

HLA Monthly BOG meeting held Monday 10/30/23. The meeting was called to order at 6:38pm by President Jay Cassella

Attendance by Zoom: Jill Carey, Mary Arnold, Denis Pelegrino, Bob & Sandy Kiehm, James & Victoria Nicholson, Lloyd Pearson.

Attendance in person: Karin Bullock & Joe, Alan Howell, Jean Cassella, Richard Petruziello.

Board members in attendance: Brian Polak (VP), Robert Kiehm (Treasurer), Frank Nunes (Secretary), Cynthia Porriello (3yr), Heather Edelson (3yr), Sheri Berger (tax collector) and Lloyd Pearson (Past President).

Board members not in attendance: Laurel Hoynoski (3yr).

Floor open to general discussion:

- Alan Howell expressed that he felt the cleanup was conducted wonderfully around the spillway.
- Alan Stokke indicated that the association meeting minutes are not all on the website as required and within the required FOI timelines, he also indicated that all motions taken need to be listed on the website along with the individual vote results within 48 hours.

Motion to waive the reading of last month's meeting minutes made by Cynthia Porriello with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Polak, approved unanimously.

Motion to approve minutes of 9/25/23 meeting made by Frank Nunes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather Edelson, approved unanimously. Minutes were approved with a change in the language from using the term "Knotweed" to using "Japanese Knotweed" throughout the entire document as agreed upon today.

Treasurer report - Bob Kiehm reviewed the report with members in attendance. Income for the month is \$2,907.55 including interest income, with expenditures of \$6,867.23 in various categories reviewed. Total account balance on hand is \$154,239.20. He attempted to start another high yield CD at Webster Bank as approved last month but the bank would not accept the deposit as they are considering the HLA a business and not personal funds. The rate for business deposits is significantly lower. The written report was entered into the record. Motion to accept by Sheri Berger with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cynthia Porriello, unanimous vote with no objections recorded.

Tax Collector report –Presented by Sheri Berger to those present and submitted for the record. Current taxes to be collected for the fiscal year are \$61,127.81 with \$56,591.83 collected thus far, plus \$1,045.06 in back taxes and fees. 12 properties are currently delinquent, 2<sup>nd</sup> notices have been sent out but no liens have been initiated.

Septic Report – No report presented, Anthony Grandazo not in attendance. Jay Cassella indicated that Cahill has 2 more properties to schedule for septic pumping in order to complete the requirements for this year.

Road Committee report – None presented, Jay Cassella indicated that the only thing he's aware of is the suggested catch basin cleaning which is on the agenda to be discussed under New Business.

Lake & Dam report - by Dave Chalifoux who indicated there is no report for this period.

Aquatic Wildlife Committee – No report available, no representative in attendance. Jay Cassella indicated that an additional garden has been planted at the HLA property on Shore Drive beach.

Bylaw Committee report – No meeting held in October, no report. It was noted that at this time there are 3 meetings of the committee for which minutes are missing from the website, that would be for the meetings of 7/10/23, 7/17/23 and 8/14/23. Bob Kiehm indicated he would work to get those submitted.

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 were made to correct some prior mistakes / omissions he and Heather Edelson had entered.

Fundraising Committee – Sandy Kiehm reported that the recent Wine on the Water and Tag sales were a success and thanked by name all those who contributed in various ways. They raised \$2,169 from both events, monies to go toward the Wildlife Aquatic Management Committee and more. She also announced the creation of the “Hidden Lake Helping Hands” to assist local families in need. Meals on Wheels has initiated local service in conjunction with collaboration with Haddam Social Services to help one particular recipient at this time. It's been an amazing summer!

Old Business: Nothing to report / address

New Business – Jay Cassella has Catch Basin Cleaning on the agenda. We cannot find the prior invoice from Sanitrol but did find prior ones for \$1,750 for similar work. We currently have \$2,693 available in the budget for Road Maintenance / drainage improvements. Cleaning was not conducted last year and it is needed at this time. Jay has not yet contacted providers for quotes, but is seeking a motion for approval within set parameters to use remaining line item funds for said purpose. Brian Polak made a motion to approve the balance of \$2,693 for this work, Heather Edelson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, it was approved unanimously.

-Civil matters between HLA members, there are currently two members feuding and it risks embroiling the BOG and Association. The goal is to discuss what level of involvement the HLA / BOG should have if any. Some details of the email

conversations thus far were discussed as it pertains to disposing of leaves and other debris by the respective members. Jay Cassella is of the opinion that the HLA / BOG should not be taking sides or getting involved and sought feedback on his responses to the emails thus far. The consensus agreement of our discussion today by the BOG, which will be communicated to both feuding parties is that they must take it up in civil court and that the HLA / BOG will not be getting involved in mediating the dispute except for in how it may directly impact any HLA owned / controlled property.

General Discussion – No additional discussion, Sandy Kiehm thanked additional members James and Victoria by name as she had missed them earlier.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:10pm by Cindy Porriello with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Polak, approved unanimously.