

The fall meeting of the West Hill Lake Shore Property Owners Association was held on Saturday, August 29, 2009 at 10 a.m. at Camp Workcoeman. President Tom Beecher called the meeting to order at 10:57 a.m. This was the first brunch meeting and was attended by more than 115 people. All members received a free ticket for a prize drawing with additional tickets being sold (10 tickets for \$5). Half the money collected (\$110) was given away to a lucky member and the other half (\$110) was donated to Camp Workcoeman. In addition, donated gift baskets were also raffled off. After thanking Kathy Roden and the West Side for hosting the successful brunch, he introduced the officers.

The minutes from June 27, 2009 were approved and accepted.

Sue O'Rourke reported that we have collected \$4,350 in dues. There are 11 members that have not paid. The cost of the spring picnic was \$272. After various expenses of donations, insurance, printing, postage and the picnic we have a net income of \$3,162. The water quality testing is every other year and this year is an off year. The balance in the checking account is \$8,463. The fixed annuity is about \$8,774. Estimated income for the fixed annuity from June 1, 2009 through August 29, 2009 is about \$68. The treasurer's report was approved and accepted.

#### Local Issues:

New Hartford: Blake Hall spoke to Beth Paul, the assessor. Her telephone number is 379-5235 and she is willing to sit down with those who wish to know the details regarding how their house and neighborhood were assessed. The town was notified that they are receiving a grant from the Justice Department and part of that money will be used to buy a police boat. Presumably next year, we will have some coverage on the lake.

Tom explained the two values that are discussed. One is called the appraised value of the property and the other is the assessed value. The assessed value is 70% of the appraised value and what we should be concerned about is the appraised value, which should be the fair market value of your property on October 1, 2008. The statutes spell out specifically how the towns must conduct the revaluation and this program of establishing your taxes based on your appraised value. We have the right to appeal. However, the question you need to ask yourself under this system is: look at the appraised value, would you be happy if someone paid you that amount for your property. If the answer is yes, then you are all right or if you are disappointed, then you are in better shape because the town has undervalued your property. You can make an appeal even if you missed the present cycle. If you choose to make an appeal, you need an appraisal of your property which will show that the town is wrong, or something comparable, such as your neighbor who has the exact same improvements to the property and the same acreage, but the neighbor's appraisal is lower than yours, or that the town has made some other mistake. Many spoke about the revaluation--John Plaschkes, Blake Hall, John Turek, Goz Gozzelin, and Richard Brodie. Once the revaluation is set it will remain the same for the next 5 years.

Barkhamsted: Bob Pelletier reported that the North End Store will be closing on October 14, 2009. The Pleasant Valley Store is closing and they are painting the Riverton Bridge.

#### Lake Management:

Skip Sly reported that they are going to be lowering the lake around October 15<sup>th</sup> or earlier. It depends on how early the State of Connecticut takes the salmon. The Pond Association has applied for a grant to the State for money to do a study on storm water run off around the lake. If we get the grant, we have a 40% share that we need to provide. They have spoken to a few members about donations. The Pond Association is now a 501(c), and therefore any money donated is tax deductible. Skip will contact those interested in donating when the grant application is approved or denied.

Skip also explained that the collection of adult salmon is a week or two process. They place nets in the lake in two locations in early October. If they are successful they will collect the salmon in two weeks. Skip also reminded members that if they plan to do any work on their shoreline, they need a permit.

Water Safety: Tom mentioned that, according to Bill Adamsen, there have been staff, at least on weekends, at the boat ramp checking that people are putting clean boats in the lake and complying with the water safety rules. Bill Dickson addressed the members to increase our awareness of water safety issues.

Goz reported on the West Hill Story Tellers book. They are in their 3<sup>rd</sup> printing. We sold over 250 books. Rick Goulet, the printer, has three books left.

Membership: Evie introduced new members:

Ann and Bob Switzgable (Map #119). They have three sons—Ben, Wesley and Sam.

Brenda and Wayne Pelletier (Map #1). Brenda's father is Norman Lavoie.

Janet, Ray and Matthew Carrano (Map #87).

Lorraine and Dave Miner (Map #108).

John and Glenna Cawans (Associate members)  
289 Niles Road

Evelyn Smith has sold her cottage which she bought in 1965 and we will miss her! She brought fun and laughter to all around the lake. We called her the "Mayor of the Lake." She served our Association as President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Chairman. She was presented with a wooden bowl and picture of the lake.

Tom read a thank you letter from Brodie Park thanking our Association for our generous donation with which they installed more benches, a climbing tower and playground surfaces.

Our next meeting will be June 26, 2010 hosted by the North End.

The meeting was adjourned 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully yours,

Claire Maloney DePersia

Recording Secretary

