

**Crystal Lake Association
Fall Meeting Minutes
September 18th 2013, 7 PM
Old Crystal Lake School House**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

SECRETARY REPORT

The secretary's report was read and correction was noted that the milfoil contract should be 23k vs. 21k. Motion to accept amended minutes was made, second and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was read and accepted. Membership status was same as previously reported, 71 families.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

No report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water Testing Committee – Bill Merson gave a report that water clarity has been 3.5-4 meters (15 feet) visibility. CT Invasive Plant program was on the lake for the past week and they were “amazed” at how clear the water was, allowing them to view the plants. Reports and maps are being prepared.

Fund Raising Committee –no report.

New Website Committee – it was reported that there have been 3,000 hits so far on the new website. They are continuing to look for pictures and for sale items to place on website. There have been 10 inquiries so far, mainly questions on beach rules, cost, etc. Some interest has been shown in the milfoil committee also. Correspondence is working well. Some structural changes were made to move items to history, i.e. milfoil reports have several updates. The camera cannot be added to the website so far. Note, the website is: crystallakeellingtonct.com. This was tested at the meeting and it appears the Google search is now working.

Milfoil Committee –A free survey was done of the lake and dam including Northeast cove and Aborn cove. They were planning removal of 11 hours outside Northeast Cove removing milfoil, 30 hours in Dam area removing milfoil and 41 hours outside Aborn cove and 27.5 hours inside Aborn cove. Aborn cove was to be hit hard this year. Near Aborn cove, divers found milfoil in 20-25 feet of water. Still some regrowth for skipped for now. Next year, longleaf and pond leaf needs to be done. Next year, also do Aborn cove pending survey results. The committee got 112 hours of milfoil removal.

Need to get 25k each year to continue removal. 22k of 25k went to actual plan removal. Need to continue to stay on top of it each year. Open water is done and maintained, so will continue to work on the coves. Annual budget from town of \$25,000 was granted for this year also. Hours planned are dynamic and are planned out.

By Laws Committee – no report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Molly West Scholarship Fund – scholarship is in place and will be given out annual through the Ellington Scholarship Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

New State Law on Dam inspections – Bill provided an update that a new law has passed that dam owners are liable for their own dams, not the state. CT has 5,500 dams and DEEP regulates 3,000 dams. Starting January 2014, owners of 430 dams will be notified they have a year to certify/inspect their dams by civil engineers. It's unknown if Crystal Lake dam is in the front of this list.

Clearwater Preservation Society owns the dam. They are a group of 5 lawyers in Somers. Group had no money to repair the dam and it's cemented shut so can't draw water down. Owners claim they have no funds to repair dam. Could be up to 400k to fix. The dam is located in Stafford so the town is not interested in fixing it. The town approached DEEP and it was determined there was a LOW priority. The concern is that the lake drops due to the dam leaking.

Bill questioned if all the HOA's on the lake should band together to address the town. Goal is addressing through DEEP and try to get Crystal Lake higher on the list. Mark will address DEEP to see where we are on the inspection list. State will now enforce the maintenance of dams.

Connecticut Invasive Plant Program – they do surveys of lakes and keep tabs on invasive plants in state of CT. Bill invited them to Crystal Lake and they agreed to survey our lake.

Aborn Beach – there was discussion that there is an increase of muck and debris washing up on Aborn beach. Grass clippings, leaves, dust is being blown into the lake. Shrubbery and branches should not be tossed into the lake. There was also discussion that Aborn Cove is being sealed off by beach sand. Bill talked to Bob Tedford about the possibility of reclaiming the sand out of the water and moving it back to the beach. Tedford felt that DEEP may need an engineering survey to confirm that it is beach sand running off the beach and sealing off the cove. The town needs to reclaim the sand and put it back on the beach instead of repurchasing sand every year. It was felt that Crystal Lake Association is the main body that should approach the town to address this. Questions include 1. How much does it cost town to buy sand every year, 2. Why not put in drains to prevent runoff from the parking lot into the water, carrying the sand with it or 3. Then could reclaim the sand in the water and put it back on the beach. Roger will start the conversation about stopping the sand erosion and will put a report on the website when done.

Postcards for meeting notice – Bill suggested that for next year, a postcard could be created with the meeting dates and sent out ahead of time. Or send emails/make phone calls to alert every one of meetings.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:19. Seconded and all approved.

Next year's meetings will be determined at the BOD meeting in early spring 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Cristelli, Secretary
Crystal Lake Association