

**Crystal Lake Association
Summer Meeting
July 22nd, 2015 @ 7 PM
Old Crystal Lake School House**

CALL TO ORDER – 7:16

SECRETARY REPORT

Minutes – old business. Rusty identified an error and the minutes were updated to remove the incorrect statement.

Rusty also had questions about term limits of the executive board and board of directors. Terms are 2 years and executive/board of directors should keep track of what date folks were elected. Rusty is suggesting that half the board be for different years so that the entire board is not replaced/re-voted out during any one year. Bylaws currently state elections are for 2 year terms. It is suggested that the newly elected board review their 'start' dates, so that terms are defined.

Motion to accept minutes, second and all approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vic Laptic provided Treasurers' report. Motion to accept, second and accepted.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Voting was conducted through ballot votes. Mark read the voting rules. Voting commenced for CLA officers and Board of Directors. Top 7 votes for Board of Directors. Currently 1 nominee for each Officer position and 12 nominees for the 7 Directors. No additional nominations were offered from the floor for the officer positions. There is only one candidate for each officer position so they were elected in.

Candidates offered the following information (**Question to board** – should the bio's remain below? I was not able to capture all the information presented by everyone)

David Artz – candidate for president. 24 Private Grounds, since 1948. Civil engineer for 45 years. CLA board member currently and on the original milfoil committee. Would like to thank Mark M and Bill Merson for president and vice president roles they have performed. Would also like to thank Ryan and Colleen Brown for updating the website.

Al Breton – candidate for vice president. Parents moved to the lake in 8th grade. CLA member for many years and has participated on many committees.

Vic Laptik – 8 years as treasurer

Colleen Brown – candidate for corresponding secretary. Would like to infuse technology into the board, and increase the ability to reach out to all members and open up lines of communication.

Crystal Lake Association
Summer Meeting
July 22nd, 2015 @ 7 PM
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Diane Cristelli – Recording secretary. Owned home for 7 years on Aborn Cove, recently moved in full time.

Board of Directors:

Bea Artz – been on the lake for 40 years, summers for last 15 years. Been involved in numerous committees and want to preserve the lake. And the history.

Bill Brown – 3 years on Aborn, contractor, not retiring anytime soon. Love to fish, has great neighbors.

Ryan Brown – engineer at Pratt & Whitney for 8 years. Bought a house on the lake with 3 children. Want to become part of the community. Wants to be part of the board and infuse technology into the board and work with the board on problem solving. Also wants to drive fund raising efforts so we have capability to react to whatever problems we face in the future.

Jean Burns – been on the lake since late 80's, member of CLA for 10 years. Did research on ownership of the dam, on milfoil committee and on an ad hoc committee.

Dr. Barbara Campbell – summers since 1944, vice president of Aborn Road Association, wonderful place for her and future generations. Need to stay on top of milfoil and drainage issues.

Jerry Dwyer – 'they' talked me into this. Been at lake for 48 years.

Roger Hosig – 4 Lake Lane, family's been on the lake since 1924. Tore down cottage & rebuilt home. Director on board, milfoil committee, recently gave up webmaster position after building it.

Rex Joffrey – 42 east shore road, interested in water quality, president of Scantic watershed committee, so has water testing experience, would like to join board to help.

Monique Lussier – resident for 16 years, concerned resident of the lake. On board of Aborn Association and was vice president years ago. Cares deeply about the entire lake. Would like CLA to have goals and action plans to achieve things. Retired so have time to commit to the board and the association.

Mark Mickiewicz – resident & president for 15 years. Never missed a meeting in 15 years. Would like to continue to be part of the organization. Thanks Bill Merson as vice president.

Connie Wilnes – on West Shore Road, 'entire life'. Founding member of association. Board member, recording secretary, vice president. Have concerns with aquatics in the lake as well as drainage concerns. Retired after 37 years and has time to dedicate to the lake and the board.

Rusty Woody – 2nd grade in Crystal Lake schoolhouse, live 32 East Shore roads. Has had many positions on the board. Interested in conservation and wildlife preservation. On Board of Directors for CT land trust, currently a bee-keeper, likes to sail and conduct lessons at the beach. Would like to continue to

**Crystal Lake Association
Summer Meeting
July 22nd, 2015 @ 7 PM
Old Crystal Lake School House**

serve on the board and he promises to continue to ask a lot of questions. Al and he have differences on the dam but if it's the will of the organization, he will work to fund it and support it.

Board of Directors election results (12 nominated, 7 openings)

Ryan Brown

Bea Artz

Jean Burns

Barbara Campbell

Connie Wilnes

Walt/Rusty Moody

Rex Joffrey

MILFOIL UPDATE

Dave Arts reported that no new milfoil in the main body of the lake was found. A 2 acre patch was addressed off Aborn Cove and the divers spent most of their time there. They also spent a day up at the Northeast cove. They were able to get into the Aborn Cove brook area where the milfoil sign is. The divers found extensive milfoil, 50 feet wide by 125 long and when finished, there were just a few stray plants were left, and it was previously 100% coverage. Report was received and verbal report indicated it's very good. A little bit of milfoil is still up in the dam area.

Q – How much milfoil was removed?

A - 53 bags of milfoil were removed, 4 & ½ acres were removed.

Q – How does this compare to previous harvests.

A – The Company changed their collection process this year to be more efficient. They use a catch basin and barrels to do 2-stage filtration. They're able to get a lot more milfoil in the bags as it's dried out. Acreage numbers are accurate as they mapped the GPS locations of the milfoil, and was mapped via google earth. Milfoil winds up being bagged in the boat, so volume is different than last year. The committee was very pleased with the results. They had 108 crew hours to do the removal and they worked hard.

**Crystal Lake Association
Summer Meeting
July 22nd, 2015 @ 7 PM
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Q – Where does the milfoil go?

A – it's illegal to transport milfoil but as contractors, they have an exception. The town is letting us dump the milfoil at the town dump, as long as it's not near any water. Most disintegrates very quickly.

There has been a line item in the town budget for \$25k. We use that to do a survey of the lake to plot the plants. Then we do water quality testing, using a purchased meter for water testing. Samples are sent to the lab for testing. Water quality testing, cost of the survey of lake and then we only ask for summary reports (to minimize expense). The plant survey is in the fall and fiscal year is July-June 30th.

WATER TESTING

Update – Dave Artz indicated that water testing is continuing. Sampling is being taken (Rusty, Al) and results won't be available till end of year. Milfoil divers indicate that water quality is very good.

WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATION UPDATE

Ryan Brown provided an update. Roger Hosig turned over the website maintenance to Ryan Brown. He is looking to update it and would like suggestions for it. He's looking to link Facebook to the CLA website. He'd also like to put the volunteer opportunities out on the website. In addition, the milfoil information, phosphorous fertilizer information, etc. Links will be in Facebook to provide updates on the website.

For questions or concerns, the website has an email attached to send questions. If they don't have the answer, they'll point them in a direction. Some of the old contact info was handwritten. If you didn't get an email, talk to Ryan and he'll check the typing of the email addresses and he'll get it corrected.

OTHER COMMITTEE UPDATES

Membership – 70 families last year, up to 92 families now. There are a couple of members from the Ridge area but there hasn't been active recruitment lately. Q-can people that don't live on the lake be members, yes – as long as they are part of the Crystal Lake fire district.

Fundraising – Cheryl Mickiewicz chairs the committee. Definitely welcomes new people to encourage fundraising ideas. Only 5-6 people turned out to march in the parade.

Scholarship award – Vic reported that a thank you letter was received from the recipient. She grew up on Green Street in the Crystal Lake area and is planning to study Biology at St. Andrews College in Scotland.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dam Report

**Crystal Lake Association
Summer Meeting
July 22nd, 2015 @ 7 PM
Old Crystal Lake School House**

Q- What are the implications of water rights? Back when the dam was built, it was raised 8 feet, so the '8 feet' on top are water rights that can be passed on to someone. Al Breton explained that there is the potential that water rights could be sold off. On October 4th, a meeting was held; Al asked the owner how he would extract the water if he wanted to sell them. To clarify – Attorney Roberson hasn't said he'd sell off the water rights; he just wants to retain them. Attorney Roberson is the agent for the association that owns the dam and per Al Breton, he won't disclose the owners.

The dam is the priority. Water rights could be a future issue. Fixing the dam is the first issue. Al indicated that there are plans being built to petition, broadcast, etc. if water rights ever came into question.

Q – Linda questioned whether the owners would consider transferring ownership of the dam. No one wants to accept the dam, CLA, Stafford, Ellington – no one wants to own this as if it fails, the owner would be liable and could possibly have to repair the dam, the bridge, etc. Stafford owns the bridge. Could the bridge fail inspection and then force the town to address it?

Per Dave, bridges are inspected if they are 20 feet and over. This bridge is 16 feet. It's unknown whether the bridge has been inspected. And the opinion of an engineer he asked indicated that the bridge did not look like it had any signs of stress in the bridge.

Q – Does the CLA have an attorney working with us? Not at this point.

NEW BUSINESS:

Al presented a Crystal Lake Dam Repair report. It was noted that water is not just going over the top of the dam but through the dam due to holes. If the dam failed, the water level 'could' return to Square Pond levels, but it's unknown. It was noted that the town beach could potentially lose 600 feet of water frontage, if it returned to Square Pond level. Square Pond is considerably smaller than the current lake.

Guy Burns & Al Breton met with the 2nd in command of the DEEP. Our dam is very low priority regarding repair. The DEEP contact suggested that it be addressed as a maintenance action. Al sent a letter with plans to the DEEP person. Waited 2 months and Dave Artz followed up. A Structural engineer contact looked at the dam and suggested that voids be filled with concrete (vs. the originally planned crushed stone). And concrete slab would be installed. There were also some suggested modifications for anti-seepage adjustments. DEEP was receptive to the changes. Guy has redone the plans, and will be resubmitted to the DEEP. DEEP has indicated a permit will be required. A new general permit should be ready for the fall. Goal will be to do it this fall. A general permit would be needed if it's approved as it is now.

**Crystal Lake Association
Summer Meeting
July 22nd, 2015 @ 7 PM
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Proposed repairs will be done by a private LLC, not part of the Crystal Lake Association. There would be no change in the lake level and no change in the spillway flow characteristic. There would also be no change in hydraulics of existing dam. Water would continue to flow over the dam if there was a storm and the lake raised, but it would stop the lake from flowing through the dam.

Per Dave Artz, there are 2 main issues right now, dealing with the dam to stop the leaking and secondly, dealing with the water rights.

Repair status – anticipate in fall 2015, and permits are being pursued. Labor would be voluntary. Materials and pump rental is \$10,000. Still would need insurance and bonding.

Funding would be through private donation, separate fund raising efforts, and then a potential CLA donation, which will be voted upon at the October meeting.

Q – What are Stafford’s thoughts? Per Al Breton, they’re hands off, with only 7 tax payers on the lake. But they wouldn’t stand in the way of a repair.

Q – a thorough job has been done proposing a repair but there are some reservations still (Dave & Judy), and there is concern about water rights. Per Al Breton, he said Attorney Roberson said he’d donate something but water rights are non-negotiable right now. Repair might last 5, 10, 20 years. Per Al Breton, the original dam was built in 1849, so no one knows how long it could last. Concern felt that there needs to be a future plan for what will happen when it breaches. Or what if \$10,000 isn’t enough.

Q – Easements. Per Al Breton, Attorney Roberson’s client owns the dam and 10 feet beyond the dam. Mark Mickiewicz feels it’s important to understand who the owner is and who owns the easement. Before anything gets asked for from the CLA, the easement question should be addressed. The LLC is being set up to only exist for the time period of the dam repair.

Rusty’s opinion is that he would rather have the dam fail to get pressure to release the water rights and then have the dam repaired.

ADJOURN meeting at 9:13