

POALH Board of Governors Meeting Minutes May 19, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Corinne Halliday at 15 Lookout Drive, East Haddam CT.

Board members in attendance: Angela Buccheri, Hema DeSilva, Dave Edgington, Evelyn Passan, Gary Petersen & Kathy Sabo

Board members in attendance virtually via zoom: Corinne Halliday & Jason Griffing

Board members absent: Cindy Biancamano

Association members in attendance virtually via zoom: Lee Griffin - Treasurer, Ed Bader - Tax Collector, Jan DePratti - Lake Quality & Moira Boone - LH Store

Minutes: *Jason Griffing made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2021, board meeting. Hema DeSilva seconded. A vote was held, and all board members present agreed (8 yes).*

Public Comment:

Moira Boone brought up the topic of exploring different avenues for the Lake Hayward store versus the way we have always done it which is to purchase merchandise in bulk and then sell it in person. She asked the board to approve a large expenditure which was problematic. It was noted that perhaps instead of the big expense of ordering so much in advance, some of the larger ticketed items can be done with preorders or have an online store. Moira is open to trying different things. It was also noted that there is a revolving fund just for the store in the amount of \$3,400 which should not be exceeded. There is no actual money in the operating budget for merchandise. It was noted that the concern was with the hooded sweatshirt, which was quite expensive, not the other items on the list that came in around \$3,400. We thought it might be prudent to do the one item online because we do not have the money to put forth on purchasing that item to sell. Moira will research what is available as well as getting some info regarding online stores that Angela Buccheri has.

Corinne Halliday noted that there was a written report sent by Jan DePratti to all board members regarding the situation that Chatham Health District will no longer pay for lab testing for our weekly e-coli water samples. In the written report it was noted the testing should run about \$1,600 for the season and should be reallocated within the LQIC budget. Jan DePratti of Lake Quality reported that she would not be available this summer to do the water testing so she will be putting an ad in the newsletter for someone to take over this position which offers a stipend which comes out of the LQIC budget. Jason Griffing will send out an email blast.

President's Report: Carolyn Kress is now handling parking passes. There has been no luck in finding a swim instructor. Brian Kelly is working on insurance quotes. Gary Petersen, Cindy Biancamano & the surveyor have agreed to meet with Mr. Byron to try and settle the situation amicably. The first newsletter is June 26th which is the Saturday right before the association meeting. T-shirts for the news kids were bought.

Financial Reports:

- **Treasurer:** Lee Griffin previously emailed his treasurer's report to all board members. Since the last board meeting, we have received \$37.39 in income. Expenditures were \$15,826.06. Income budgeted is \$225,202.00 and actual is \$224,479.07 with a difference of -\$722.93. Expenses budgeted is \$225,202.00 and actual is \$191,831.66 with a difference of \$33,370.34. Account balances as of May 17, 2021, are \$168,840.47. The full report, as always, will be posted on the website. There were no questions for Lee. : *Kathy Sabo made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Hema DeSilva seconded. A vote was held, and all board members present agreed (8 yes).* Lee Griffin inquired if the expense of the news kid's t-shirts would come out of the communications budget. Board agreed it should come out of communications budget.
- **Tax Collector:** Ed Bader asked the board to set the mil rate at 4.608 based on an adjusted grand list of \$45,343,702 and the approved 2021-22 budget of \$208,931.00. *Kathy Sabo made a motion to accept the proposed mil rate of 4.608. Dave Edgington seconded. A vote was held, and all board members present agreed (8 yes).*

Committee Reports:

- **Events:** Angela Buccheri reported the following: The projector and screen are here. We had a test run, and everything went great and was so easy! It works with the old speaker, but we will also have the option of the new speakers once installed. The screen is stored at the pavilion. A projector bag was donated and to extend the life of the projector it will not be stored at the pavilion. We would like to purchase a bin for storing the screen and a few universal cords for connecting to laptops. Will have to be mindful of bandwidth when streaming movies, hoping it is not an issue. The first fishing tournament was held this past weekend. Twelve members attended and for the first time one team took home all three trophies! The planning for the artisan fair is well underway and we have begun advertising for the event. We have drafted the sign-up form for the family mini photo sessions on June

12 and it will be shared soon. \$40 for a 10-minute time slot & one digital image from your family gallery. Venmo or cash. If people do not show up for their appointment they will not be refunded, and it is important that members involved are on time out of respect for their neighbors. Since they are ten-minute time slots, families of up to five sign up for one slot, families up to ten will have to pay for and sign up for two slots, any families larger than 10 will need to inquire about a private session. We are still looking for items for the auction on June 26th. I will be getting a flyer on the FB page soon and to Jason for emailing. A Place Called Hope Birds of Prey program has been added to the calendar for July 3rd at 3:00. This event was generously sponsored by an association member. We are removing the rain date for the camp out from the calendar. In the event of inclement weather, the event will simply be canceled.

- **Strategic Planning:** Hema DeSilva reported that he has two people to serve on the committee.
- **Lake Quality:** Corinne Halliday reported that all testing has begun. The committee spoke with the director of Chatham Health about protocols to put into place if we get an algae bloom that sits in a beach area. Going back to the e-coli testing and Chatham Health not doing the testing any longer. Jan DePratti got quotes from three different labs for testing. We will still have backing from Chatham Health District if we need to close the beach due to e-coli. The biggest issue is finding someone who will want to get paid to do the testing. It was suggested that someone from newcomer's night may want to volunteer. It was asked if there was state support for e-coli testing. No.
- **Properties:** Gary Petersen reported there was a decent turnout for the May work party. All the rafts and new swim lines were put in. The boat rack for first beach will be done by the end of May. Phil Sabo will be taking over for properties. We could only find one company to clean the porta potties for \$1,600 a month. Last year we spent \$2,700 total but it seems we do not have much of a choice. We own the porta potties, so companies are not interested in cleaning them if they do not rent them to us. In the fall we can look into if we want to sell the porta potties and rent them again or try to find another company that will do it. At this time, there are no volunteers to rake first and second beach for the season. Mike is selling his Kubota and Gary feels we should buy it to upkeep the beaches and for other projects. Gary feels if there is interest in purchasing the Kubota he will research the cost for gas, maintenance, upkeep, insurance, etc. The board was split 4 yes and 4 no in purchasing the Kubota so Gary will get more information on this. A boat motor was purchased for \$300.00. Gary will hire someone to redo second beach due to erosion. They will scrape down the hump and make the beach a little wider. The new Lake Hayward sign is ready. Jason Griffing will get no smoking signs for the beaches. Angela Buccheri asked if she could include the old street signs in the auction fundraiser. Yes. Hema asked about the right of way on Glimmer Glenn. Gary indicated it is not on the list for this year. It is on the list but not on the immediate list. It will definitely eventually be done.
- **Geese:** Evelyn Passan reported that there are some baby geese on the lake (approx. 16). Nutmeg Farms have done what we have asked them to do. They did take care of two nests (approx. 18-20 babies). She thinks the current nest is across from the A Frame cottage on lakeshore. Unfortunately, Nutmeg Farms does not have permission to go on private property. Hopefully next year we can have a broader spectrum where we can get permission to access private property. The board felt that what we have received from Nutmeg Farms has been a success. The fencing at the beaches has been put up. A sprinkler has been installed at first beach and the grass by the pavilion will be sprayed in addition to putting up a fence.
- **Dam Committee:** Tim Pelton will speak about the dam at our June meeting.
- **Budget Committee:** People who were interested in serving on the budget committee informally met to get information on the process to see if they would be able to serve.
- **By-Law Committee:** By-Law revisions - must we do them? It was noted that there were some things that still needed to be changed so that we conform with state law along with some grammatical errors. There are some things that do not follow CT General Statutes and need to be changed. Most board members feel we need a by-law committee to clean a few things up.

Old Business

- **Boat Charging:** Gary Petersen reported he will be meeting with an electrician to get pricing on making the electric at second beach safe for charging by putting the wires underground. It was noted that a few years back the association members discussed and agreed upon not allowing charging of boats at First Beach.
- **Google vs. Microsoft:** Evelyn Passan talked to Dynamic Alliance that runs our Office 365. Dynamic Alliance does not feel Google is as secure as Office 365. They are also not certified to give us Google. Evelyn indicated to Dynamic Alliance that we feel Microsoft Suite is not user friendly. Dynamic Alliance said they would come out and teach us. Evelyn is in search of a vendor who does Google. Please reach out to her if anyone knows one. Evelyn does not feel it will be any cheaper than Office 365, just more user friendly. Evelyn does not feel this is something we should switch right now – we should wait until the end of the summer. Some board members feel if we are going to switch it needs to be sooner rather than later. Evelyn will keep researching.
- **Newcomer's Night:** This event is being held on May 28, 2021, from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. An invite was mailed to about 50 new owners. Carolyn Kress is supplying gifts and craftsmen contact information. All board members are encouraged to attend.

- **Boat Stickers/Racks:** It was clarified that there will be no more boat stickers. Members will just be required to make sure their name and addresses are put on their boats. This is effective immediately. The boat racks will still be on a first come first served basis but the dates to use the boat racks have been changed to March 15 – November 30.
- **Parking Passes:** Evelyn Passan asked about the parking passes. Kathy Sabo wasn't sure why this task was taken away from safety coordinator. Evelyn asked if Carolyn Kress was just doing passes for new people or if current residents who needed to replace passes should go to Carolyn as well. It was noted that Bonnie Sudell would still be in charge of public safety and that Carolyn Kress would just be handling the parking passes for old and new members.

New Business

- **Covid:** Angela Buccheri brought up in terms of social events what the consensus was regarding Covid restrictions. She felt that June events should not be much of a problem. Kids are not yet vaccinated. We do not want Covid to run through our membership even if we are all vaccinated. It was discussed that it would be polite for the time being to still ask for masks to be worn. We may not be able to enforce it due to state guidelines. The board will continue to monitor any crowded situation asking members to wear masks if needed along with hand sanitizer available. The board will do the best we can in accordance with state guidelines and members can choose to attend events or not.
- **Septic Pumping:** Thoughts about the \$50.00 payment to assoc. members who pump out their septic. The cost may be high if we get 100 people to pump out their septic. It was pointed out that we first would need to allocate the money and then we would have to run it for quite a few years so that everyone had a chance to take advantage of it. Someone who just pumped out their septic last year is not going to do it again this year. There used to be a raffle in the past which did not generate a lot of participation. It was noted that we should wait on the \$50 giveaway program and see if the chosen vendor program would work. Corinne indicated that Tim Pelton had a long conversation with one vendor and after that conversation decided that the vendor program would not work. Most of the board was not in agreement with giving away \$50 to assoc. members for having their septic pumped. It was also noted that there were 50 property transfers within the last year which should have had their septic tank pumped already before the transfer of property if they had the system inspected before purchase.
- **Dinner:** Gary inquired if the board would be going out to dinner this year.

Kathy Sabo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Edgington seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.