

Minutes of
WEST HILL POND ASSOCIATION TRUSTEE
ANNUAL MEETING
7PM August 25, 2016, New Hartford Town Hall

AGENDA

In Attendance: Skip Sly, Mary Hourdequin, Tom Sloss, Dan Jerram, Bill Adamsen, James Waters, Mike Harris for Larry Gauvain. (Dave Boyajian and Larry Gauvain - absent)
Guests: local boy scout, Steve Unger and Peter Humphrey

1. Call to order. Sly
2. Approval of prior year's minutes --- Sly/Hourdequin. *Approved*
3. Water Rights Committee report-- Sly
 - a) Fall drawdown plan – 3-foot drawdown planned for mid Oct.
 - b) Masonry repointing within stone gatehouse; Skip applied for proper DEEP permit
 - c) Emergency Spillway – wetlands delineation down in preparation for approval of permanent solution. Skip proposed temporary solution be approved as permanent solution. Each trustee should seek approval from their constituency organization. (LAPOA owns land dam is on; Barkhamstead owns road, and WHPA manages dam.) Emergency Action Plan (EAP) must be created for dam; we currently have EOP (Emergency Operations Plan). Inundation map must be prepared by an engineer for EAP. Lenard Engineering is doing similar work for a number of dams in CT. (Approximate cost: \$20,000 to do whole process.) Mr. Waters will send contact info for a second estimate from another firm. Need to budget for this cost. (Jim Waters reported that State of CT had webinar re water systems; Dept of Health Water Resources Division)
4. Weed Harvesting/Monitoring-Sly/Hourdequin

Approximately 20 hours of weed harvesting done. Came last week with one diver for two days and today with two people; weed situation in lake – not too bad; a bit of algae found; aquatic concentration of large leaf pond weed at south end of lake. Red leaf harvested. Next spring, aquatic barrier to be put down again. Pull weeds out by roots if trying to harvest weeds— e.g. large leaf pond weed.

Mary stated that we have had 7 volunteers for a total of 14 monitoring sessions; team up.com has been used as volunteer signup vehicle; June 23 motivational/ kickoff meeting held at WHBC; only 8-10 attendees. Skip suggested to Boy Scout visitors that Boy Scouts might want to be trained as weed monitors. Mary stated that training will be offered online by DEEP. (Re lake cleanup, Doug Comstock who heads local swimmers' group, offered to help with a lake cleanup this Fall possibly. Peter Humphrey will contact Doug)
5. Water testing update...Adamsen

Annual Report on Water Quality Monitoring is on website. Bill highlighted George K's recommendations:
-Conduct a perimeter survey for "hot" spots with high concentrations of nitrates or phosphates

-Initiate special protections in watershed—e.g. storm-water plantings (in Plan of Conservation Development). Low impact site development approach. Planning and Zoning in NH agreed to consider. Tom asked date of next Planning and Zoning meeting

George is doing monthly (April through November) monitoring. For example, sampling done at every meter of depth of lake at deepest part in front of WHBC.

Skip stated that it would be good to take knowledge that we gain from samplings to develop action plans to address issues. Important to incentivize property owners to be proactive in their responses.

Should we explore a professional lake manager to handle some of these issues?

Are sewers the answer to protecting water quality in the lake? What is involved? Should there be an engineering analysis? Downside is that sewers would permit more development. Skip wants to look at an alternative technology which removes phosphorous and nitrates' harm from effluent. Perhaps, some "lobbying" in this regard might be helpful

6. Web-site update---Adamsen

Doing well; certain popular pages; approximately 100 hits per day.

7. Treasurers Report/budget—Sly

Skip explained and reviewed budget handouts. Bill commended Dan Jerram for his advocacy for funding for lake. Skip asked how we should let NH Finance Committee know of how funds have been used. Would need to add funds in for expenses of a firm to do permanent dam plan (EAP). WHSOPA member Sue Hall mentioned that she might be interested in doing some fundraising.

Motion to approve amended with Income/Fundraising (\$10,000) and Engineering (\$10,000) - Approved

8. Election of officers---Sloss

Tom presented slate of officers as currently in place. *Motion approved.*

9. Profession Lakes Manager Position

Skip plans to step down as president of WHPA beyond as of August, 2017. Good transition is very important to future. Would also need a Treasurer since Skip has been doing both. Plan Manager could be hired as a consultant who could be contracted for specific services. Consultant or consulting firm would report to WHPA, which represents all constituencies. Skip asked if any of Board members would like to be on a committee to plan for transition. Bill will sketch out an initial approach to President's role. Would need more income and support to achieve WHPA goals. Might want to look at what other professional lake managers do—their roles and responsibilities and remuneration. Tom Sloss asked about Martin Seifert who claims to be a dam expert as a possible person to involve. Scope of tasks/responsibilities of WHPA as well as budget has grown dramatically in last 8-10 years.

Need an integrated approach—perhaps a firm which could do research and then develop remediation plans. Capturing peoples' attention is very important to effort.

10. Old/New Business

Tom stated that we have no insurance for dam, and wondered about our liability. Skip did investigate options through Ron Compton, and found insurance cost to be approximately \$25,000. Skip pointed out that other organizations also have liability, including LAPOA, and Town of Barkhamstead. Skip pointed out that generally Trustees are protected as long as they are doing “due diligence.” Tom asked if it is important to pursue insurance.

Mary will send dam letter out to WHBC Board President for Board approval and she will also update list of WHPA trustees and email to Trustees and WHSPOA President Peter Humphrey.

11. Adjournment

All agreed to adjourn meeting at 9:30PM