

HLA Monthly BOG meeting held Monday 9/25/23. The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by President Jay Cassella

Attendance by Zoom: David, Jill Carey, Mary Arnold, Mary-Beth Russo, Charleen Baulski.

Attendance in person: Karin Bullock & Joe, Alan Howell, Richard Petruziello, Ted Endriss.

Board members in attendance: Brian Polak (VP), Robert Kiehm (Treasurer), Frank Nunes (Secretary), Cynthia Porriello (3yr), Laurel Hoynoski (3yr), Heather Edelson (3yr).

Board members not in attendance: Sheri Berger (tax Collector) and Lloyd Pearson (Past President)

Floor open to general discussion: No issues were raised.

Motion to approve minutes of 7/31/23 meeting made by Bob Kiehm, 2nd by Laurel Hoynoski. Minutes were approved with some additional times and attendance as agreed upon today.

Motion to approve Special Meeting of 8/28/23 minutes by Bob Kiehm with 2nd by Brian Polak, no objections. Minutes were approved with a typographical correction as noted today.

Motion to approve Monthly Meeting of 8/28/23 minutes by Laurel Hoynoski with 2nd by Heather Edelson, no objections. Minutes were approved with a typographical correction to meeting date.

Treasurer report - Bob Kiehm reviewed the report with members in attendance. Income for the month is \$2,328.35, with expenditures of \$13,333.33. Line items for legal and insurance are currently overdrawn by \$260 and \$2,054 respectively. Total account balance on hand is \$157,763.53 The written report was entered into the record. Motion to accept by Frank Nunes with 2nd by Brian Polak, no objections recorded.

Tax Collector report – Not presented / tax collector not in attendance today.

Septic Report – No report presented

Road Committee report – None presented

Lake & Dam report - report of 9/18/23 meeting presented by Dave Chalifoux. A copy of the committee meeting minutes was entered into the record.

Topics addressed include: Signage; spillway tree removal; invasive plants; AER Matrix development; Boat Stickers; Review of bylaws 41 and 46 which are at odds with each

other and will need review and correction; CT DEEP recommendations to be distributed to members and posted online; water testing moving forward (new members/volunteers are sought); Phragmites treatment.

Discussion was had regarding current fishing conditions vs. historical conditions, overabundance of Pickrel and how to balance that. Catch limit and size exceptions are available from the state on a year by year request/authorization.

Aquatic Wildlife Committee – Review of report presented by Mary-Beth Russo, minutes of the committee meeting entered into the record. They are planning a workshop for members around 10/15/23 on the topic of invasive species. A new planting area by Shore Dr. beach has been identified. Other topics covered at meeting include a review of this summer to date; Discussion of Aquatic species; status of Butterfly gardens / update on the butterfly waystation; Funding for Fall plantings; AWC workshops. Next meeting will be held 10/19/23 @ 6:30pm for those wishing to attend.

Bylaw Committee report – Report presented by Cindy Porriello for their meeting of 9/20/23 held between 6:40pm and 7:28pm. In attendance were Heather Edelson, Jean Cassella, Cindy Porriello, Jay Cassella, Alan Howell. Chair Bob Kiehm was absent. The minutes are not yet ready to enter into the record. They discussed some of the contradictions of by law sections 41 and 46 and proposed ways to go about reconciling those.

Audit Committee – Alan Howell indicated that there is no report at this time.

-Jay Cassella indicated that updates to the FaceBook page and the HLA Website are almost up to date at this time. There are now postings in “Lake News” and there is a list of toxins to avoid for ideal lake health.

Fundraising Committee – Jay Cassella indicated that the upcoming “Wine on the Water” fundraising event is off to a good start. The event will be on 9/30/23 and is pretty much sold out.

Old Business – A revised violation letter to the Knickerbocker family was presented and reviewed for clearer language. The letter was entered into the record. The text of the letter was read by Brian Polak. Jay Cassella will mail it out to the Knickerbocker family.

New Business – Bob Kiehm indicated that the HLA has additional monies that could benefit from being placed in a high interest yield account as well. Our current bank, Webster Bank, may be able to waive some of their typical requirements for the high interest accounts. A motion was made by Laurel Hoynoski and 2nd by Frank Nunes for working with Webster to place an additional \$30,000 into a CD paying between 4-6%, there were no objections.

A motion was made by Bob Kiehm and 2nd by Heather Edelson for adding to today’s agenda necessary unexpected discussion regarding Japanese Knotweed at the spillway and it’s rapid removal and associated costs. Upon examination of the problem by

Northeast Landscaping it was determined that it's removal would be more cumbersome and expensive than first thought. Removal must be done by hand and there needs to be special disposal to prevent additional contamination. Post removal follow up includes placing and maintaining a tarp over the area to prevent photosynthesis and completely killing any remaining root system. The motion includes appropriating \$3,700 towards this, funds are to come from Dam Maintenance Reserve where there remains an existing \$10,000 reserve. Heather Edelson made a motion to approve and Laurel Hoynoski 2nd with no dissenting votes.

Fall Cleanup will be handled by our contractor, AJ @ Northeast Landscaping. This will include all 3 beaches and all common areas as well as removing leaves and debris from culverts and drains. The total cost is \$1,250, which is in line with last year's cost. Motion to allocate the funds made by Laurel Hoynoski and 2nd by Cindy Porriello, no objections noted.

General Discussion –

Alan Howell indicated he is very familiar with Japanese Knotweed, as he lives adjacent to the spillway. He asked that those involved in the cleanup communicate with him ahead of time in order to coordinate access to the area and prevent any collateral damage.

Mary-Beth Russo indicated Japanese Knotweed is known to grow right on and into concrete, causing major damage, thus the importance of a forceful and quick intervention to eradicate it. The tarp is to arrest photosynthesis and kill the remaining pieces of root.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:28pm by Laurel Hoynoski with a 2nd by Brian Polak