

**West Hill Lake Shore Property Owners Association
Meeting Minutes, June 30, 2007
Recorded by Barbara Pelletier**

WHLSPOA President, Tom Beecher, opened the meeting at 6:55 PM. Tom welcomed members and asked Goz to introduce the guest speaker, Jamie Hall who spoke about the history of the lake.

The Hall family owned land at the south end of the lake dating back to 1895. The Hall family gave land to establish Camp Sequassen in 1927 and then additional land in 1957 with the agreement that the land would remain a wilderness area for all to enjoy.

Tom resumed the meeting at 7:15. Several topics were discussed:

Meeting minutes will now be mailed in advance for members to read prior to the next meeting. This will eliminate the need to read meeting minutes aloud during the meeting. Tom asked for comments regarding the meeting minutes from September 2, 2006. Upon motion made and seconded, members voted to accept the minutes.

Budget: Treasurer, Susan O'Rourke reported on the budget. Dues notices were mailed (along with meeting minutes, lake summary report, new boating regulations and cover letter) on June 1. Total member fees due = \$3,700 (for 110 regular members and 20 associate members.) To date, \$1,770 has been collected in dues. Expenses to date total \$700. The cash balance is \$4,106. The fixed annuity value is \$8,206.

New Hartford News: Blake Hall reported that New Hartford "Connections" donated \$2000 to the town toward the purchase of a patrol boat for West Hill Lake. In addition, the town donated \$1,500. Blake reported that approximately \$6,500 to \$10,000 will be needed to staff a patrol boat. Blake proposed that WHSPOA consider making a contribution. Tom Beecher said that he will meet with Board members and the 1st Selectman on this topic. Tom will address this issue with members at a future meeting.

Barkhamsted News: Bob Pelletier reported that there are problems with road oiling on Perkins Road on the North end of the lake. The road is messy and the town is re-sanding. Bob also shared that the town will re-evaluate property but a change in tax rate is not expected.

Old Business: New boating regulations were officially passed in January, 2007. The new regulations were distributed to members in the last mailing. Tom thanked Stash Karoliszyn for updating the signs by the boat launch.

Lake Report: Bob Pelletier reported that a study was done on water quality of the lake in August '06. A summary was sent to all members in the last mailing. A complete report is available and can be sent in e-mail for members who want a copy. Although the overall findings were positive, the report showed an increase in the phosphorous level. Potential causes are use of fertilizers, septic problems and storm drain run-off. In addition, algae growth was reported by Evie Smith and sent to the Northeast Aquatic Research consultant. The consultant noted that lake construction could contribute to the algae growth through silt and sediment which is nutrient-rich. A field visit is planned for July and areas of storm water run-off will be examined. Members who observe algae growth or run-off areas of concern should contact Bob Pelletier.

Member Discussion: Several members shared comments and concerns about the lake report. Member proposed that the association have a pro-active plan to keep the lake healthy. Member(s) expressed concern about damage to Pond Road and poor town drainage contributing to water run-off. A member had reported this to the town but nothing was done about it. Members expressed concern about Canada geese. Members noted that many people around the lake continue to use fertilizers. Members expressed concern that use of fertilizers on lake shore property is not regulated. Tom stated that the association needs to get additional information to learn more about the sources of the problem. Barbara Pelletier and Christine Banks volunteered to put together educational information for members and for distribution to residents within the watershed.

West Hill Story Tellers: Goz invited members to submit a story for the West Hill Story Tellers book that will be published by Evie Smith. The deadline to submit a story is August 25. Goz is looking for a volunteer who knows how to use Microsoft Publisher to help.

Additional comments from Tom Beecher:

- Patrick Gallagher purchased and will donate the domain name for a potential new website for the organization: WestHillLake.org.
- New members, Dave and Sandy Pergola, were introduced.
- Thanked the West Side for hosting the picnic.
- Reminded members about the next picnic and meeting to be held on August 25 at 6 PM at Camp Workcoeman which will be hosted by the North End members.

Tom adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.