

**Crystal Lake Association  
Fall Meeting Minutes  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 7 PM  
Old Crystal Lake School House**

**SECRETARY REPORT**

Minutes read and corrections submitted. Motion to accept, second and approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Vic Laptik read the current report. Membership brochures were printed also. Motion to accept, second and approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Milfoil Update**

No new work has been done. It is time for the annual plant survey. DEEP has a grant to municipalities for control of invasive plants, with a 50% match, up to \$50k. Our annual budget is 25k, Mr. Blanchette suggested taking the 25k and apply for the grant. This is due November 9<sup>th</sup>, a committee was established and the grant application will be created.

Q-if matching funds were given, would 50k be received and would it all go in the same year? Usually only 25k is done per year, suggestion is to get into the coves and get more work done in Aborn Cove and the 140 pond. There is extremely dense milfoil and we would like to target those areas. A re-survey of Aborn Cove would be needed in the spring to find the plants. Would spend the 50k on removal of the plants as well as additional surveys. We have shown that we are willing to spend our money as well as town budget dollars to address removal of the plants so we meet the criteria of the grant approval. If the grant is not received, work may have to be cut back.

There is 150k statewide and grant amounts are \$2,500-\$50,000. We may not get the entire amount but we'll apply for it.

A "jet-pack"i has been seen several times on the lake and it was noted that they are illegal. Some pieces of milfoil have been found floating, and it was thought that this activity is stirring up the water, causing plant breakage. The guy 'flying' is not illegal but it's causing milfoil breakage. If it's seen, residents are requested to call the town police so they can remind the person operating it that it's illegal and should be removed from the lake. There is continuing concern with milfoil being spread through this activity.

**Water Testing**

One more water test will be done, scheduled for the last week of September.

**Website and Communications**

**Crystal Lake Association  
Fall Meeting Minutes  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 7 PM  
Old Crystal Lake School House**

All updates are done as requested by the board. If any members have pictures they want shared, send an email to the website and it will get uploaded. Everyone should be receiving email communications. If someone's not getting them, let the committee know and they will correct email addresses. Emails are for members only. For those that are not members, there is a Facebook page that is updated frequently with information and communications about the CLA organization. They can join the Facebook page and get updates that way. The website has a link to the Facebook page and you can choose to 'like' it and then communication would be received that way. It was suggested that Ryan set up instructions on how to do Facebook and how 'liking' will connect you. It's possible to do a look up under Crystal Lake Association and make a friend request to add it to your page. There are no membership requirements to join via Facebook.

**By-Law Review**

The by-laws haven't changed since 1999. Vic is suggesting a committee be set up to review paragraph by paragraph with the goal of presenting them with proposed revisions at the May meeting. They would then be voted on the following meeting.

**Friends of Sailing**

No new report. A few elderly folks have been taken out on the sailboat. The town boat has been taken out of the water. We'll do this again next year. Only 2 folks took part in sailing lessons. Rusty Moody will send information to Ryan to put on the website. More flexibility in offering of lessons might create more interest. It was currently limited to ages 12-18 and Rusty will extend age limit to encourage more participation.

**Fund Raising**

Ryan would like help for fund raising. Past fund raising items have been more social than monetary. He'll look into more ideas and will present them at the Spring meeting. He's encouraging folks to submit ideas. Send an email to the website with any ideas or if interested in being part of a fund raising committee.

**Membership**

There are 96 members now as reported by Vic Laptik. Dave & Bea Arzt hosted a membership picnic. There were 40 people in attendance and it was an excellent social event. Dave would like to have a social get together in July, as well as when school starts again. Name tags were created so folks would get to know each other. Pictures were taken at the picnic and they'll be posted on the website.

Brochures were created for anyone who's not currently a member and would like to join.

**Crystal Lake Association  
Fall Meeting Minutes  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 7 PM  
Old Crystal Lake School House**

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Dam Report**

Al Breton shared an updated print incorporating changes suggested by the DEEP. There was a change to put in cement vs. stone as it was felt that that the stone would crumble. A slab will be lowered to the old capstone and the lake height will not increase. Rebar will go into the side of the dam.

Q-how much will it cost to do the work? Apx. \$10,000 for materials with volunteer labor.

Q-could the concrete force out the front of the dam? A rebar base will be made and we will leave in the capstone to keep the dam stable. Voids will be filled with concrete to stop water from flowing through. Goal is to just keep trying to keep the dam from leaking. This also will minimize the possibility of ice freezing/thawing and moving the rocks.

Jim Thompson from Buck & Buck (town engineer) has said the dam is in a state of 'gradual disrepair' and will, in his opinion, eventually fail.

Q-bridge or dam, which is the bigger issue? The bridge is anchored to the dam. Concern was raised with large dump trucks that are using the bridge to get to the quarry. It was noted that this is causing a lot of stress to be applied to the bridge.

Q-Had anyone ever gone to the quarry and asked them about using the bridge. Per Dave Arzt, an engineer took a quick look and he didn't see any signs of distress in the bridge. It should be noted that there is no weight limit posted on the bridge currently. There is concern that the stop sign is right on the bridge, not on route 30, which is causing extra stress on the bridge.

Q-Has anyone talked to the quarry about their contribution to the continuing stress on the bridge. They are a large tax payer and they could say there would be a safety issue to send the large dump trucks down a different path. Al offered to approach the first selectman and see what they would say. It was suggested that they be approached directly to see if they'd be willing to accommodate changing their route. Failure of the dam could also impact their travel route. Rusty suggested going thru the town could make it adversarial. Perhaps approaching to encourage fund raising, they might offer to help. It was noted that if the dam (or bridge) goes, it'll impact them also.

Al Breton reviewed the CLA bylaws explaining the purpose of the lake. He then showed the drawing of how much the lake would drop if there was a breach in the dam.

The dam was formed to create Crystal Lake. If the dam failed, in his opinion, it would revert to Square Pond .

**Crystal Lake Association**  
**Fall Meeting Minutes**  
**September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 7 PM**  
**Old Crystal Lake School House**

Ron of East Shore Road suggested that the dam should be allowed to fail and then let the water drain off.

Al Breton prepared a presentation of the impact of Crystal Lake vs. Square Pond. He implored that, in his opinion, the state will not fix the dam. There are 3,500 dams in the state, built numerous years ago, where they are all in a similar state of disrepair.

Another resident feels it's worth discussing if it's a reasonable amount of money, then it should be pursued.

It was stated that there is no way to predict how long the dam might last. In comparison of pictures years ago, it appears there are additional holes being created. Ryan Brown encouraged residents to go look at the dam themselves to see how much water is pouring through the dam, not over the dam.

The owner would give it to Stafford or Ellington but no one wants it currently. The repair of the dam, after failure, could be over a million dollars to rebuild. It's not just a dam, it's a dam plus a bridge on top. And it would also need to be rebuilt to current standards.

The temporary repair is believed to cost \$10,000. (Al can provide additional detail on this estimate). Some of the work would involve:

- Mobilize/set up temporary electricity
- Install temporary coffer dam
- Remove rubble from under bridge
- Rental of pumps
- Excavate for keyway wall
- Install vapor barrier
- Install rebar
- Pour/pump concrete
- Pump truck
- Strip forms
- Backfill lake bottom to keyway wall
- Remove coffer dam
- Insurance
- Bonding

Labor would be voluntary. Guy Burns would volunteer equipment.

Q-what contingency is being set up, i.e. what if the coffer dam breaks while it's under construction or if another problem gets uncovered as they start digging. Guy & Al feel that they'd be able to plan for any problems and it would need to be done quickly.

**Crystal Lake Association  
Fall Meeting Minutes  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 7 PM  
Old Crystal Lake School House**

Al would like to make a **motion** that the CLA donate \$5,000 to the dam repair project. The money would be used towards the dam repair when DEEP approvals are obtained. Motion made and seconded on the floor. Bill Keohne is in favor, feels the CLA should back this up as it is in keeping with the bylaws. He's 100% for it. There was also a suggestion that milfoil funds be reduced to be used for the dam repair. Al suggested that we try to raise money first rather than taking away from milfoil removal effort.

Rusty offered an amendment to the motion as it won't be this fall. He feels the Crystal Lake Clear Water Preservation is wanting us to do this as it will protect the lake. He made a motion that the CLA loan the Crystal Lake Clear Water Preservation group \$5000, interest free, for them to then donate for dam repair. It would not be made payable until an undefined date. The CLA would 'loan' the dollars interest free to the Crystal Lake Clear Water Association and let them write the check to the LLC to do the work. Al said, in his opinion, this would complicate the situation. Ron Campbell, from East Shore Road seconded the motion.

This project is not a CLA project, an LLC would need to be created to do the work. The CLA would donate \$5,000 to the LLC to do the work. The LLC would be dissolved as soon as the work is done, with no liability. If the CLA did the project, it would retain the liability of it. The donation would not happen until the project was approved by the DEEP. Right now, they are looking to the CLA for authorization for the donation.

Rusty disagrees that this loan idea would complicate things as there is a year to do this. Cathy Green disagrees with the amendment as it is giving/loaning money to Attorney Robison.

Rusty's amendment was opposed by all except 2. Al Breton's motion for donation was approved by all but 2.

Al suggested that anyone can write a check and target it as dam repair (over and above the membership dues). And it's all tax deductible.

Q-should a mailing be sent to the members to do a fund-raising appeal letter. A presentation will be done to the Fish & Game club, as there are numerous members there. An appeal will be made there for fund raising also. Ryan and a current member will do a presentation. Not necessarily to encourage membership but encourage funding to support this effort. Could an appeal be done to the town as the lake is an asset to the entire town. Should an awareness program be put together to make folks aware that the lake is in danger and encourage donations?

Q-Will this be able to be done this fall or next fall? The DEEP was supposed to have a new permitting process. Problems are being run into with the new process and there is no eta for when it will be completed. It was reported that time is running out to do this as it can only done in the fall when the lake is low.

**Crystal Lake Association  
Fall Meeting Minutes  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 7 PM  
Old Crystal Lake School House**

Suggestion that a flyer be given out at the boat launch encouraging donations to save the lake. Also, have flyers handed out at the town beach to encourage donations to save the lake.

Sand erosion – Bill Keohne still feels that sand reclamation and diverting run off is still critical because the sand continues to drain into the lake. Rodger Hosig is not here but he'll continue to work with the town. It was noted that kids at the beach can no longer jump off the platform as 2 feet of water has been lost due to sand runoff and low water due to the leaking dam.

Fund raising ideas:

- Flyers on boat ramp, have a Paypal link
- Flyers at the Big Y, i.e. 'save the bay' look to get donations to save the lake
- Sign at the beach
- Flyers at the Farmers Market
- Memo's or letters to all lake owners, direct mailing to the 96 members, requesting \$100 donation. Bill Keohne feels people will donate. And maybe we could go for the entire \$10,000.
- Contact the Journal Inquirer to ask if a reporter could do a story, asking for donations
- Could set up a go-fund-me account to raise money

Any other fund raising ideas, email the website. Or everyone's encouraged to send an email to the website if they'd like to help out Ryan with fund raising activities.

Adjourn 8:28, approved and seconded.

Diane Cristelli  
Recording Secretary, Crystal Lake Association