

**West Hill Lake Shore Property Owners Association
Minutes of Membership Meeting
Saturday, August 29, 2015**

Attendees – Officers and Governors:

Pete Humphrey, President
Steve Unger, Vice President
Sue O'Rourke, Treasurer
Barbara Linton, Corresponding Secretary
Lorraine Miner, West Governor
Blake Hall, South Governor
Rich Abraham, North Governor
Pat Gallagher, Past President
Stash Karoliszyn, North Governor

Attendees - Committee Members:

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

Location: Camp Workcoeman, New Hartford CT

Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 10:36 AM.

Pete asked anyone with comments or edits to the minutes of the last meeting to contact him.

Steve introduced Sean Hayden, our guest speaker. Sean is the Executive Director of the Northwest Conservation District. Steve began by quoting from the book "Blue Mind" by Wallace Nichols. The book is about man's relationship with water and the importance of water to our physical and mental well-being.

Skip Sly encouraged us to think and care for the lake as we would a swimming pool. We wouldn't let storm water run-off from our roofs or lawns into pools, blow leaves and grass clippings into pools, etc. We should treat the lake the same way.

Sean is a soil scientist and with responsibilities for inland wetland delineation, natural resource mapping, sediment and erosion control plan certification, stormwater quality management plan reviews, promoting Low Impact Development strategies, construction inspections, and the design and implementation of municipal commission education/training programs. Sean is a well-known professional throughout the region

and is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control and a Connecticut Certified Soil Scientist.

He said West Hill is at the top of the watershed and is considered the headwater for Morgan Brook. The area of Morgan Brook from West Hill to Route 44 is on the "Impaired" list of waterways, which means there are unhealthy levels of contaminants in the water. (During the Q & A he said that ecoli is one of the problems with Morgan Brook.) 50% of the streams in CT are on the "Impaired" list. Once on the list, remediation to get removed is difficult, expensive, and a long process.

Sean stated that we need to control storm water run-off for many reasons. It introduces atmospheric pollutants, fertilizers, and several harmful agents that need to be cut off before they enter the lake. Deeply rooted vegetation is a good buffer and filter for this handling storm water.

He shared many photographic examples of rain gardens being used as bio-retention areas for Low Impact Development. Rain gardens can be a 6" depression or bump with plants to filter the water before it runs into the lake. Water in the rain garden should drain within 24-48 hours. Lawns should have a way of diverting water to areas for filtering, or a buffer at the shore to prevent free flowing run-off into the lake. Most of the storms we get have a 1 inch or less rainfall an hour. A simple rain garden or buffer will handle 90% of the storm water run-off.

He showed how pavers worked to control run-off in Torrington. They are capable of absorbing 9 inches of rain an hour. Steve asked if pavers work in for sloped properties. Sean said they would not work on a steep driveway. A water diversion tactic is also necessary.

Blake said masonry sand works well. Through testing they determined that his rain garden completely filters the storm water that enters.

Skip asked how we find resources for help. Sean said UConn published a book with information, including a list of plants to use in the rain garden. He also said the Conservation District will help.

Dave from LAPOA said the DEEP needs to redo the boat launch in 2017, and how should we get proper conservation addressed in the design. Karen Nelson said the agencies will collaborate, and they will advise.

A question and answer period followed.

Treasurer's Report

Sue O'Rourke gave the Treasurer's report. We currently have \$20,835 in the checking account. We received \$6,740 in dues and had a total of \$6,927 in expenses. Expenses included:

- \$1,341 Lake Smart signs;
- \$4,000 to the Pond Association for Water Quality testing;
- \$232 for Spring picnic;
- \$100 donation to Camp Worcoeman;
- \$747 insurance expense;
- Various expenses of postage, office and picnic supplies.

There are fourteen members who have not paid their dues, and Sue encouraged them to pay. She has a list of prior years' dues that have not been paid. She asked the membership for help in identifying properties that were sold so she can remove them from the list.

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

Membership Committee Report:

Linda introduced and welcomed David Dery from Marstan Trails as a new associate member and Martin and Robin Siefert as new full members .

Local Issues:

New Hartford –Blake mentioned that there will be diving schools in the lake. They will not be looking for anything, just conducting training.

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

Bill Adamsen set up a demonstration with jars and different sands and water to show the difference in water clarity for each.

He showed the equipment that was purchased for monitoring the water quality. The testing will be done frequently, and a monthly report card on the lake health will be available.

General Comments/Discussions:

Pete thanked the volunteers and encouraged participation. There were no reports on invasive weeds.

Pete reported that about 15 septic tanks were cleaned this year. The sign-up sheet is at the front table for anyone interested in taking advantage of the group purchase discount.

Steve asked those not receiving emails to sign-up on their way out.

Steve mentioned that they are exploring bringing back the Sunday morning sailing races, and anyone interested should contact him. They also discussed having a competition to see who can collect the most weeds. The prize would be a \$50 voucher for the North End store.

Pete asked for topics for newsletters. The Lake Smart items will be addressed in the newsletters. Pete reminded people to take and post a sign if they signed the pledge. The signs cost \$12. Donations are not required, but are greatly appreciated.

Skip said the 2 foot draw down would begin mid-October. Next year the draw down is 3 feet.

He thanked everyone contributing to the Pond Association for equipment for the testing.

Dave from LAPOA suggested setting up a donation box at the launch for kayakers to contribute to preserve the lake. Mary Hourdequin said that is against state regulations. She suggested a compliant approach is to have a donation in exchange for a cup of coffee at the North End store.

New Business:

Pete thanked Sue O'Rourke for her dedicated service as Treasurer since 2002. Lorraine Minor will be assuming the responsibility going forward. Lorraine asked to step down as West side governor. Joe Walker will assume the responsibility as West side governor until the next election.

Adjournment:

Pete thanked Stash , his family, and the North side for hosting the meeting.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:41 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Gilbert, Recording Secretary.