

POALH Board of Governors

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by President Cari Eckert at Jan DePratti's house 66 Ridgewood Rd., East Haddam. Board members in attendance were Cari Eckert, Jan DePratti, Corinne Halliday, Bill Taylor, Jason Griffing, Gary Petersen, Neil Murphy, and Adam Thompson (missed first half hour). Also attending were Ed Bader, Tax Collector and Lee Griffin, Treasurer.

Minutes: The minutes of the March 23, 2018 Board Meeting were approved as presented.

President's opening remarks: Spring packet was mailed out with thanks to all who contributed material and helped distribute it, including Jason, Lee and Bonnie. Spring packet cost was \$2188.14 and was within our normal expense range. Board Appreciation Dinner will be May 5th, Mohegan Sun.

Financial Reports:

Treasurer: Lee's report was accepted as presented.

Tax Collector: As of April there were 4 outstanding accounts unpaid. First notice of tax sale was sent to two of the delinquent property owners, the bank has paid us on one and a bankruptcy is delaying the payment on one.

Committees:

Properties: Gary and the Properties committee accepted one of the bids for lawn maintenance this season. American Pride won the bid. They were the only bid that met the request for proposals insurance requirements (liability and workers comp) and they came with excellent references. Their bid was slightly higher than the other bids, but not significantly.

Surveyors will be working at the lake throughout the summer with the primary goal to identify POALH property bordering the water and identifying the right-of-ways. The Board can better plan for the use of the property once it is identified. Neil identified some of the POALH waterfront property including a 352' section on the north end of the lake may be difficult to get to because of a steep grade from the road, but there might be some potential for boat use if access can be made safe.

A work party is scheduled for May 19th at 9 a.m. to put out swim lines and rafts and clean beaches.

Geese were noted nesting in the swamp area across from the causeway. Their nests are difficult to reach so it is hard to discourage them from nesting. Barriers will need to be put up at the beaches, especially in July when they are molting and don't fly.

Signage: Jason has a list of all the road signs. The plan is to replace about 15 each year. There are 59 more signs to complete. The Lake Hayward sign has been deteriorating and needs replacement. The Board discussed two possible solutions, one a carved composite material that will copy the current wood sign, and one a vinyl sign with a plexiglass coating on a plywood backing. There was a significant price difference between these solutions, composite sign \$2695.00 and vinyl and plexiglass sign about \$500. After much discussion and votes taken among the Board members the carved composite sign was chosen. Motion (Bill): Purchase one composite sign for the North end of the Lake, 6 for and 2 against. Motion (Bill): Purchase two signs made of vinyl and Plexiglass for both ends of the lake, 2 for and 6 against. The pros considered were the carved sign more closely matched the existing sign which many members have praised and was more attractive and potentially longer lasting. The vinyl signage was discussed as a good solution for temporary signage like that used for Lake Hayward Days. The carved composite sign quote is less than quoted a year ago.

Public Safety: No activities reported. Bonnie was not present.

Social/Rec: Sue (not present) and Evelyn worked on the calendar during the last month and have scheduled most major events. Ed is still waiting for a budget update from Sue on planned expenses for the remainder of the 2017-2018 budget year. Cari will call her and discuss this to see what can be spent before the summer begins to balance expenses.

LQIC.

Solitude is scheduled to do a review of the invasive weed issue in June to determine the strategy for weed control this year. We have been rated number 7 of the best lakes in Connecticut with Candlewood rated number 1. LQIC will be evaluating our contract with Solitude this year. So far we have had a good working relationship with them.

Water testing for eColi begins the Tuesday before Memorial Day. Jan DePratti will continue performing this service for a small stipend to cover her expenses but has requested help for 2 days (May 22 and 29) when she will be away. Bill Taylor suggested a woman named Lisa who expressed interest last year in helping with the testing. Jan requested purchase of a long dipper mechanism to avoid going too deep into the water for tests. She will look into this purchase. Jan advertised our old water testing equipment on eBay and has had no interest. The Board voted to sell the equipment to a POALH member who has expressed interest. Motion: To sell the equipment: 8 for and 0 against.

Adam will become our CT Water Company liason. Jan was in the role but she is not a user of CWC water, so it was agreed that a Board member who actually used the water should be the liason.

Third Beach Dredging: Bill reported that Gail has spoken to Mark at Pristine Waters and his attorney is looking at the contract. She said we may still be able to have the dredging worked performed this Autumn although Pristine's work schedule is filling up. Cari and Ed requested to see a copy of the contract.

Old Business:

Docks: Discussion of where new docks will be placed and what the plan is for acquisition. The Strategic Plan developed last year included the purchase of docks for the beaches and the budget for this year included expenditures for docks. Gary said that two 20 foot docks are scheduled to be purchased before June 30 and 2 later in the summer. They are aluminum docks that allow water to pass through and are not rolling docks. Will we need to put them in to the water each year and then take them out, but they will initially be installed by the company selling us the docks. Three company's products have been considered and the one best meeting our needs was chosen by the Properties Committee.

Corinne voiced a concern that controlling the use of the docks will be a nightmare. There was much discussion about whether we will need to set policy for use or just put them in the water to see how they are used (which is what the Properties committee had planned). There was concern that our normal first come first served policy for use of the boat racks may not work effectiviely with docks because some large boat owners like pontoon boats may unfairly get more dock usage. Also, more members might purchase larger boats planning to use dock space. It was agreed that we don't want to be running a marina. Some pontoon boats may need to be moored in the water and a small boat taken out to the larger boat. We don't plan to provide power to pontoon boats to charge batteries. A Motion was made by Jan to limit usage to small boats, 6 For, 2 Against, and then the motion was withdrawn, (vote to withdraw motion 8 For , 0 Against). Another Motion was made to put the docks in and wait to see how they are being used to determine if additional usage policy is required. 5 For, 3 Against.

Technology:

Jan has acquired Global Adminstration rights for our Microsoft 365 licenses to be able to reset passwords and structure a data storage plan. The license we have includes security across all email addresses. Dynamic Alliance manages this security and have the appropriate knowledge to do this. The Board agreed that there was value in keeping our arrangement with them.

Blighted Properties:

Ed is working with the town on getting help with an excessively blighted property on Wildwood Rd. He recommends we establish a policy or at a minimum, procedures for dealing with excessive blight. We will record the process we use in this case for a template for future issues with blighted properties.

New Business:

Review of Competitive Bidding Process:

Ed went over our competitive bidding process. Bids on projected expenditures of over \$5000 are required and include a general rider for high risk projects that may involve usage of heavy equipment. The Board must approve any deviations from this. Gary asked that we consider a change for future policy that expenditures of \$5000 or above for purchase of items require looking at three different options and that bids involving contracts require bidding if the expenditure would be over \$10,000. This will be considered at a future meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday May 16, 2018 at 7 p.m. at Cari Eckert's, 277 Lake Shore Dr.

Action steps to be completed resulting from this meeting:

1. Request copy of Dredging contract from Gail. (Cari, Ed)
2. Record process we are following to have blighted property improved including asking the town to condemn the building. (Ed, town administrator, Cari)
3. Contact Lisa to substitute for water testing 2 times this summer. (Bill)
4. Determine if the Events committee would like Lake Hayward Days signage (Cari, Sue).
5. Webblast about May work party. (Jason).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cari Eckert, Recorded in the Secretary's absence.