

POALH June Meeting Meeting Minutes June 27, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Cindy Biancamano at POALH Pavilion, Lake Shore Dr, East Haddam, CT. Board members in attendance: Cindy Biancamano, Hema DeSilva, Jason Griffing, Kathy Sabo, Evelyn Passan, Angela Buccheri, & Corinne Halliday

Board Members Absent: Gary Petersen & Dave Edgington

Association members in attendance: Lee Griffin – Treasurer and 80 association members.

Invited Guests: Ed Bader – Tax Collector, Tim Pelton – Dam Committee Chair, Karl Acimovic – Engineer for dam

General Public in Attendance: Randy Miller & Felicia Tencza

Total in Attendance: 93 attendees – 88 registered voters, 3 guests & 2 general public. A quorum for the meeting is constituted with over 40 voting members present.

Opening Remarks: Cindy Biancamano reported there was a new sound system installed at the pavilion. She also indicated there are a lot of new faces in the association due to a lot of properties that have changed hands. She asked those in attendance to please raise their hands if they want to speak and to state your name and address. She reminded everyone that the board is all volunteer and is here to help. This meeting is informational, and the August meeting would be the time that the association votes on stuff.

Minutes: *A motion was made, seconded, and passed to waive the reading of the August 16, 2020, association meeting minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the August 16, 2020, association meeting minutes.*

Financial Reports

- **Treasurer:** Lee Griffin indicated that a hard copy of his financial report was on page 6 of the June 26, 2021, POALH newsletter that all members receive. He reported that the difference between income and expenses is now down to \$7,400. He reported that we would be under budget or darn close to it at the end of our fiscal year. Please email the treasurer at treasurer@lakehaywardct.com if you would like to review the books by appointment. Financial review from the CPA will be posted on the Lake Hayward website. There were no questions. Lee thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to serve the association as the treasurer as this will be his last meeting as the treasurer. Cindy Biancamano and the association thanked Lee for his service.
- **Tax Collector:** Ed Bader thanked everyone for making their tax payments on time last year and that 100% of taxes were collected. He indicated that information in the article in the current newsletter noting that tax bills would not be sent out until August/September has now been changed and tax bills will go out by the first week of July 2021 being due August 2, 2021. Ed Bader answered a question about being able to pick up the bill instead of having it mailed and he indicated that option is still available.

Reports of the Board of Governors

- **President:** Cindy Biancamano acknowledged the awesome silent auction and band event that took place on June 26, 2021.
- **Secretary-Clerk:** Kathy Sabo reported that Lee Griffin is also stepping down as Asst Secretary. She is assuming those duties and is looking for volunteers to help out with secretarial duties. Please email her at KathyS@lakehaywardct.com if anyone can volunteer their time.

Committee Reports

- **By – Law & Nominating Committees:** Cindy Biancamano has formulated these committees and they are working on their duties. Nominating committee consists of Robb Wright, Lynn Macri & Fred Alden.
- **Events:** Angela Buccheri thanked everyone who donated items for the silent auction and all who came out to volunteer to help make the event such a great success. Angela Buccheri will see if Vintage Food Truck can come back for some other band events. Two more fundraisers are coming up – Fried Dough Pizza on July 2nd and Words on Wood in July. Please read the newsletter to see weekly events taking place. Some teen events will be held.
- **Geese:** Evelyn Passan reported starting in April a goose management company called Nutmeg Farms started coming out looking for nests. They found two nests only being able to go on association and public property – not private properties. The nests were down by the boat launch and in the cove. Nutmeg Farms was able to prevent 18 geese from hatching. Dogs on the beach chasing the geese help. Association members are encouraged to harass the geese to keep them off of the beaches. Please do not feed the geese. Keeping high grass on your property along the shore's edge discourages them from coming ashore. This needs to be a community effort. Any volunteers to help out would be appreciated. Evelyn is looking into getting permission to go on private property to look for nests. Nutmeg Farms is registered with the DEEP to perform these duties. Association members expressed the

following: that this is an important mission due to health concerns the geese present and how it affects our lake quality; there are many other things that also affect our lake quality such as putting chemicals on our lawns and not pumping our septic; this is inhumane to the geese; doing this in a controlled manner regulated by the DEEP is important to note as individuals cannot dismantle nests or destroy eggs as it is a felony. Evelyn ended by asking members if they see geese building a nest on their property to let them and then contact her. Nutmeg Farms will to a presentation at our Town Hall meeting on July 17th.

- **Lake Quality:** Corinne Halliday thanked the association member who talked about lawn chemicals and pumping out septic tanks because that does have a direct effect on our lake quality. Information regarding our lake quality was in the spring packet and included in the weekly newsletter. Weed treatment of the lake is going to occur on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, by Solitude Lake Management. Our association takes a conservative approach and ask people not to swim or fish on this day (even though you can pursuant to EPA or DEEP guidelines). Signs will be posted to remind residents. Pamphlets were handed out this morning to remind individuals what we can do to help with the quality of the lake. We have experienced some algae blooms over the last couple of years which initiated deep water testing and storm water stream testing. We hope this will show us where stuff is coming from that goes into our lake. This is also why we are building the bio detention basin to curb some of that stuff that goes into the lake. Everyone needs to do their part. Members of the lake quality committee are made up of people from both sides of the lake. The watershed management plan is with DEEP right now reviewing it. This watershed management plan helps when we go to apply for grants to offset costs and start new programs. The committee did apply for two grants which they did not get this year, but they will apply for them again next year. Ed Bader reported a third grant was given to us in the amount of \$16,500 for the construction of the bio detention basin. Also, the CT Federation of Lakes is going to give us a grant of \$2,000. There was one more that we did not get money from. These grants are annual and recurring grants so we may have a better chance of getting them approved once our watershed management plan is approved. Corinne Halliday indicated that the lake quality committee would like to continue the deep water and stream testing for the next few years. She asks that you please support the lake quality budget in August so the testing can continue. Corinne asked members to take some pamphlets home with them to give out to their neighbors. Association members expressed the following: indicated lake quality involves both sides of the lake hoping everyone is involved (question answered – yes); an idea might be to put in a small fee in the sale of homes that go into a fund to keep the lake clean; the boat launch should be monitored more asking people using it to wash their boats before putting them in the lake or make a bigger sign to alert people of this rule; people putting their motors in the lake is an additional problem (take picture and report to DEEP); concerned about the date of the weed treatment being so close to the 4th of July as it was believed treatment caused illness last year (Solitude sets the date & treatment should not be making people sick); do people know how to use the AED on the wall of the pavilion (yes & CPR class in August will show how to)
- **Properties:** Phil Sabo reported in Gary Petersen's absence. Phil has been shadowing Gary for the last year as Gary is stepping down as properties chair at the end of August and Phil will be taking over. New swim lines were purchased and put out in the spring. Street sign installation is complete. Lake Hayward sign at first beach was replaced because it was damaged in a storm. Second beach was leveled, and the sand was spread out expanding the beach a bit. Third beach sand was smoothed out and spread a bit. First beach will be done eventually. An additional boat rack was built at first beach – thank you Tony & Sebby Buccheri. Beach rakers are set for all three beaches. Mike Chupas donated a tractor and dethatcher to use on second beach. Carlos & Heidi Miranda donated a tractor to use at first beach. A line painting machine was purchased and the lines in the pavilion parking lot were painted. A new sound system has been installed at the pavilion. The current big project that is going to be done is the right of way by little beach as it is very deteriorated. Caution tape has been put up around that right of way so that no one falls. John Allegra will complete this project for us. Phil asked for everyone's help in picking up the goose poop. It cannot just be left up to the beach rakers. There are buckets and pooper scoopers at each beach for this purpose. Please do not allow your kids to play with these pooper scoopers. Ropes are put up on the beaches to help prevent the geese from coming ashore. Grape Kool-Aid is also being used to deter the geese as they do not like the smell or taste. Phil reiterated that he will be taking over properties from Gary Petersen and is asking for volunteers to join his Properties Posse. Lights on the tennis courts were fixed. There are some old street signs leftover from the auction last night that anyone can purchase for a small donation. Another project that we will be working on is clearing the right of way down at Glimmer Glenn. Also, in the future we will be making the electrical outlet down at second beach safer by moving it closer to the shore and burying the lines. Please fill in holes on the beach at the end of the day that your children dig. Association members expressed/asked the following: what do we do with the poop buckets when they are full (leave them and Phil will take care of emptying them); concerned that getting rid of the sticker requirement for the boats may not have been a good idea as some people use too many slots on the boat racks (names and addresses should be written on boats and the racks are a first come first serve with no restrictions on quantity – we only ask people to be considerate); dock that floated away sitting at second beach (it will be removed); people are putting posts at the second beach lagoon to tie their boats to destroying the vegetation which is supposed to prevent erosion (Dave Edgington is working on putting up some wood so people can hook their boats up to it); concerns were mentioned about letting people charge their boats

using association outlet at second beach (cost is minimal); third beach appears not to be raked sometime and the shed is locked preventing access to the rake (the rake will be left out);

- **Public Safety:** Corinne Halliday reported there are AEDs at all three beaches. There will be police presence at major events. Lock your cars. If you see something suspicious say something. Reflective address markers are available from the East Haddam fire department for \$15.00. An order form was in the spring packet. Green hang tag parking permits must be displayed in your vehicle when on association property. Please leave your parking permits for new owner's when you sell your property. Carolyn Kress will be here in August to hand out new parking tags as the current ones will expire. Please ensure that your lake address is on your vessel. Bonnie Sudell will be running one family and friends CPR class in August. Check the newsletter to register. Fireworks are illegal in CT. POALH does not permit fireworks on association property. No noise is permitted after 10 pm. Association members expressed the following: when walking please walk towards traffic; people should avoid walking dogs on Lakeshore Dr.
- **Strategic Planning:** Hema DeSilva reported that he is trying to get a strategic plan updated for 8 months. Please volunteer if you can be on the committee. Member input is very important to planning what needs to be accomplished. He would appreciate any ideas. Association members expressed: when the catch basin work is being accomplished it may be a good time to think about expanding the basketball court and two pickleball courts could be put there creating a dual purpose basketball and pickleball area.
- **Technology:** Nothing to report at this time.

Old Business

- **Dam Reconstruction:** Cindy Biancamano reported that Al Andrew's daughter contacted her to see if there were any opportunities at Lake Hayward to donate in memory of her father who recently passed away. Cindy suggested that donations could be made to the Dam restoration fund. Tim Pelton conducted a question and answer session regarding the dam reconstruction project. He reported that in the spring packet was an historical aspect of the dam. He handed out a document to all present with an overview of the proposed Lake Hayward dam renovation. Tim proposed these questions to the community: How do we proceed with dam renovation? How many years do we want to take to do it? How are we going to identify the funds to put it together? Proposed costs could be \$275,000 and higher due to elevating construction costs. The spillway was built during the civil war. As we start to reconstruct it what else are we going to discover that was built 100 years ago that needs to be remediated. The proposal is broken down into four stages (paperwork, rebuild eastern spillway, reconstruct western spillway, apply geotextile fabric & rip rap) which were outlined in the handout suggesting taking three years. Funding can come from POALH membership, POALH capital reserves, east side residents, Town of East Haddam, State of CT grants, State of CT Bond Commission, low interest construction loans. There is an added expense that will occur related to doing the work over three years vs. doing it in one year at a lower price point. Examples were given. The dam committee will spend the next few weeks formulating a plan on what it would look like to move forward with this project based on feedback Tim received today. Association members expressed/asked the following: Is there a loss of quality of work if you do the project in one year vs three years (no); Starting and stopping a project never makes sense (agreed one year makes the most sense); how broad does contributors reach (POALH members fund it, grants, bond commission, east shore resident donations); what is the impact and time frame on a one year basis (the best time to get the project done is at the end of the summer into the late fall); be careful with asking for money from bond commission as when you get state or federal money is opens the lake to everyone even if your beach is private; why do POALH residents have to bear the brunt of this cost (we own the dam); are we asking people to vote (no – we are asking some guidance for today to know which option people would prefer); will there be more research to find out what the extensive damage may be underneath before the project begins (The water is so shallow that it can be just looked at by using snorkeling equipment vs. the need to use a diver. Typically, in CT we may find another dam underneath that was built over); when will we find out what is underneath (we will not know what is under the ground until you start); the funding on the east side has historically been used for weed control – has that allocation changed? (yes – the east shore donations are now categorized as the lake preservation fund to broaden the application of the funds); the integrity and preservation of this lake is a huge priority to all of us so let's move forward and get this project going; what would happen if the dam failed (it would erode the soil on and around the dam area, plug up the culverts at the road, wash the side of the road out and then it becomes an emergency situation where you will spend more money); Will the lake drain out? (part of the lake would drain out about three feet down and your shoreline would move, and it would affect a huge portion of the lake); What will be affected during reconstruction? (One spillway would be done at a time so it will not affect the lake level much and if it is done at the end of the summer the water level should be down anyway); Do we have insurance on the dam (no – insurance companies will not underwrite it); Can we build a whole new dam instead of reconstructing the old one? (we could move upstream but it would not be as efficient and effect properties surrounding the dam); Can we pay for this over three years? (In CT we cannot just do a flat rate assessment. It has to be based on the mil rate and property values. Doing something over a three year period is a different statute); Please consider families who cannot afford an additional assessment with no option to pay

over time; Is there an imminent threat of the dam failing and how do we benefit from doing this project? (It is easier to calculate loss instead of gain so if the dam fails it would be a big loss – association members can decide if they feel the threat is imminent); Dam inspection reveals what path we should follow, and we have been told we need to do some work and it would be worse if we let it go to become an emergency situation; Is there an engineering report on the condition? (yes, it is on the website); If this is a state owned lake, why are they not taking part in the reconstruction costs? (everyone reach out to state & local representatives); Will the mil rate be raised and if so, then are we guaranteed it will go back down (it would be done in the form of a special assessment so it will not adjust the mil rate) Who picks the contractor and reviews it? (there are DEEP approved dam construction people that the dam committee will solicit bids from, our engineer will make the specs they need to bid on).

A straw poll was taken on whether those present wanted to see a proposal moving forward for dam reconstruction to be done in one year, two years or three years. By a show of hands, a vast majority showed that they would prefer exploration for this project to take place and be funded over a one year period. The dam committee will come up with a proposal for the board to review to bring to the association for a vote in August

- **Water Company:** An association member asked about work the water company was supposed to be completing on putting in new water lines. It was suggested that he call the water company directly.

New Business

- **New Treasurer:** Cindy Biancamano introduced & welcomed Nancy Kavanaugh taking over as treasurer.
- **Pickle Ball:** Cindy Biancamano asked committee members to present something to the board at the July 2021 meeting.
- **Bonnie Sudell:** Cindy Biancamano took this opportunity to thank Bonnie Sudell for serving as the past POALH president and has a gift for her.

Announcements

None

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm.