

**Crystal Lake Association
Spring Meeting Minutes
May 4th 2016 @ 7 PM
Old Crystal Lake School House**

Call to order 7:00 p.m. by David Arzt

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes read. Motion to accept, second and approve.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vic Laptik read the current report. Motion to accept, second and approve. Donations for the dam repair started in September and over \$1,000 has been received so far. The dam funds will be forwarded to the LLC once it is established. Jenny & Monique will support Vic in the annual audit.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Dam Report

An LLC has been formed for the Dam work. The project was initiated last year and there are now additional requirements. A licensed Connecticut Professional Engineer is needed to oversee the entire project. In addition, we have to submit a permit application to the CT DEEP for NDDDB (endangered species) screening. That has been completed. Once they've responded, we will apply to the Corps of Engineers. Once they approve, we can apply for the DEEP general permit. Once the general permit is assigned, the LLC will notify the town of Stafford when work will begin. Due to these additional requirements, the cost is expected to extend to \$15,000. Work is expected to begin in the fall. All donations are recorded in a separate file and if permits are not received, all donations will be returned to the donors.

The LLC name is Crystal Lake Dam Repair LLC.

Q-how much higher will the lake go when the dam is fixed? It will not. The goal is to stop the water from seeping through the rocks in the dam. In winter, ice from water seepage could continue to stress the dam and potentially cause failure.

Q-is there a way to control spillage over the dam? No. 50 years ago you could adjust the low level outlet, and cost to replace that would be \$250,000. So it doesn't work (as it was intended) and it will not be replaced. If the water level gets too high, the water will go over the dam wall. In 2014 and 2015, the water level dropped 15 inches to 2 feet by the Fall. Goal is that, after the dam repair, the water level will stay at the normal level that historically occurred, prior to the present excessive seepage.

Q-LLC will be disbanded after the dam is done. What if someone is injured or the dam fails? Only Al Breton and Guy Burns are in the LLC and they'll purchase insurance so there is no liability. Bill Keohane felt insurance may not be needed as the LLC will have no assets.

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The owner of the parking lot near the dam approved equipment to be there but she'd like insurance for her property.

Ad-Hoc Milfoil Update

Dave Arzt reported that the Milfoil committee applied for \$25,000 grant to the state DEEP. We would use our budget for a 1:1 match. We received a \$15,000 grant in addition to our planned \$25,000. The DEEP did not feel that pulling milfoil out of the Route 140 Pond would be cost effective. Lori Spielman suggested using carp to clean it up. There are 2 endangered plant species in the lake that are protected by DEEP. Dave is coordinating with the DEEP and perhaps (neutered) carp could be used in the pond as long as they couldn't get into the lake. It'll be assessed in a few weeks. The state also felt herbicides could be used. More to come on this. Discussions need to be held with the town regarding usage of the carp and/or herbicides.

Q-any update on clearing of the coves. Issue is that milfoil roots are well established in the coves, the water is shallow and the muck is deep. The Ad-hoc Milfoil committee will look into this further.

Q-at the northeast cove, is there a concern for milfoil in there? Dave indicated that the northeast cove is also very shallow and there are numerous plants, so it's difficult to remove milfoil without removing other plants. Priority indicated by Dr. Knoecklein is the open water milfoil removal. Second priority is the coves. With the grant, they're planning to get into Aborn Cove and the Route 140 Pond. They'll use Dr. Knoecklein's recommendation on order of priority. Aborn cove is a primary target since Aborn Brook goes through the cove and could wash more milfoil into the lake.

Dr. Knoecklein will be coming out to do a plant survey to locate invasive species have come into the lake.

Water Testing

Water quality is good. Water testing will resume once boats get in, late May.

Website and Communications

Ryan Brown presented a sign of the 'save the lake' fund raising effort. It identifies what the donation will be used for and has a link to the website. There will be a 'go-fund-me' website. Everything will flow to the CLA website. A Paypal account will also be set up for donations. And then there will be instructions on how to send Vic Laptik a check for dam repair. It will be sent out and updated to the website. The Ellington Farmers Market will have signs also. Ryan encourages everyone to submit ideas to him or the website. The boat ramp and beach will have signs put up. Goal is to be fully funded by fall.

Q-Monique Lussier suggested if a raffle is possible, i.e. for a beach pass. Maybe sell raffle tickets at the parade or beach.

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Q-Lori Spielman indicated that a month ago, the town website was launched and she'd like to add a link to the Crystal Lake website. She'd like to put pictures on also and link us to the town website so both sites get more traffic. Lori would like to work together with us on signage, etc. Lori indicated she grew up in Ellington on a dairy farm. They had a sailboat and on Sunday's, would go to the lake. She went to Jimmy's all the time. She wants to get a grant to redo the beach and improve the signage at the boat launch. Bill Keohane is president of Aborn Association and raised the concern that the sand is washing off the beach and it's sealing off the cove. Sand is running into the lake and we've talked about reclaiming the lake. He feels that the town keeps adding sand and it's running off into the lake. Lori would like to address these issues and she'd like to work on this. It was also noted that the drainage culvert on Route 30 just south of the dam and just north of the boat launch, sand is also draining off into the water.

Friends of Sailing

Rusty Moody was absent. In the past, sailing lessons were directed to younger people. He's going to expand it to any age, not just young adults.

Fundraising

Covered by Ryan's presentation.

Memorial Day Parade

It will be held on Monday, Memorial Day. Starting point will be at 9:00 at the town beach (form by 8:45 a.m.). Anyone wanting to walk with the association is welcome. Coffee, cookies, etc., table will be manned by Monique and Al. Donations are requested for the table, if people are able. A mass email before the parade will be sent out to remind folks and encourage them to march.

CLA Picnic June 15

In the fall, a CLA picnic was held by Dave Arzt. This will be done again on 24 Private Grounds, on Wednesday, June 15th. It will be held between 5-8 pm, with hot dogs, chips & cookies provided.

MEMBERSHIP

Sent out request 2 weeks ago and 40 families have responded. A lot of donations were sent in last year for the dam. Packages (including brochures as well as an explanation about the dam project) are available for any non-members regarding the lake and how to join.

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OLD BUSINESS

By laws committee – Vic Laptik is chairing. This will be done after the fall meeting. There didn't appear to be any urgent need in redoing this. Anyone interested in joining can follow up with Vic.

NEW BUSINESS

It was reported Raymond Temple passed last week and a moment of silence, in remembrance, was held.

Adjourn @ 8:16, second and approved.

Diane Cristelli
Recording Secretary, Crystal Lake Association