

**Crystal Lake Association
Spring Meeting Minutes
July 20th 2016 @ 7 PM
Old Crystal Lake School House**

Change Crystal lake clear water preservation to society vs. association - correct

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. Received \$2,390 in membership dues. Detailed expenses were shared. Motion to accept, second and approve.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Dam Report

Al Breton shared current pictures of the dam, showing it's getting worse by the day. Water is flowing thru the dam. If nothing is done, the water could rise and push off the capstone or start expanding the dam itself, leading towards failure. Al also shared the plans of how the dam will be filled with concrete.

Progress report – at the last meeting, the NDDDB endangered species report had been submitted and it was approved. We have a single endangered species that is only in our lake. The plant is a type of arrowhead/pickerel weed. The 2nd permit was to the Corps of Engineers. Dave Arzt & Jeanie Burns organized the permit. It has been received. The DEEP 11-page permit will then be submitted. We're half way to the \$15k needed. We can't start work until fully funded and we have a goal of doing this in the fall.

We will be placing signs at the town beach (Lori Spielman approved), at the side of the boat launch, near the milfoil sign at the dam and at the farmers market. All donations are tax deductible and will be returned if the project is not approved. Ryan presented a proto-type for the metal signs to be built. It gives an overview of what we're about, and why we're looking for donations. The Crystal Lake website is updated with extra information, including the go-fund-me information. There is also a scanner on the sign that will take you to the website: www.CrystalLakeEllingtonCT.com. This for the goal of drawing in donations from part time boaters, lake visitors, etc.

Lori Spielman indicated that she does a public TV show once a month and invited someone to join her. Monique Lussier volunteered to join. Al Breton would also like to do it. Lori indicated that up to 4 people could join her on the TV show. It was questioned that since the lake is also used for recreational users, would a mailing be possible looking for donations. Lori indicated that, in her experience, she has found that mailings are not as effective as Twitter, Facebook, etc. Lori indicated that she would link the information via the town website so that it 'blasts' out. Lori offered to put the presentation on the town

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website also. Ryan and Al will work on the presentation and to link it to the website. In addition, a longer version of the presentation will be sent out to additional areas, i.e. Rockville Fish & Game.

Monique Lussier volunteered to hand out 'save the lake' magnets at the boat launch, i.e. talk to boaters there and encourage donations for the dam repair. She felt that having someone present to do this would make a difference, and she encouraged folks to join her. Several folks volunteered to work with Monique on this. Delores & Jeannie will go to the Farmers market and hand out brochures and information.

Q-when does the \$15k goal have to be reached? Al Breton indicated that by the end of September they need to reach this number. The \$7500 achieved so far has \$5000k donated from the CLA. It was suggested that a \$100 donation per family for the families around the lake would cover this.

Monique made a motion that by 9/30/2016, if the \$15,000 has not been reached, then the CLA should contribute to make up the remainder of the balance to get to the \$15,000 so that the project is funded this year, with a cap of \$7,500 (in addition to the currently contributed \$5,000). Al Breton indicated that any excess donations (of the \$15,000) would go back to CLA. Motion was 2nd.

Discussion - Q-how long will it take to start the work if you wait for the dollars till October? Al indicated that the project will only take 2 weeks and that equipment would be available. He would want to make sure there is no interference with summer activity.

Rusty made an amendment to the motion that an interest free loan up to the balance that wasn't raised be set up for the Crystal Lake Clear Water Preservation Society, and it be allowed to exist interest free. Mr. Campbell second the amendment. 3 were in favor of the amendment. Majority opposed. The amendment was denied.

All in favor of the original motion (to go forward this year) 19 approved, motion passes. The next CLA meeting will be September 28th, 2016.

Al Breton indicated that the dollars need to flow through the CLA. He had talked to Attorney Roberson and he indicated that all they'll donate is \$1,000 as they have no funds for this. Al indicated that he has talked to them several times and it was suggested that Rusty Moody contact Attorney Roberson himself if he felt they might be able to contribute more. It was noted that the Clear Water Preservation Society owns the water rights and the dam and they are represented by Attorney Roberson.

Ad-Hoc Milfoil Update

The Plant Survey was received July 6th. There was milfoil found by the dam, in Aborn Cove, Northeast Cove and off the beach. A contract to use the \$15k has been set up. The remainder of the town-offered funding will be used for water quality testing and removal of pond weed. The contract has been approved by the town, and insurance requirements are being finalized. The contract will be for \$36,000.

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There should be opportunity to pull milfoil in Aborn Cove. We are not allowed to suction harvest in Aborn Pond. Dr. Knoecklein does not agree with the use of carp or herbicides. Carp are not allowed in the lake and there would need to be a barrier to keep them in the pond, if that was chosen. If there is more money left over, the divers will go into the 140 pond. Dr. Knoecklein said the carp cleaned milfoil in a pond in Milford and they did eat the milfoil but now they have fanwort, and they ate everything else. If they were put in the pond, a 3 foot high barrier would need to be established to ensure they didn't get into the main lake. Herbicides are also not a good option per Dr. Knoecklein. The grant can only be used for milfoil and not in the 140 pond. The report will be on the CLA website and town website shortly.

Q-what are the priorities? Milfoil in the dam, off the town beach and 3 spots along West shore. Then the Northeast Cove and Aborn Cove. The grant is limited to milfoil. Non-matching town money can be used for non-milfoil. They considered mat barriers but they're expensive and need to be moved frequently. Could be 4-6 times more expensive compared to divers. They're trying to be as cost effective as possible following Dr. Knoecklein's recommendations. He has consistently indicated that we should take care of the open water part of the lake and then take care of the coves. The Northeast cove still has milfoil which is making it into the rest of the lake.

Q-how will they get into Aborn cove as the water has dropped so low. Plants are hand picked and if they can get in, they'll wade in to hand pick the plants. Last year they were able to get into the channel of Aborn Brook. The divers will do as much as they can in the limited amount of water that's there right now.

Q-when will harvesting begin? They'll be starting August 1st. The company is New England Aquatic Services LLC and we've been working with them for 5 years now.

It was suggested that an update be made to the website to note that the pickerel weed is a beneficial weed that helps to keep the milfoil down. Dave suggested that Ryan work with Dr. Knoecklein to put together a 'good plant – bad plant' picture to help folks understand what weeds to not disrupt.

Monique has a question that once the dam is taken care of, can the lake association turn towards taking care of the coves? She'd like the association to address the coves. The concern is that sand from the town beach and road run off is filling in the cove and there's no longer water flowing in there.

Water Testing

Vic Laptik reported that normal water testing was done and samples were forwarded to the lab. Target is that 3 more runs will be done, to capture 5 data points. Rusty, Vic and Gerry Dwyer were recognized for supporting taking the water samples and sending them to the lab. A water quality report is created and it will be put up on the website once completed.

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Website and Communications

Ryan Brown provided a report discussing the sign and go-fund-me account. Rockville Fish & Fame will be addressed to look for donations. The Farmers market will also be done. Suggestion on raffle will be continued to be looked into. The Journal Inquirer will be addressed. Boat ramp donations will be set up by Monique. Ryan also suggested that he'd go to the quarry to educate them on the potential failure and see if they'll donate. Dave Arzt indicated that receipts should be handed out when donations are received. Monique will come up with a form for the receipts. For the boat launch, it was suggested that Monique set up a donation collection day on Sunday August 7th and she will coordinate. Ryan suggested that Monique pull the information off the website to hand out to folks at the boat launch site.

Ryan also encouraged that pictures be mailed to the webmaster to be put on the website, i.e. the eagle, the heron or sunsets.

Friends of Sailing

2 adults signed up so far per Rusty Moody. The town website contains info on age, weight limit, etc.

Fundraising

Ryan provided report under Website and Communication.

MEMBERSHIP

96 families last year. We're close to 85 so far this year.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

State launching area – Gerry Dwyer indicated that there's a large hole at the state boat launch that is impacting boats going in the water, breaking props. He felt it's being caused by folks power loading their boats. Lori indicated that Gerry could replace the rocks and then swim near the boat launch. The town fenced off a parking area near the boat launch. Lori indicated she doesn't know why the town fenced off parking areas for boats near the boat launch.

Monique wanted to say thank you to Lori for attending as well as acknowledging the number of folks attending.

Dave Arzt wanted to have another picnic before school starts. Proposed picnic is August 22nd at Dave's house. 5-7pm, 24 Private Grounds. Ryan will send out a blast as a save the date message.

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The next meeting will be September 28th.

Adjourn @ 8:19pm, second and approved.

Diane Cristelli
Recording Secretary, Crystal Lake Association