

WHPA Special Meeting – June 30, 2017

Trustees present: Skip Sly, Martin Seifert, Larry Gauvain, Mary Hourdequin, Tom Sloss, Jim Waters, Dave Boyjian, Frank Galliher . **Absent:** Bill Adamsen, Dan Jerram

Guests present: Steve Unger, Peter Humphrey, Dave McNally

1. Election

Tom Sloss nominated Martin Seifert as president of WHPA. *Unanimously elected by trustees*

2. Discussion of Emergency Action Plan status – Martin

Bids sought from multiple vendors. Fuss and O’Neill were best price bidder. \$12,600 – maximum. Will do all work; preliminary report coming soon. Tom asked if this work will satisfy state requirements; Fuss and O’Neill’s work will do so, and then they send report to state in Fall to meet state deadline. Will satisfy 500-year flood plan. (Skip noted that we currently have EOP (Emergency Operations Plans) in case dam breeches; EAP is higher level plan.)

3. Discussion of dam repairs – Martin

Didn’t do 3’ drawdown in Fall due to drought. Seepage around spillway. Repointing needs to be done. Masons estimated. Damage on dry side of dam; stones need to be reset. Martin sent presentation to Lenard; engineering alone more than \$40,000 from Lenhart. Fuss and O’Neill can do repairs and will send bid also, but will probably be more reasonable. Pointing work about \$5000 plus cost of masonry repairs (resetting stones), permitting and engineering will also be required. Gatehouse repairs needed also. (Lowering lake too much will prevent retrieval of adult salmon.) Need to make decisions for work soon, once estimate received.

4. Financial Update- Skip

\$24, 247 – current balance; funding for weed mitigation to be encumbered. Don’t have adequate funding for New England Aquatic Research work with current balance. Need more volunteers for water quality testing. Martin asked when we know actual funding; Skip said fiscal year ends on August 31. Skip said that to do dam work we will need a special assessment for each Pond Association membership organization. Barkhamstead has to be financially responsible, may need to take legal action.

Jim Waters asked if dam work could be postponed for another year due to challenge of raising funds right now. Peter asked whether special assessment would be tax deductible for contributors. Skip said that financial burden must be shared by all constituencies. Martin framed issues as equitable contribution and special assessment.

5. Funding for dam repairs – Sly/Seifert
Martin will get specifics re costs and then establish a plan with others for fundraising.
6. Future funding requirements and by-law changes
Bill Adamson has posted Water Quality report on West Hill lake website which provides details from limnologist's report.
7. Discussion of spillway – State will not accept our temporary spillway, never permanent spillway. We have unofficial response from state thru Lenhart Engineering: "bituminous curve unlikely to survive flooding." We will argue that, based on '55 flood event, current spillway is effective. (Anecdotally, in '55 dam purportedly overtopped by 12"). Boy Scouts put in tunnel 12' in diameter in 1996, which would help document case. Question came up as to when lake water level was raised by 10". Steve Unger will try to provide historical photos for documentation as well. Awaiting response from State. Owner of dam is responsible for everything down stream; tripartite responsibility: Barkhamstead town maintains road, LAPOA owns dam; PA maintains. (DEEP trumps local wetlands permitting processing.) Concerns re damage done by snowplowing in winter to gatehouse. Fuss and O'Neill proposed eliminating gatehouse. TBD later once more information.
8. Fundraising: Camp Sequassen Trustee Dave Boyjian raised point that other lake users might want to contribute to maintain lake. Crowdsourcing funding such as "GoFundMe me" might be a good approach. Peter Humphrey suggesting joint effort with WHLSPOA. Perhaps, Leesa Lawson or Joe Hoke could assist with message. Consensus is to establish a plan with specifics re costs, and promote contributions first and special assessment as a secondary approach.
9. Scheduling of Annual Meeting: Tuesday August 15 @ 7PM at Camp Workcoeman.
10. Adjourned: 2:40 PM