

## POALH June Meeting Meeting Minutes June 25, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Laurie Dworak at POALH Pavilion, 214 Lake Shore Dr, East Haddam, CT. Board members in attendance: Lynn Crisci, Hema DeSilva, Laurie Dworak, Dave Edgington, Evelyn Passan, Kathy Sabo, & Phil Sabo

Association members in attendance: Lisa Hober – Treasurer and over 40 association members thereby constituting a quorum.

General Public in Attendance: Tim Pelton, Dam Committee Chair

**Opening Remarks:** Laurie Dworak reported that Cindy Biancamano has stepped down from the board of governors. As vice president, Laurie Dworak has assumed the role. Evelyn Passan has been voted on by the board of governors to act as vice president. Thank you to Cindy Biancamano for serving as president. Laurie Dworak reported that there is a new PA system. Laurie instructed association members to form a line at the microphone if they would like to speak. Please keep comments to three minutes. Please only speak once on a given topic. Laurie reminded attendees that this meeting is just an informational meeting only with no motions or voting. Laurie Dworak requested that we have a meeting with respect and decorum.

**Minutes:** *A motion was made, seconded, and passed to waive the reading of the August 21, 2022, association meeting minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the August 21, 2022, association meeting minutes.*

### Financial Reports

- **Tax Collector:** Lynn Crisci, the new tax collector was introduced. Lynn reported that she was unable to have tax bills available today for pickup due to East Haddam being delayed with their taxes which delays the POALH taxes. Members can let Lynn know at the end of the meeting today if they would like to pick up their taxes instead of having them mailed this week. The remainder of the bills will be mailed out by July 1, 2023. The mil rate has dropped significantly this year. All property owners were reassessed. The key here is: What were the taxes that were assessed? The POALH does it a year in advance and the taxes we assessed for this coming year are not significantly higher than they were the year before. There should be no big surprises in your POALH tax bills. Lynn Crisci indicated that she will start publishing a little bit more information about our taxing district. Lynn is available via email if you have any questions. Lynn ended her report letting us know that paper records from the last five years are being transitioned to electronic records which will enable her to answer questions regarding past information about taxes paid more quickly.
- **Treasurer:** Lisa Hober, the new treasurer was introduced. Lisa Hober reported she took on the treasurer's role in August/September of 2022. Lisa reported she closes the financial books promptly at the end of every month and posts them on the shared drive for the board of governors to review. They are eventually posted on the website under financial reports. Lisa reported that she wants to work with full transparency with the membership. There are five days left in this fiscal budget. There are numerous outstanding invoices which will be paid this week. Lisa is waiting to see if the weed treatment delay will get paid this fiscal year or what we do with that budget funding. Lisa Hober is available to all members with any questions.

### Reports of the Board of Governors

- **President:** Laurie Dworak reported that the beaches have been replenished with new sand. Evelyn Passan has made a good impact with the geese this year. Pickleball has been a big hit. In the absence of an events coordinator the board of governors pulled together and planned a terrific summer for everyone. Please note that if an events coordinator cannot be found for next year a lot of the events will go away. Please consider volunteering. Hema DeSilva has a sign up sheet for volunteers. Laurie Dworak also talked a little about short term rentals which have been a growing concern for a lot of the membership. There was an article in the spring packet about this. If you are someone that participates in short term rentals please be considerate of your neighbors and offer them a means to contact you in the event that there is something inappropriate or inconsiderate for your neighbors. Make sure that all renters have access to the rules and regulations and bylaws. Lastly Laurie Dworak stated that the community cannot function without board members. There are four positions available every year and there is only one incumbent this year. If you are interested in being a board member, please reach out to any board member, the nominating committee or check the website. Please consider joining the board of governors.
- **Secretary-Clerk:** Kathy Sabo reminded association members that there has been a change in the bylaws regarding registering to vote. Members who would like to vote at the August 2023 meeting have to be registered but you cannot do it the day of the meeting any longer. You have to do it at least a week in advance. If you are wondering if

you are registered to vote please email the secretary to check on that for you or check the voting registration book at the sign in table today.

### Committee Reports

- **Budget:** Laurie Dwoark reported the committee is working on coming up with a budget that keeps everyone happy and keeps the association running well.
- **Dam:** Tim Pelton reported that in February 2023 a joint meeting in person and on zoom was held with the POALH board of governors and the dam committee. They looked at the first draft of the engineered drawings to repair the dam and it was approved. It now has to be approved by the DEEP fisheries division and DEEP engineering division. In March/April 2023 the DEEP fisheries division expressed concern over the threatened bridal spinner minnow. That issue went away. In May/June 2023 the DEEP indicated that an eel ladder would need to be built so that the American eel can get from Long Island Sound to Lake Hayward. A member of the Lake Quality committee is well versed in dealing with DEEP and knows the DEEP Fisheries division head and will reach out to them for more information and clarification. DEEP Fisheries needs to sign off on our plans before it can move to the DEEP engineering department which will require 8 or 9 months to approve the plan. Approval (with or without the eel ladder) will most likely be in the Winter of 2023-24. In the Winter/Spring of 2024 we can hopefully take the engineered plans and share them with three dam engineering repair companies to at least know how much money we are talking about. Of note is that the eel ladder is on Town of East Haddam property not POALH property. There are also four headwalls that connect either side of Haywardville Rd where the culverts are which are also on Town of East Haddam property. In addition the first foot or so of each spillway is owned by the Town of East Haddam which will require some negotiations on who pays for what and when. There are a lot of variables that are up in the air regarding the dam repair plans. Tim Pelton predicted work hopefully to be done in the Fall/Winter of 2025. Once we get the number of what needs to be done then the budget committee needs to figure out how they want to make up the funds to cover the costs of the dam. The whole timeline for the dam project has moved out a year and Tim is hopeful at the August Annual meeting of 2024 we have a concrete funded dam repair plan. Several association members came forward and thanked the Dam Committee for their hard work. Question: Are the funds that have been set aside from the Town of East Haddam secured for our use since the plan has been pushed out a couple of years? Answer: The money from the Town of East Haddam is a reimbursement which the Town of East Haddam will give to us once we pay for the project. As of right now, we are up to \$30,000 that has been set aside from the Town of East Haddam and will hopefully get another \$15,000 for this current year (2023). The Town of East Haddam holds this money, not the POALH. There is also currently \$10,000 that the membership voted on in 2019 that is set aside for the dam. There are also funds from the East Shore that have been set aside currently for the dam. It was suggested that the POALH let the Town of East Haddam know that the dam project has been delayed to make sure the money stays in place and is not reassigned. Question: By not repairing the dam for a couple of years are we creating a worse situation? Answer: Water in the western culvert is percolating beneath the dam. It was not a torrent or a flood but it was more than a trickle. Water pressure pushing itself underneath the western spillway is not a harbinger that everything is going to fail tomorrow. But it is an indicator of some infrastructure needs that need to be repaired including replacing the spillway. Question: Was there a vote last year that we decided not to fix the dam? Answer: No, there was a vote taken last year that the association was going to look into repairs.
- **Events:** Laurie Dworak reported that there are five bands planned this summer that we need volunteers to run. Shannon McKane spoke to the members regarding a trivia night she is running next Saturday night. Dave Edgington spoke about Carnival which is taking place on August 19th and asked for volunteers. Diane Nelson spoke about beach games taking place on August 19th as well looking for volunteers as well. Linda Abel reported that kiddie bingo will be held on Wednesday nights, as well as the doggie parade and kiddie parade during Lake Hayward Days.
- **Geese:** Evelyn Passan reported that progress is being made. Last year there was a flock of 60-80 geese and this year there are maybe 20 resident geese. There were two nests located with 14 babies that were not born. That is key to our population because baby geese when they mature, come back to where they were born. Locating nests and taking care of eggs is key to reducing our population. Evelyn drives around the lake and walks the beaches almost every day looking for geese evidence. Evelyn did ask for people to volunteer their dogs to help with geese control. If you have lakefront property please use a small wire fence to keep the geese off of your property. Remote control boats help to chase away the geese. Evelyn also brought a drone to chase the geese and to help locate nests. Evelyn is always looking for help. Nutmeg Farms is coming today around noon to answer any question association members may have and to provide information. Association members thanked Evelyn.
- **Lake Quality:** Laurie Dworak reported that the original scheduled weed treatment was June 27, 2023 but has been canceled. Our permit to treat the lake is being held up due to staffing at the DEEP. Association members will be notified of a date once the weed treatment gets scheduled. Question: Is the weed treatment permit being modified to go as far north as the public boat launch? Answer: Yes, we will be going farther north with the weed

treatment but not sure if it is as far as the boat launch. Please check with the Lake Quality Committee on that. A comment was made that the boat launch is also used for emergency purposes so should be cleared. Question: Wouldn't it be a state issue if the north end needed to be cleaned out to get in a state of emergency? Answer: Laurie Dworak will pass this question along to Corinne Halliday, Lake Quality Committee Chair.

- **Merchandise:** Christina Strachan reminded members that the merchandise store is owned by the POALH. When you buy something the shipping and tax are included. There is a very small profit margin to keep the store functioning to have the host site. A new logo was added this year of the navigation symbol with the coordinates of Lake Hayward. There was a logo contest last year in which submissions were sent anonymously. The person that held the names is no longer participating. The winning logo design was announced. Christina asked for the artist of this logo to come forward. There are stickers available for purchase in person but not in the store as the shipping and handling costs are ridiculous. The merchandise committee buys them in bulk and will sell them at events. Popular items were mugs, short sleeve shirts, hats and wine tumblers. Different logos will be added to those items. The committee is also open to suggestions of items you would like to see in the store. Email them at [merchandise@lakehaywardct.com](mailto:merchandise@lakehaywardct.com). Your purchases keep the store functioning.
- **Nominating:** Lisa Hober reported that she has applications for members who would like them. Please be a part of the association by serving on the board. Question: How does the board meeting pattern work for those who live out of state? Answer: Board meetings are conducted during the winter on the Google Suite Network and are very efficient. The membership can also attend those monthly meetings virtually. Members can also listen to past meetings online. A comment was made that board members do not have to live at the lake year round. It was also suggested that two people that live in the same house cannot serve on the board at the same time.
- **Properties:** Phil Sabo reported that last fall there were only two boats that were left on the beaches at the end of November. Boats abandoned are now left in the front of the volleyball court during the winter so they are seen. The two boats that were left last year were taken by someone. The basketball court was resurfaced and a fence put around it. A new fence was installed at third beach with a pull-in area so people can park and take stuff out of their car safely at third beach then move their car to the parking lot. The Town of East Haddam still has to come and cut the curb, move a sign and put an apron in there. This year the pavilion was stained and power washed. Three bids were received and CertaPro was hired. Phil recommends that the power washing should be done every year or every couple of years. The staining is recommended for every four or five years. Phil recommends we do it in two years just to protect it again as it was 10 years since it had been done. CertaPro also did all the picnic tables. New sand has been put on all the beaches as well as the volleyball court. Phil Sabo reported that mason sand was used to put on all the beaches in alignment with what the Town of East Haddam uses. Phil recommends doing more next year. A new volleyball net was put up. The pontoon raft at little beach has holes in it and has been removed. Benches on dog beach, first beach, second beach and third beach have been repaired. New flags were put up on the beaches this year along with solar lights. AED's had their batteries and pads replaced this year. Phil thanked all association members by name who helped him get all his various tasks completed and made various donations of equipment & picnic tables. He expressed he could not do his work without volunteers helping with properties. Phil further reported that two pickleball courts were marked out on one tennis court. Pickleball players would like a couple of more courts. The basketball court is not big enough to add one. The only other place that we can put them is on the other tennis court. Phil asked for comments from the membership regarding their thoughts on doing this. Points/Questions re pickleball: Question - Will it affect the tennis players other than they could not use the court when pickleball is being played? Answer: I believe it will not. Point - Lines should be redone for pickleball as well as tennis to darken them. Point - The pickleball lines affect how the game of tennis is played as they are very visual. Other facilities that have dual courts make it so the tennis players cannot see the pickleball lines. The court should be resurfaced and painted correctly. Painting further pickleball lines is not the right thing to do at this time as there are two pickleball courts and one tennis court for members. It should stay this way until it can be done correctly. Point - Long term maintenance needs to be done on our properties. The tennis courts need to be maintained as there are cracks. Fix it correctly. Point - A member is teaching her children tennis and they would be confused if there were pickleball lines in addition to tennis lines on both courts. Point - There was enough expression at today's meeting to leave the courts the way they are now. Point - Research what the colors are at towns that have painted the tennis/pickleball courts for dual use as it may be a different color which affects the tennis players less. Point - Get a committee together that has both tennis players and pickleball players together to do the research. Point - The tennis courts have cracks that need to be repaired. East Haddam did a great job on their courts. There used to be a clay court where the water tower used to be so perhaps that can be investigated to put some courts up there. Comments/Questions - General: Linda Abel asked for help with gardening around the beaches and pavilion. Comment - Please put reminders in the newsletter about speed on the roads. Comment - Please inquire with the town about permanent or temporary speed bumps along Lake Shore to help with the speeding cars. Comment - Make sure they put addresses on boats that are on the racks and lock them. Question - Why does the sand at third beach stop eight feet from the shore? Answer: The sand will

eventually make its way down to the shore and we don't want it to wash out into the lake immediately. Question - If leaves are raked onto the beach can you discard it? Answer - Yes. Comment - In conjunction with talking about the AED's there is a 24 hour emergency room in Marlborough, CT. Can this be posted with the AEDs or next to them on the beaches to let people know the availability of urgent care? Comment - 911 likes to know the address of where they need to go as well. Having the addresses on the information sheet as well would be nice. Question - What are the call before you dig blue lines along Lake Shore Drive for? Answer: It just happened this week. It is probably the water company getting ready to replace lines. Please call the water company to confirm. Comment - The water company is running new mains down the road at a deeper level than they are so they do not have to shut the mains off every year.

- **Water Testing:** Laurie Dworak that the water has been being tested for the last three weeks and testing will continue throughout the summer.

#### **Old Business**

- **Newsletter:** Jeff Conway talked about newsletter delivery and the lack of children available to deliver them. He inquired about volunteers. Laurie Dworak introduced Gary Cohen as our new newsletter editor. If you would like to submit anything to the newsletter please send it to [newsletter@lakehaywardct.com](mailto:newsletter@lakehaywardct.com). Laurie reported that the board decided that we would only print and put 10 copies of the newsletter in each kiosk because we did not have the commitment of newsletter deliverers. Jeff felt that each kiosk should have at least 30 copies. Comment - If members have a printer they can print out the newsletter for their neighbors who do not have internet access.

#### **New Business**

- **Pickleball Paddle Rack:** A member made a paddle rack for the court and would like to put it on the tennis court and lash it to a pole. The member was asked to get with Phil Sabo, properties manager.

#### **Announcements**

- Nutmeg Farms will be here at noon to discuss the geese and the continuation of the mitigation. Please stay to learn and ask any questions you may have.
- Hema Desilva asked members to sign up on the volunteer sign up sheet. A member asked for job descriptions to be generated for positions.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 pm.