

## WHLSPOA Meeting Minutes

The spring meeting of the West Hill Lake Shore Property Owners Association was held on June 28, 2008 at Brodie Park. President Tom Beecher opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Officers present were Tom Beecher, Pat Gallagher, Sue O'Rourke and Claire DePersia. Governors present were Peter Hawley, Katherine Roden and Paula Ivany. Evie Smith and Skip Sly were also present. Tom thanked the East Side led by Paula Ivany and Pat Gallagher for the great job. The picnic was attended by approximately 75 people.

The minutes of the August 25, 2007 were approved.

Sue O'Rourke reported that we have collected \$2,290 in dues. Our expenses totaled \$633, which includes insurance, postage, printing and envelopes. The balance in the checking account is \$6,053 and the Fixed Galaxy Fund is \$8,501, which is earning 3.1%. She sent out dues invoices totaling \$4,720, which includes 103 regular members and 20 associate members. Current dues receivable is \$2,430. We have budgeted \$1,780 for the water testing charges, which is conducted every other year. That is an increase of \$180.

### Local Issues:

New Hartford: Peter Hawley reported that the triathlon will be on July 7, 2008. No other issues were reported.

Barkhamsted: No report given.

Membership: Evelyn Smith talked about an information packet for new members, which includes By-laws, and boating regulations. She encouraged us to meet our new neighbors, encourage them to become members, give them an application and invite them to the picnic. We should also notify Sue O'Rourke.

Lake Management/Water Quality: Tom asked for volunteers to form a committee as Bob Pelletier needed to step down as lead for water management issues. He would be happy to be on the committee but not the lead.

Skip Sly talked about the Pond Association which is comprised of seven trustees representing major property owners around the lake: Camp Sequassen, Camp Workcoeman, Laurel Acres, the Town of New Hartford, the Beach Club, WHLSPOA and Marston Trails and one legal counsel. He wanted to know if someone in our association would like to become a trustee. Skip would remain as a trustee but he would represent himself. The dam was inspected and passed. They have also made application to become a non-profit organization, applying for a 501C3 status. The purpose is to raise money and people can donate money on a tax-deductible basis and also the Association could then make applications for grants to certain foundations that are involved in water quality. The Pond Association is also in charge of lowering the lake in the fall. The draw down this year will start on October 15<sup>th</sup> to the end of October. The draw down is later because of the netting of the salmon, which are taken to the hatchery and raised. A more formal change in their draw down plans will be proposed at their August meeting. Anyone who wants input, please see Skip.

Skip also has done more research on pond weeds. The Ross family (East Side) have weeds in front of their swimming dock. It has been identified as a Ribbon Leaf Pond Weed (not invasive). There are ways to get rid of it (pull it up or with chemicals). Skip also came across a gentleman who does dredging and that cove where they live has been silted in for many years. The silt comes off of Laurel Acres. Skip will do more research on this, as this is very expensive

## WHLSPOA Meeting Minutes

and will get back to us. An acre of dredging he estimates would cost between \$16,000 to \$20,000. He is in favor of dredging because it would last, whereas chemicals work for awhile and then need more chemicals. Questions and answers followed regarding funding. Skip said that each trustee of the Pond Association is assessed \$450. This covers keeping the dam in good shape and a liability policy. If they get a 5013C federal tax designation, this would be the avenue to follow in order to apply for grants. Pat Gallagher talked about assessments for members to cover weed elimination costs. Tom said we need more information and we need more volunteers to gather information to answer questions.

George Knoecklein from the Northeast Aquatics will be doing water quality testing in August. George said that there are plants in the lake recently identified by the Connecticut Agricultural Extension Service as Curly Leaf Pond Weed (an invasive species). He said that he had not seen it before because it grows in April/May, flowers in June and dies off in July. He recommended coming out in June to perform a thorough plant investigation and analysis. The Board decided this needed to be performed. He did complete such a survey. He said in an email, read by Tom Beecher: “ the good news, I found no new curly leaf pond weed.” A written report will follow.

The owners of property on Camp Workcoeman Road were issued cease and desist orders by the Town of New Hartford Inland Wetlands Commission due to the fact that the road has deteriorated in condition, where it was causing increased run off at the large hill, into the brook at the bottom and then into the lake. Camp Workcoeman has funded an engineering study and plans were put together. These plans were reviewed by the town’s engineer recently and some revisions were made. The final plans were submitted to the Wetland Commission a week ago. A representative from the Camp is going to put the information out to bid.

West Hill Storytellers: Evelyn thanked everyone for their stories. She also thanked Phil Haven and Lynn Deloy. The printer needs one-third of the printing cost up front. It was decided that our group would front up to \$1400 for the book (100 books). All were in favor.

Evelyn shared with Tom, and Tom read to the group, a tribute to Irving Mills, which was written by the Heritage Land Preservation Trust in honor of Irving. A living memorial park on Torrington Street/Pleasant Street will be known as the Irving Mills Memorial Property on Pleasant Street.

Website: Tom talked about the Yahoo website, which seems to be giving problems to many of us. Pat Gallagher was generous enough to buy the rights to WestHillLake.org and we have the ability to set up a new website which should be more user friendly. Tom asked for volunteers.

The fall picnic will be on August 23, 2008. Marston Trails will be in charge.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire DePersia  
Recording Secretary