

**Crystal Lake Association  
Fall Meeting Minutes  
September 28<sup>th</sup> 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. One correction to Crystal Lake Clear Water Preservation Society vs. Association.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Vic Laptik read the current report. 20% received over the \$15,000 planned. 92 contributors, \$3,000 thru the website, rest was thru cash, check, etc. Used go-fund-me and received \$3,150 from them, charge of \$280 to use that site. Of the 92 contributors, the top 5 contributed \$7,000 of this amount. Led by Skyline quarry (Wayne Williams) with a donation of \$3,700, \$1,000 from Shea's electrical. \$1,000 from Automated Business Systems, \$1,000 from the Holmes Road Property Association, \$1,000 from Poulin Enterprises. \$17,000 is personal donations, no CLA dollars. Thank yous have been sent for all donations.

Ended July with \$3,000, and then ended August with \$17,000 ear-marked for the dam.

Vic read the report including all expenses encountered to date.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Dam Report**

November 18<sup>th</sup> was the first DEEP presentation. Suggestions were made, and new plan was done in August 2015. In late 2015, the new form & process was created. 12 pages & 4 permits were the simplified process. NDDDB approval. Fisheries is approved. US Army Corp of Engineer is approved. Notice to Stafford municipalities was submitted & approved. Final package to the DEEP was submitted this morning to Art Christian, head of the dams in CT. Should take only a couple of days to gain approval.

Construction is planned to start in October. Once approved, Guy will come up with a schedule. Jeannie Burns & Dave Artz spent a significant amount of time preparing the documentation and were recognized for that.

Al thanked everyone for their donations. Special thanks to Ryan Brown, Monique Lussier, Jeannie Burns, Delores Bretton and Cindy McNamara for their fundraising efforts.

Gerry Dwyer & Al spent quite a bit of time under the bridge examining it. The situation has gotten much worse. The hole is 15 feet wide now and 5-6 feet deep. Can't get close enough now. If we don't do it

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this year, freezing water could push over the dam. The hole has expanded 4-5 times and it'll take 2-3 times more concrete than originally planned. Need to get it done this year.

A mud sucking truck will be hired, using Billy Mitchell. Once the mud is cleaned out, it'll be clear

Volunteers are needed for:

Wrecking the coffer dam

Filling of 100 sand bags, to be done at the quarry

Erecting staging on the stream side

Hire professionals to have the concrete pumped in and smoothed out.

Work will be planned for weekends. Sign-up sheets will be passed out.

Q-concrete will be pumped to fill the voids. What will stop the concrete from spilling out? Will pour the concrete stiff and vibrate it as necessary. Will pour slowly so it sets up and won't move. Concrete will sit for about a minute and it won't move further, Guy Burns discussed. Hay bales will be placed in the stream to prevent it from getting in the water. State of CT DEEP management practices will be used for filling in.

Q-why not pea stone? Going with DEEP recommendation of using concrete and not pea stone. Further discussion clarified.

Q-how thick a cap will there be? Initial thought was 9 inches to keep it level. Lake level will not be raised, it will be made even with the capstone.

Q-how long will repair last? DEEP feels 10-20 years. No estimate for how long the repair will last. Goal will be this buys time until the dam is addressed and fully repaired.

Lori Spielman took initiative to meet with the town of Stafford & they will provide traffic control during the work. Having them support this takes liability away.

Q-how many yards of concrete? Originally estimated 20-30 yards, could be a lot more. Will not be using Modus concrete.

Q-when in October? Schedule will be set once the permit is in hand.

Note, the trucks going over the road has not caused deterioration of the dam, per the engineers. Its felt it's just erosion and falling down.

Q-should Skyline Quarry be used to bring in rocks for the repair? There will be no rocks used, only concrete as the water would get thru the rocks.

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Volunteer sign-up sheets were passed out and all were encouraged to sign up. Sand bags and breaking up the coffer dam are where the most help is needed.

Lori suggested looking into an attachment for filling up sandbags mechanically vs. doing it by hand. Someone suggested getting boy scouts to do it, but Al felt we might have enough volunteers to cover it.

For the coffer dam breakup, looking for 6-8 folks to do the work. Guy has a machine to support doing this.

### **Ad-Hoc Milfoil Update**

3 weeks of removal was done in early August. Went around the lake and confirmed the plant survey. Several days were spent in the dam area and in the northeast cove. Then time was split between Aborn Cove and the area off the town beach. Could only spend a few hours in Aborn Cove due to it stirring up. \$15,000 grant from CT and we matched \$15,000 from our funds. Then had town non-participating funds, totally \$36,000 vs. \$22,000 in previous years.

134 hours spent, 350 bags of milfoil. 42 hours with town funds & removed 75 bags of milfoil & 6 bags of red leaf pond weed. This report is on the CLA website and the town website. Dr. Knoecklein has surveyed the lake and once the report is received, Dave will put together a report for the state of CT. It appears that we will not get a \$15,000 grant next year so this was a very good year. Dave & Jeannie put this grant application together that got us the \$15,000. Next year, we won't get a grant and we will rely on town funds for milfoil removal. There is a line item for \$25,000, \$3,000 for water testing & plant survey and the rest goes to pulling invasive plants. Pond weed is not an invasive plant but it's starting to spread and we're trying to keep it down.

### **Water Testing**

5 runs will be done this year, next one will be Monday. Gerry Dwyer, Vic and Rusty will pull the samples and send to the lab.

Q-has there been any deviation in the water quality, so why bother? Per Dave, it's recommended that water testing continue to ensure the quality stays high. It's also used for mapping of invasive plants in the lake and we were able to see milfoil before it was widely seen. It allows us to keep an eye on the overall health of the lake. The health department tests the lake regularly but looks only for e-coli, not for anything else. We test for other things i.e. nitrogen content, etc. The town originally assisted in paying for the water testing. And they continue to support us with our milfoil removal. The town is to be thanked for all their efforts.

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Q-when it comes to the dam repair, bridges are deteriorating due to salt. How will we ensure salt won't get into the concrete being used for repair? The only salt deterioration is on the rails, not on the dam itself. The structural engineer felt we didn't need epoxy rebar to ward off sand.

It was noted that the state is currently considering reducing the amount of salt going onto the roads around the lake. Every well should be tested as sodium is getting into the wells from the salt run off from the roads. A home on West Shore with a well 325 feet deep was found to have sodium poisoning and is undrinkable and unusable. The state is supporting providing water monthly. The home is between route 30 & West Shore so run off from route 30 is coming down into the wells. It was suggested that well owners check their water. Connie used George Shaw, tested the water 5 times and now she's working with the DEEP and the health department to test the water. Neighbors aren't in the same situation, they draw from the lake and purify it or they're unable to test right now.

There is no current test for salinity or sodium testing currently.

**Website and Communications**

No report.

**Friends of Sailing**

3 people have signed up and Rusty is coordinating lessons.

**Fundraising**

No report, other than related to the dam repair.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Activity - 2014 – 80 members, 2015 – 93 paid members; 2016 –reached 100 paid members. The dam has caused a lot of attention and folks interested in joining.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

General comments: On Saturday at Ellington High School, the town is having a meeting 10-1:30 to talk about crumbling foundations. A coalition from Canada is coming down to review what they're doing.

Lori: a new sergeant is in town, Brian Santa. He's been out at the lake a few times and he's wondering about putting in another dock so people could use it to tie up boats while they're moving boats. It's state property and no one has any problem with that. People use the police dock and shouldn't. Having a 2<sup>nd</sup> dock, would allow people to tie up easier. It's noted that several families use the property where

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the police dock is and putting in another dock would limit swimming ability for them. They have deeded rights to using that land. This would be the same side as the police dock. It was noted putting a dock between the police dock and the boat launch should not impact the families.

The town took over 10 Hall Road. There were so many liens on it, so the town is going to auction it off. 2/3<sup>rd</sup> week of October will be an auction. Anyone interested can contact the town hall.

Adjourn @ 7:56 pm, second and approved.

Diane Cristelli  
Recording Secretary, Crystal Lake Association