

**West Hill Lake Shore Property Owners Association  
Minutes of Membership Meeting  
Saturday, August 23, 2014**

Attendees – Officers and Governors:

Pat Gallagher, President  
Peter Hawley, Vice President  
Sue O’Rourke, Treasurer  
Barbara Linton, Corresponding Secretary  
Lorraine Miner, West Governor  
Stash Karoliszyn, North Governor  
Blake Hall, South Governor  
Jill Smith, East Governor  
Nancy Gilbert, Secretary  
(Unable to attend: Tom Beecher, Past President)

Attendees - Committee Members:

Linda Gallagher, Membership Committee  
Lynne Florio, Membership Committee  
Brenda Pelletier, Local Issues, Barkhamsted  
Blake Hall, Local Issues, New Hartford  
Bill Adamsen, Lake Management Committee (unable to attend)  
Pete Humphrey, Lake Management Committee  
Steve Unger, Lake Management Committee

Location: Camp Workcoeman, New Hartford CT

Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 10:55 AM.

Pat started the meeting thanking Lorraine Minor and her West side colleagues for hosting the brunch and Frank Galiher from Camp Workcoeman for sharing the space.

Pat introduced the officers, governors, Dave McNally from LAPOA, and Mary Hardequin, West Hill Beach Club representative and “invasive investigator” volunteer.

Pat opened the floor for questions about the minutes from June 28, 2014 meeting. There were no questions or corrections. Upon motion duly made and seconded the minutes of the June 28, 2014 membership meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Sue O’Rourke gave the Treasurer’s report as follows: WHLSPOA has \$24,028 in its checking account. We received \$6,690 in dues and have spent \$984. This includes \$646 for insurance, \$198 for the spring picnic, \$100 donation to Camp Workcoeman, and \$40 for the camp counselors.

There are roughly 22 members who have not paid their dues. Sue has a list those who haven’t paid, and you can contact her if you’re not sure you paid.

There were no questions about the report. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Treasurer's report was approved.

Membership Committee Report:

Linda gave the membership committee report. New members were introduced: Mike and Kim Cunningham from Pond Road.

Local Issues:

New Hartford –Blake reported that the Town of New Hartford cleaned the catch basins along Workcoeman Road and they are in the process of getting bids for the storm water remediation project on Harriet Road area (Rickie, Davis, Dorothy and Harriet Road). This is important as the Lennard study identified this as a priority area for remediation.

He also reported that football was moved from Brodie South to the Ann Antolini school, but can come back for short periods if necessary.

A member asked the question if the town will clean the catch basins around the lake. Blake responded that we should be able to influence that.

Barkhamsted - Brenda Pelletier reported that Bill Whitman finishes duty at the State boat launch October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Lake Management Committee - -Water Quality Issues/ Comments/Actions:

Pete Humphrey informed the group of the hearing September 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Town Hall to discuss the proposed plan to address run off issues, including erosion of the beach sand at Brodie Park waterfront. (The run off of the sand into the lake contributes to the weed problem.) The town is proposing cutting a lot of trees between the parking lot and the water and planting a rain garden.

He visited the park and took photos of the erosions channels during a rainstorm and feels that there are additional options to consider other than cutting all the trees. Some options worth exploring include erecting a two foot stone wall along the parking lot facing the water and/or installing swales and drains to divert water into the woods.

The membership unanimously agreed that we want the town to consider alternative options to cutting the trees, and that it is important for members to attend the meeting, even if they don't speak. It was agreed that Pete would speak on behalf of the WHLSPOA to present our position to oppose cutting the trees for this rain garden.

Mary Hardequin will notify the Beach Club board and will also attend the meeting. Dave McNally will notify LAPOA and will attend the meeting as well.

Pete described an experiment conducted with different materials in mason jars with water. Unwashed sand stayed cloudy for days and is the worst material to use. Washed sand was slightly better. Pea gravel was the best. Camp Sequassen is using pea stone (on a trial basis) where they store the canoes and kayaks, and LAPOA is also going to use pea stone for their canoe and kayak area.

He reminded everyone that any work done along the waterfront needs to go through the permitting process. This includes a hearing in front of the Inlands Wetland Commission.

Pete reported that about ten homes took advantage of the discount from the collective septic cleaning and that the program will be offered once a year.

West Hill Pond Association:

Skip reported that the water draw down will happen by October 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a two foot draw down. Every five years is the three foot draw down. That is scheduled for 2016.

He also updated the membership on the following:

- Northeast Aquatic Services completed three days of weed harvesting. It took two divers three days, six hours per day and cost \$2,600 per day. The town paid for the third day.
- The process of using a camera on the bottom of a boat, along with a GPS system identifies the types of weeds and maps where they are growing. Teddy Bear has a large growth of pond weed and added an extra day.
- South shore, Southwest and Southeast had abundant weeds in the major intake areas. This is mostly red leaf pond weed.
- Red leaf pond weed in 2010 measured 17 and was 13 in 2013.
- Algae measured between five and twenty. This is high because of the nutrients in the water.
- Phosphorous was highest yet – ten parts per billion. *Nine to ten is the tipping point or the point of no return, and we are right there.*
- He encouraged everyone to use phosphorous free products. *Nitrogens and phosphates cause the weeds!*
- Large leaf pondweed exists. It is aggressive but not classified as invasive.

Skip said this lake takes 5.3 years to turn over and retains phosphorous. There is no filtration system to take phosphorous out of the lake.

There are storm surveys available from Skip Sly.

General Comments/Questions/Actions:

There was a general discussion about the disproportionate increase in property taxes for homes on the lake compared to the rest of the town, and if this can be leveraged to get more town assistance, regulation or funding for lake issues. Blake explained the budget process and how proposals are submitted to the Board of Finance. We can submit proposals as well, but we need to attend meetings and vote to influence decisions.

Steve asked if we have a list of things we would ask for. Pat suggested we form a new committee to develop a strategy and to lobby the town for more services and help in maintaining the lake water quality.

Members commented that they have weeds that they never had before. They cleared weeds from 50' out but not along the shoreline. Everyone was encouraged to pull weeds early, before the seeds fall and root. Handouts will be available on the website for information on protecting water quality.

Pat and the entire membership thanked Skip for the great job he does.

Mary Hardequin acknowledged and thanked the people involved in the monitoring. She reported that 34 volunteers have been trained to date. Seven were trained in June. Only ten volunteered to work at the boat launch. We need more volunteers for three hours to help prevent a serious problem from developing. She informed the group about serious issues Lake George has with invasive weeds and how every boat needs to be state inspected and pressure cleaned if anything is found.

The DEP has reduced Bill Whitman's hours at the boat launch, so it is more important than ever to help. She posted a new sign-up sheet for volunteers.

#### Nomination and Election of Officers:

Pat recapped the officer positions and terms as follows:

- President – two year term; two term limit;
- Officers – two year term, no term limit;
- East, West, North South Governors – four year terms, not overlapping

Stash nominated the following candidates:

- East Governor – Richard Abraham
- West Governor – Lorraine Miner
- Recording Secretary – Nancy Gilbert
- Corresponding Secretary – Barb Linton
- Treasurer – Sue O'Rourke
- Vice President – Steve Unger
- President – Pete Humphrey

A motion was made and duly seconded to elect the proposed officers.

#### Adjournment:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Gilbert, Recording Secretary.