

Crystal Lake Association
Spring Meeting
May 6th, 2015 @ 7 PM
Old Crystal Lake School House

CALL TO ORDER – done at 7:05 pm (24 in attendance plus 7 executive board)

SECRETARY REPORT

Mark read the Secretary's report from October 15th, 2014 meeting. Corrections submitted to identify Monique and Senator Gugliamo by name. Motion to accept, seconded & approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was read, motion to accept, seconded. All approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

89 members. New member introduced himself (Wen), bought house last August, 141 West Shore Road. Suggestion was made about a social gathering for members to introduce themselves and get to know each other.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

No report due to pamphlet already having been created and sent out. Suggestion was made that a newsletter will be sent out later in the year. Postcards were sent out to show everyone when the meetings would be for the entire year. Then right before the meeting, phone calls were made to remind folks of the meeting. They're looking for a new corresponding secretary. Question was made about when renewals of memberships are done. It was indicated that notices are sent out when dues are due. Everyone was encouraged to get more new members so they can share their concerns and ideas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water Testing Committee

Water testing was done last year, clarity is very good. Can see down to 4.1 meters, >12 feet. Phosphorous is 13, target of 10. Spikes are expected from potentially fertilizer that is getting into the lake. Everyone is encouraged to use fertilizers with no phosphorous. The oxyginate boundary is 9.2 meters, last year was 8 feet. Depth of good water increased. Aborn cove has higher nitrates so more testing needs to be done. Testing will be done April-October for 2015, phosphorous testing as well as oxygen levels. A pump is dropped and then brought up and oxygen levels are measured. Aborn brook will be measured 3 times. Phosphorous & nitrogen will be tested in Aborn brook, April, July & September. Testing will be done at 2 inlets by the boat launch and one by the milfoil sign. Flow will be thru July and then the brooks will slow down. So only 2 testings will be done here. \$1100 of testing will be done. These dollars are part of the town budget (\$25,000 for town water quality). As much information as we can obtain will be gathered. Report and testing program will be shared.

Bill Merson, Rusty & Vic were doing the testing. Bill will not be doing this year due to other commitments. We test the oxygen and the other level and we collect the samples and deliver to a lab for testing. Water samples get delivered once a month. Members are encouraged to participate in

Crystal Lake Association
Spring Meeting
May 6th, 2015 @ 7 PM
Old Crystal Lake School House

either gathering of the water or in delivery of water. Feel free to call Rusty. The lab is in Coventry. It's delivered to George *Knockline's* house. Monique Lussier volunteered to be part of the gathering crew. She feels some of the younger folks should be brought in to gain knowledge of the water testing of the lake to gain an education of how to take care of the lake. Monique would like her daughter to participate. It was also requested that a list of Volunteer Opportunities be put together to share with the membership. Folks would like to see the complete list of opportunities so they could see what's available and can then sign up.

In addition, it was requested that education be shared on what type of fertilizer should or should not be used. It would be very helpful if recommendations could be shared on how to fertilize or how usage of phosphorous impacts the water. It was suggested that updates be done on the Website and folks could learn from that. Specifics should be identified for volunteer opportunities. Ted Artz requested that volunteer specifics be identified so it's clear where support is needed. It was suggested that lakes up in northern New England might have ideas on how to take care of the lake and how to take care of lawns around the lake and not impact the health of the lake.

Also it was suggested that Facebook be used more frequently. Volunteer opportunities and education links could be put up on Facebook to share with everyone. Ryan Brown & Colleen Brown are the Facebook liaisons and will provide support on how to update Facebook.

Fund Raising Committee –no update due to Marc's wife being absent. Monique Lussier asked what we were doing fund raising for. We have spent our funds for the scholarship funds, milfoil removal and supplementing water testing. The town has supported us in water testing and milfoil removal so our expenses are reduced there. Monique felt more clarity should be established around fundraising goals. Rusty indicated that the town continues to have the line item for \$25,000 but at some point there may be movement here. At some future point, this might be reduced if the town adjusts the budget to remove that. The town has been very supportive though. Monique would like to see a growth plan of what our plans are for numerous years and then what types of costs there are, so we would be aware of what would be needed for fund raising and what the goals will be. Per Mark, they rely on the Milfoil committee to establish what plans are needed to be done and what type of expenses are needed. Monique asked what other goals does the association have in addition to milfoil removal. Milfoil removal is easier to remove from open water but very difficult to remove in the Aborn cove due to the depth of water and muck.

Website Committee –no update, Roger was absent.

Milfoil (Ad hoc) Committee

Dave gave the report indicating that reports are prepared for the milfoil removal including what was done last year and what's planned for this year. There is the plan for what to do this year, focus areas as well as maintenance areas. We do what we can with the funds that are available. The Connecticut

**Crystal Lake Association
Spring Meeting
May 6th, 2015 @ 7 PM
Old Crystal Lake School House**

Agricultural Experiment Station Aquatic Plant Survey that was done. Done in 2005 and end of 2013. Basically they identified 19 species of plants and now there are 21. Milfoil was basically in the coves in 2005 and remains in the coves as of 2015. If the removal effort hadn't been done, the lake could be half milfoil by now. It was noted that the clarity of the water is encouraging the milfoil to grow. These reports will be uploaded to the Crystal Lake Association website.

Bea Arzt suggested that we should identify a vision of what we can do to have projects to take care of the lake. Then identify fundraising purposes and projects that go along with it.

By Laws Committee

Vic Laptik gave the update to the by laws. Changes that are recommended need to be sent to all members, and sent prior to the voting meeting. Question of whether this 'by laws changes approval' process should be done for minor revisions. The board will be reviewing and will present suggested changes as well as the method of voting/changing them. It was proposed that the by-laws be uploaded to the Crystal Lake Association website. Rusty suggested that changes be made to the 'membership' definition. Currently only a map of the Crystal Lake Fire District identifies who can be a member. But there are numerous people interested in having a full membership but they're currently limited to being an associate member, unless they actively serve on a committee. It's suggested that we revise and update the membership definition.

Action item for the Board – should sketch out what types of updates should be made to the by laws and they should be uploaded to the web site. Diane Cristelli offered to retype the by laws so they would be able to up-loaded to the website. It was suggested that Facebook be used more frequently for updates also.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dam Report

Al Breton provided an update on the dam. A historical perspective was offered. The dam was originally built and raised the water level 8 feet for the Saw Mill Company. It would cost hundreds of thousands to rebuild the dam. The agent for the Crystal Lake Clean Water Association, Attorney Roberson claims to have no funds for dam repair. Stafford does not want to own the dam. Guy Burns and Al Breton worked with an engineer to come up with a proposal to temporarily fix the dam. Could use volunteer labor and materials would be \$10,000. Met with Attorney Roberson and he signed off. A licensed engineer also signed off. The plan has been submitted to DEEP. Attorney Roberson has offered to assist but no monetary amount has been offered yet. Attorney Roberson will set up a LLC for the volunteers and to collect donations. The fix could not be done till the fall when the water level drops.

Crystal Lake Association
Spring Meeting
May 6th, 2015 @ 7 PM
Old Crystal Lake School House

Meeting was held with DEEP and it's key that this will be defined as a maintenance effort, not a repair effort as the permits are different. DEEP is currently reviewing the proposed maintenance.

The proposal is to fill the holes in the dam with stone and then put on a concrete/rebar cap on to hold it. Pumps would be rented to drain the water while the concrete settles. Currently Guy and Al are pursuing this, not as part of CLA sanctioned activities. Rusty feels the state will fix it if it fails. Al talked to the state and reiterated that they have no interest in addressing this dam.

Water rights are still an outstanding issue. There is a bill that could make it difficult to have Attorney Roberson draw down the water. They currently have no plans to draw down the water right now. (*statement removed) When the price was described of the 'temporary' maintenance, he felt that he might provide some support. Al feels the dam maintenance could last 5-10 years. Attorney Roberson suggested forming an LLC to protect the volunteers and to accumulate funds to support this.

Monique Lussier questioned why the dam maintenance would not raise the water of the lake. Dave explained that the dam will re-establish the current level of the lake, but not make it higher. DEEP would not approve this if it changed the height of the lake, only re-establishing the height of the lake (where it's been lowering due to water pouring out thru the dam). Neither town wants to fix the dam. The bridge gets a lot of traffic from the quarry that's disrupting the dam. DEEP has mandated that the dam be fixed. However, the dam is low hazard and if the dam breached, there would no loss of life, and so there is no urgency to address fixing it.

Water rights will be addressed via public knowledge and education on ownership of water rights.

DEEP approval is outstanding. Guy and Al met personally with DEEP and then mailed in the request. Al will continue to call and follow up on the status of approval.

There will need to be a vote of CLA to earmark funds for the dam repair, how much of the \$10,000 will come from CLA. Then there would be additional fundraising to raise the remainder.

Question regarding the large trucks going over the dam. Attorney Roberson was to approach Stafford about the use of the quarry trucks on the bridge. Al suggests that we let the DEEP approve the repair first and then follow up with Attorney Roberson to address changing the weight limit on the bridge with Stafford. Attorney Roberson couldn't find when the bridge was built or what the limits are on it. He also wasn't able to find any inspection records.

Question – nothing will be done about the spillway. The state has strict rules about protecting the wildlife down from the dam. If the dam gets fixed, it would limit the water. Al indicated that full DEEP approval will be obtained before anything done. Bill Cohan, 44 Aborn Road, President of Aborn Association indicated that they also have a vested interest in the maintaining of the dam. He wanted to know where do the CLA and Executive Board stand with this issue. Guy and Al went as private citizens as the current board could not obtain agreement on what stand should be taken with this dam

Crystal Lake Association
Spring Meeting
May 6th, 2015 @ 7 PM
Old Crystal Lake School House

maintenance proposal. Total membership of CLA will need to approve this. All information will continue to be shared to keep everyone informed. It was noted that Al has done a lot of good work and the group is very thankful for that.

Rusty questioned when the meeting with Attorney Roberson was held, did Al or Guy request to transfer water rights from his ownership to our association. Water rights were discussed but there was no agreement, as again Attorney Roberson has no money. Al felt that we should address the repair first and then the water rights. Rusty feels we should tell him that we should request water rights in exchange for repair. Al felt that if the water rights were tied in with the repair, chances are that nothing would be done. Monique Lussier provided an update saying that Attorney Roberson might possibly have plans to sell the water rights. She feels we should have an air of caution in dealing with him as he may have undisclosed plans, for long term. She feels perhaps we should try to negotiate something with him regarding water rights. Al feels it's still important to address the repair. Rusty feels that if we repair, we'll get no percent or water rights in exchange. Al feels he (Attorney Roberson) won't negotiate these rights.

Question regarding getting volunteers to build this. Al feels this can't be done till fall, so we should plan on gathering volunteers.

Rusty questioned whether at the next meeting, should CLA make a motion to contribute dollars for the cost. Al feels that DEEP approval should be gained first and then address how the dollars will be raised thru fund raising or CLA funds.

Continued concern was raised about the water rights. Rodger indicated they could draw down 8 feet, if water rights were sold off.

Sand Erosion –no update , Rodger Hosig was not present

NEW BUSINESS:

Mark Mickiewicz read some correspondence. Bill Merson resigned from the Vice Presidency. He's taking time away from CLA. He also sent a thank you note for the flowers. He resigned from the water testing committee and will decline any nominations. Bill will stay on the Milfoil committee.

Mark also is resigning from the Presidency. He has been president for 15 years and family obligations will keep him from continuing.

**Crystal Lake Association
Spring Meeting
May 6th, 2015 @ 7 PM
Old Crystal Lake School House**

Nominations for Officer Election (See notes)

Nominations for officers need to be done. Al did some groundwork on nominations for roles. The nominees must be 18 years old, good standing, and will hold the role for 2 years. All positions will be filled. As many nominations as possible are encouraged and will be voted on at the summer meeting.

If anyone wants to mail in nominations, can mail to 316 Sandy Beach Road. It was noted that you need to make sure anyone you nominate will accept the nomination/position.

Open Positions –

President – nominate David Arzt

Vice President – nominate Al Breton

Treasurer – nominate Vic Laptic

Corresponding Secretary – role is to edit and release an annual newsletter, do postcards, releases, prepare association meeting notices, agenda's, store correspondence & notices.

Recording Secretary – nominate Diane Cristelli

Board of Directors nominations (7 roles):

Dr. Barbara Campbell

Ryan Brown

Jerry Dwyer

Rusty Moody

Jean Burns

Bea Arzt

Mark Mickiewicz

Monique Lussier

Bill Brown

Rex Joffray

Memorial Day Parade May 25, 9AM

Donations of food, cupcakes, bring to the memorial park by 8am. Encourage folks to march, bring attention to the lake and our association. We have a flag that will march. Tables will be manned to hand out cupcakes and drinks. Mugs, keychains, etc. will be displayed for purchase.

Ellington Scholarship Association Award Ceremony (Molly West scholarship)

**Crystal Lake Association
Spring Meeting
May 6th, 2015 @ 7 PM
Old Crystal Lake School House**

June 4th @ 7 pm, Diane Cristelli will present the scholarship.

Suggestion – is it possible to set up a table at the Ellington Farmers market to hand out brochures. Karen & Monique Lussier will discuss possibly doing and when to do it. Monique will find out the charge for it and then a table could be set up and hand out brochures about the lake and sell any of the items available.

ADJOURN @ 8:56 pm

Note: Election to be held at the Annual Meeting , Wednesday July 22. Nominations accepted up to the commencement of the event. Offices: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and seven Directors. Two year terms.