



I received a great question from Susan Bruno about what happens to the donations we contribute for lake preservation. I thought others might want to know and offer my response to Susan below. Incidentally, It's not too late to send in a donation if you have not yet gotten around to it. We suggest \$75.00, but any amount you feel appropriate will be appreciated. Write the check to POALH with "Lake Preservation" in the memo line and send it to Property Owners' Association of Lake Hayward, PO Box 230, Colchester, CT 06415.

Thanks,
Wolf

Here is what I have from a review of the Association's financial reports and current approved budget that you can find online.

- Monthly Cash Flow and Balances Report, Lake Preservation account (east shore donations).
 - First shows up in December 2020. Tim Pelton and I had requested that this be a separate account dedicated for lake preservation activities.
 - May 2021 - \$4060
 - May 2022 - \$7760
- 2022-2023 Budget Lake Quality line item - \$26,650
- Dam repair estimate \$315,000
 - Expected to require a special assessment for POALH households for a total of \$199,000
 - Currently expected to start in the 2023-2024 budget year

Prior to December 2020, east shore donations were not kept separate from other POALH income. The change to a separate account was made for transparency purposes. The \$7760 in May, 2022 represents two years of donations. Since December 2020, POALH has paid all of the lake quality costs that typically run \$26,650 per year. None of this east shore donation money has been spent yet because they want to hold it for the dam repair project, in order to soften the blow to POALH members of that very large cost. Even so, the dam project is expected to require a separate assessment of \$199,000 from POALH members in addition to their regular tax.

The West side has about five times the number of households as the East side. Given that ratio, we should be paying one sixth the cost of lake preservation activities – which we all benefit from. Even excluding the dam, the East side should be donating $\$26,650 / 6 = \4442 per year for the lake quality budget line item. We actually donated $\$7760 / 2 = \3880 per year, averaged over the last 2 years. Many of us donate the suggested \$75. A few donate more. Many do not donate at all.

The dam repair project is the result of a State-mandated inspection. I am on the Dam Committee and everyone is motivated to meet requirements at the lowest possible cost. It is clearly a lake preservation activity. No dam – no lake.