

POALH Board of Governors

Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Cindy Biancamano via a virtual Zoom online meeting.

Board members in attendance: Cindy Biancamano, Angela Buccheri, Hema DeSilva, Dave Edgington, Jason Griffing, Corinne Halliday, Evelyn Passan, Gary Petersen (7:02) & Kathy Sabo

Association members in attendance: Lee Griffin - Treasurer, Ed Bader - Tax Collector & Ryan Hartman

Public in Attendance: Tim Pelton – Lake Quality Committee

Minutes: *Jason Griffing made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 24, 2021 board meeting. Dave Edgington seconded. A vote was held, and all board members present agreed (8 yes).*

Public Comment: None

President's Report: Cindy received several calls from realtors and potential buyers from the east side wanting to know if they could join the association. Correspondence was received from the gentleman whose cottage burned down on Wildwood wanting to know if the association could provide a tax abatement. Cindy indicated that we would follow whatever the Town of East Haddam does. Ed Bader is aware of this and will follow up. Cindy has had a tremendous response from association members indicating their willingness to serve on various committees. She received a call about where to dock or moor a pontoon boat which we can talk about later when we discuss boat racks, etc.

Financial Reports:

- **Treasurer:** Lee Griffin previously emailed his treasurer's report to all board members. Since the last board meeting, we have received \$44.25 in income. Expenditures were \$5,937.11. Income budgeted is \$225,202.00 and actual is \$224,441.66 with a difference of -\$760.34. Expenses budgeted is \$225,202.00 and actual is \$176,005.60 with a difference of \$49,196.40. Account balances as of April 18, 2021 are \$184,629.12. The full report, as always, will be posted on the website. There were no questions for Lee.
- **Tax Collector:** Ed Bader reported that he is still working with the town of East Haddam on the grand list. There have been a lot of sales of properties so there will be a lot of name and address changes. The town assessor has resigned about a month ago. There is only a part time assistant there now. He should be able to have a good number next month so the board can set the mil rate.

Committee Reports:

- **Events:** Angela Buccheri reported that the new screen and projector have arrived. She will do a test run in the next couple of weeks. New events will be new member gathering Memorial Day weekend and an Artisan Fair on June 12th from 11-3 pm. Trivia night in August will now be a Music Bingo night. Some of the links in the spring packet are not working. Jason Griffing reported that Mike Trocchi has fixed them on the website and Jason will send out a new email blast with the corrected links. Jason also reported that he has only received four people who requested a hard copy of the spring packet. Lee Griffin reminded us that he has started posting pavilion reservations requested by members, so we need to keep an eye on the website calendar before scheduling a new event.
- **Strategic Planning:** Hema DeSilva reported that there is nothing new with this committee.
- **Lake Quality:** Tim Pelton reported that the committee has put together a draft program for the board to consider seeking the boards endorsement. The concept is that a poorly maintained septic tank may be leaching nutrients that eventually wash into the lake that compounds our whole algae and invasive species program. There is a regulation on the POALH books that says you are supposed to pump your septic tank every three years. The committee would like to solicit five vendors to give a discounted rate to pump septic tanks with the intent that they could do four or five with one trip to the lake. This will give the vendor economy of scale and a related discount would get passed onto the membership. The vendor would coordinate the scheduling. The committee has identified some vendors they will get their best discounted prices from and will publish instructions for the membership to follow if they choose to use these vendors. Members will still be able to use their own vendors that are not on the list if they choose. The five vendors the committee will reach out to are: Wentworth, Redi-Rooter, Olsen Sanitation, Suburban Sanitation & one more. Discounted prices will be solicited for 500-gallon tanks, prices to locate the tank and prices to dig out the pump out access. This information would be published in newsletters being applicable to both the east and west sides of the lake. It was noted that we would not be doing anything other than some advertisement for the companies through our newsletters and an email blast. It was also suggested that we get some pricing (hopefully discounted) to inspect the septic tanks as well. It was noted that rules & regulations require a pump out every five years. It was also suggested that the discounted pumping take place in the months of June and July to get higher participation in a shorter window of time for a good

discount. Part of the proposal would include that the vendors would get paid on the day of service. The board agreed unanimously to give the go ahead to put this plan in motion. Tim Pelton will present this program at the June meeting and will promote it in the newsletters. Corinne Halliday reported that weed treatment will take place on June 28, 2021. The rain date will be June 29, 2021. Jason Griffing will put this in an email blast when the scheduled date is closer and Lee Griffin will update the calendar. The committee has found another grant that is available through CT Federation of Lakes. They will be applying for this grant to go towards our stream sampling. They are hoping to get \$1,000 from this grant. Testing will be starting in mid-May for Algae and a variety of other things. Corinne will be contacting Chatham Health to get a protocol in place in case there ever is an algae bloom. This protocol should be ready to be presented at the May board meeting.

- **Properties:** Gary Petersen reported that American Pride (landscaping) will be starting the clean-up process around the lake. He has put up some more new street signs. Work party is taking place on May 15, 2021 to install the rafts and swim lines. Gary will be looking to solicit beach rakers for the beaches this summer as Mike will not be doing it this year. Mike may be selling his machine and the association may want to look into buying it. The boat rack at first beach will be done in May. John Allegra will fix the right of way between wildwood and lakeshore near little beach. The company who has been taking care of the porta potties will not be doing it this year. Lee Griffin has been shopping around looking for someone else. Evelyn Passan reported that there has been a paddleboat on First Beach and the gentleman has not come to get it. Gary will try to reach out to him. Surveys are on hold for now.
- **Geese:** Evelyn Passan reported that Nutmeg Farms came out to the lake on the last three Saturdays. They have found two nests – one near the state boat launch and one in the cove across from First Beach. They are thinking that the rest of the geese present around the lake are migratory.
- **Dam Committee:** Corinne Halliday requested that this committee be a major part of the board meeting in May as they get ready to present something in June to the association.

Old Business

- **Surveying of Properties:** It was reiterated that we have put a hold on continuing to survey the remaining properties for now.
- **Board Terms:** Cindy Biancamano asked who would be staying on the board and who would be leaving. Gary Petersen indicated he would not seek reelection. Hema DeSilva indicated he did not know what his decision would be at this point in time. Kathy Sabo indicated that she would be seeking re-election.
- **Nominating Committee Guidelines:** Cindy Biancamano indicated that she would work with the nominating committee to set up the guidelines.

New Business

- **State Boat Launch:** Evelyn Passan and Gary Petersen will work on getting new signage at the boat launch stating that no motorboats are allowed on the lake. Angela Buccheri indicated that DEEP needs boat information in order to find the boats and enforce the rule. Cindy Biancamano would like the five things that DEEP requires to be put in the newsletter every week so members know what they should be jotting down to report. 1)Description of the boat operator and passengers; 2)Date and time of incident; 3)Location and direction of travel; 4)Violation (gas engine, prop in water, etc.); 5)Description of boat and hull # on boat. It was asked if DEEP has a sign that they use at other lakes. The plan is to hopefully put in a sign approved by DEEP using concrete and a post as no one really sees what is in the kiosk.
- **Boat Racks & Charging:** Cindy Biancamano stressed that one of the simpler solutions is to add more racks. There will be one added at First Beach. We will also add a rack to second beach, a task which Tony Buccheri has volunteered to help with. Dave Edgington indicated that we need to put hitching posts at second beach and little beach for pontoon boats. Gary Petersen spoke directly with the gentleman who wanted to put in electric at Little Beach indicating to him what he could and could not do regarding his pontoon boat. Angela Buccheri suggested that we might be able to adjust the rows on the racks that are already there to accommodate more boats. Lee Griffin reported the cost to charge a boat would be about .65 to .80 a day. He felt the cord was more of a problem or trip hazard. Dave Edgington feels that we should just take the plug out at Second Beach. Gary Petersen feels we want to provide a good service for our association members. The fix would be to run something under the ground to make it safe. The money is minimal. The same as if people charge their cell phones at first beach. If we take away the electric we run the risk of people bringing down generators to charge their batteries and that would be loud. Corinne Halliday feels that the issue is not the money, but it would be just another thing to monitor, organize and regulate. Charging stations would have to be put in correctly and if we did have them there should be a charge. We should get a committee together to look into what it would mean to have a marine charging station, how people would get access, who gets to use it, insurance, etc. There are a lot of things to think about. Members should not be misled into thinking that they can purchase a pontoon boat and it is ok to run a cord across the grass or across a playground to charge it. Noisy generators would not be good. Corinne feels some serious research and thought needs to be completed before charging stations are allowed. Jason Griffing agrees with Corinne and feels that the boat stickers are not useful. It is one more thing to record and keep track of. Cindy Biancamano agrees we

do not need boat stickers. Kathy Sabo agrees with Corinne and Jason. She feels that the pontoon boat population will continue to grow and get out of hand if we create charging stations. She agrees we do not need stickers. Kathy wants to change the dates for the boat rack to be March 15th through November 30th. We do a really good job of policing the racks in the Fall but perhaps we should police the racks in the Spring as well. Gary Petersen agrees with the new dates. He pointed out that pontoon boats can be docked in the water as we do not own the water. Dave Edgington noted that DEEP just requires you leave an open lane when docking your boat. Angela Buccheri is not opposed to putting the cord underground for charging as it is just not pontoon boats that require charging of batteries. We should look at our options and be mindful of people who are using the lake and enjoying the lake. We definitely need to do it right and be safe about it. Corinne Halliday indicated that this was a discussion the association had at a June 2019 meeting and the majority of people there did not want people charging their boats. Cindy Biancamano feels that the charging of the boats is a small thing that we can allow so the people can enjoy the lake. Evelyn Passan feels that we should figure out a way to make it safer. Dave Edgington agrees that it should be done safely if we are going to allow it. Kathy Sabo feels that if we are going to go this route then we should consider putting an electrical outlet at Little Beach as well. We need to be forward thinking because once we put in the charging station there are going to be a lot of people that are going to want to use it. Hema DeSilva feels that once you start something you cannot pull back. How far do you expand it? Gary Petersen wants to start off with second beach by getting a price and having that done. Then we could move to Little Beach the following year. Kathy Sabo thinks some kind of group or committee should take a look this summer to see how many pontoon boats or boats that need charging are around. Corinne Halliday would like to talk about this with the association at the June meeting. She reiterates that if you put in a charging station you will get many more new boats moored around that station to use it. Cindy Biancamano reported that an association member suggested that anyone who wants to use the charging station to pay \$25.00 a season. Jason Griffing feels that we could ask for a donation but not charge anything. Dave Edgington made the point that not everyone uses every amenity at the lake so costs of things even out. We all make different choices of what we enjoy at the lake. Boat stickers – Eight out of nine association members believe that we do not need the boat stickers so that will be discontinued. *Gary Petersen made a motion to change the dates for use of the boat racks to March 15th through November 30th. Angela Buccheri seconded. A vote was held, and all board members present agreed (9yes).* In summary, we are going to build more boat racks at first and second beach. Gary is getting a price to put electric underground by our May meeting but will not do it yet. There will be no committee formed.

- **Venmo:** Jason Griffing reported that Venmo usage would not be easy as we are considered a business. It is not set up for our situation.
- **Welcome Wagon Evening:** This will be taking place the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. It will not be a whole association event. Cindy Biancamano will get a list of new people and invite them. Cindy will draft a sheet of facts and figures pertinent for new members to hand out that evening. If board members are around that evening it would be good to attend so that new members can meet us and get acquainted with the lake. If anyone has any ideas of information that should be included please send it to Cindy.
- **Office 365:** Evelyn Passan brought up a suggestion to go with Google. The price is about the same. We are not using Office 365 the way we should be using it because we are not used to it and do not know how to use it. Evelyn feels Google is more user friendly. General consensus was that we could look into switching to Google.
- **Covid:** Angela Buccheri reported that the governor is loosening restrictions on May 1, 2021 and again on May 19, 2021(if things continue to go the way that they are going.) So that looks good moving forward for events and planning for the summer. If the trends keep moving in this direction we should be able to do Lake Hayward days this year, but it is so hard at this point to make that definite. The governor's emergency powers expire on the 20th of May as does the mask mandate.
- **May Meeting:** Cindy Biancamano stated that we will be meeting in person for our May board meeting. It was discussed whether it should be at the pavilion or not but was decided to keep it at Kathy's cottage subject to change if needed.
- **POALH Paperwork:** Kathy Sabo noted that there are bins of paperwork in the pavilion that should be shredded as they are not needed. It is old, moldy stuff. Lee Griffin stated that the stuff needed to be save because we are a municipality. Ed Bader will look at the requirements for a municipality and provide some guidance.
- **Job Descriptions:** Kathy Sabo asked those present to complete their job descriptions. She has already received Mike Trocchi's. She has been in contact with past presidents to seek out paperwork regarding job descriptions and is awaiting to see if there is anything.

Dave Edgington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Evelyn Passan seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.