the lake was notable with a secchi disk reading of 21' on August 31st. The water was very warm with a reading of 34.5C° in the middle of the lake at 1' below surface.

Stockbridge Bowl snail survey for Foresight
27-Jul-20

Sample location	latitude	longitude	notes	sediment	plant community (dominant listed first)	M. lustrica	ML density	A. limosa	Plan	Physid
Channel #1 (entrance)	42.32954	73.32301	4' deep, coord are +/- 16 m	mud/marl	vallisneria and chara	0	0	3	6	1
Channel #2	42.32842	73.32339	4' deep	mud/marl	chara and nymphaea	0	0	70	14	5
Channel #3	42.32734	73.32521	4' deep	mud/marl	Potom sp., vallisneria, milfoil	1	0.5	45	4	0
Town Beach #1	42.32673	73.31808	8-10'	undetermined	Potom sp., vallisneria	0	0	1		
Town Beach #2 (in front of swim area)	42.32703	73.31728	8-10'	undetermined	Poto sp., vallisneria, chara	3	1.5	22	16	3
Town Beach #3	42.32759	73.317	8-10'	undetermined	Poto sp., chara, najas	1	0.5	7	0	0
Western shore #1 (immediately off island)	42.32784	73.32146	6-8'	undetermined	Potom sp., vallisneria, elodea	1	0.5	20	7	2
Western shore #2	42.33162	73.32296	6-8'	undetermined	Potom., chara, najas, elodea	1	0.5	60	16	2
Western shore #3	42.33402	73.32291	~6'	undetermined	Potomo., vallisneria, elodea, chara, najas	0	0	50	14	1
North Shore #1	42.34232	73.32288	6-8'	undetermined	Najas, potom sp, single milfoil stem	2	1	30	19	1
North shore #2 (off Kriplau beach)	42.34339	73.32142	6-8'	undetermined	vallisneria,potom., elodea, milfoil, najas	2	1	95	15	1
North shore #3	42.34397	73.31982	~5' deep	undetermined	milfoil, vallisneria, elodea	3	1.5	160	50	4

In summary Tom stated that there are clearly nuisance plants, which are native, particularly in the channel but were surprised to find no extensive beds of milfoil or *P. crispus*; almost none. The only milfoil observed by the survey were small individual plants not reaching the surface, and one spot at the very far north end reaching the surface. Really no *P. crispus* was found aside from one entire floating plant. Tom felt that these findings were strange. As far as the rare snail, typically he finds a low incidence of *Marstonia lustrica*, and the lake had lots of them, relatively speaking. Unsure of what to make of the findings, in terms of the snail, the time of year may be critical in finding them with late July being the premium time. Another thing to note about the Stockbridge Bowl was that this spring the water was incredibly clear. More milfoil was found down the channel but not as thick as in the past. Patrick questioned the differences around seasons and Tom said that based on his experience on Stockbridge Bowl, the relative amounts might go up and down but it had not been his experience that there have been significant swings in milfoil coverage on the Bowl. He said that he had not been out every year but most years; at least once in early fall. Roxanne asked Tom how long he had been working on the Stockbridge Bowl and he said he began formally in 1999. When asked if he had ever experienced such a dramatic change from one year to the other in terms of aquatic plant life, Tom said that he had not ever seen anything like that on Stockbridge Bowl or at any other lake either. Chuck asked if not doing a draw down would have affected this and Tom said he had a colleague who speculated on the draw down potentially having an impact but there are issues with those speculations. Patrick asked how far up the stems the snails crawl and Tom said he did not have a good answer for that but no one has really looked or questioned it. The snails were found pretty far down this year as were the weeds. It was his opinion that something has shifted in the system. Tom's position on harvesting concerning the snails is that by the time the harvester gets to the plants, most of the snails would have felt the

vibrations in the water and have fallen off of the plants to the bottom; not the end of the world for the snail. He does think differently about herbicides. If snails are laying eggs on the plants and you treat those areas with herbicides, you could safely assume that those eggs would no longer persist. Patrick asked if Tom made that point to NHESP and he said that he had. Patrick questioned the finding of a bed of invasive water-chestnut. Tom said he would not call it a bed but due south just off the island there is a small patch and they should be manually removed. Tom noted that there may be other areas in other places in the lake with it as well. Jaime Minacci, chair of the Stockbridge Bowl Stewardship Committee, asked 1) if milfoil is an invasive, is there an indigenous species, other than the Weevil that is eating the milfoil, 2) with a long ice season and no harvesting could this have affected the clarity of the lake and 3) how long would Tom need to study the milfoil cycles to state that it is leaving the Stockbridge Bowl? Tom said that concerning the last question, there may have been studies and that milfoil may have a cycle but it is not his understanding of milfoil to date. Once milfoil is in the system it generally sticks around, it likes a disturbed habitat and will root in newly disturbed soils. Research could be done to see if there is a mystery cycle. Tom said that he was not aware of any other species that eats the milfoil. In a general sense he said that the fact that we have been in a drought with low rainfall, it may have lent to the clarity of the lake. Typically, the lack of water clarity is due to high levels of phytoplankton and it is clear that those levels are or at least were really low. Monthly or weekly analysis is needed to pick up on the system as it is changing. Roxanne said that this what they are currently doing; monthly monitoring of the lake. Jaime asked if any household chemical could have affected the plants or snails. Tom said he did not know of any household chemicals but the right herbicide could do the trick.

Next was Patrick with an update on 1783 Ox Roast/King Solomon archaeology project and National Parks Service grant for testing at the 1739 Meetinghouse site—by the Chime Tower - Stockbridge-Munsee Community. Patrick stated that the Stockbridge Munsee Committee has two grants; one from our CPC and the other from the National Parks Service to do an archaeological evaluation of the 1739 Meetinghouse site which is by the Chime Tower. Both projects are on Town lands and Patrick read a letter.

Chuck updated that probably the first week in September following elections the air conditioning in the building would be worked on, replacement of lines, and completed in a week or two.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Chuck adjourned the meeting.