

Lake Waramaug Association, Inc.
Membership Meeting
Monday, August 31, 2020

The 103rd membership meeting of the Lake Waramaug Association, Inc. ("LWA"), a non-profit organization, was held via Zoom, due to continued State-mandated restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, forbidding gatherings of more than 25 people indoors, or 100 people outdoors. The meeting was held on Monday evening, August 31st, 2020 at 8:00 PM.

Anne Block, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 8:04 PM. This is the first ever virtual meeting ever conducted by the LWA.

Anne Block put forward some procedural points for the evening: please put your full name in the chat so we can determine who is in attendance and who is a member of our organization. Each household has one vote. These are extraordinary times. We ask all those participating to be respectful. Votes will be taken by chat or by e-mail. This is a new medium for us so Anne asked that all be patient. All are welcome to attend our meetings, but only members are allowed to vote.

The meeting is being recorded.

Anne Block encouraged all members to visit our new website. There, one can sign up for membership, communications and also find information about the Lake.

Jim Brinton, and Jean Speck, first select people off Washington and Kent, are in attendance. We welcome them.

Anne Block recognized Maria Allen and Stewart Klein who we lost this year. She called a moment of silence in their honor.

Anne Block announced the resignation of four long-serving Board members, Gail Berner, Richard Kleinberg, Maria Mostajo and Elaine Mullen Peer, who are leaving due to our newly indoctrinated term limits as set forth by the bylaws, adopted last year. We thank them for their long service.

Margie Field announced a new slate of Directors whom we are very excited about. She read bios of Linda Andryc, Stacey Lender and Isabel Murphy.

Anne Block Nominated Margie Field for her second term as a Director, and read her biography. Anne lauded her hard work in revamping the Lake Waramaug Association's governance.

A motion was made from Chris Adams to close nominations for the four above-named directors to be members of the Board. Seconded by Reid Funston.

Anne Block announced that the above-named slate has been elected to the Board of Directors.

Ed Berner gave the report from the Lake Waramaug authority. The Authority is responsible for the safety of all recreational activities on the Lake. Two problems have been at issue this summer: one must have a spotter in the boat while towing a water skier. It is the law increases

the likelihood of a collision. The second issue is wake board boats. At the last membership meeting, many complaints were made because of the unusual size of the waves which are damaging, and causes safety concerns. Erosion and injurious problems to the floor of the lake are amongst the biggest problems associated with these boats. We do not have a solution at this time, but the Authority is in touch with other Authorities, such as Lake Placid. We are keeping up with the actions in other states, notably in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The noise is also a problem. He appealed to all to be courteous of others.

Officer Pat Kessler gave the police report: 91 hours were spent patrolling the lake this year, including 27 safety checks, one stranded vessel that was towed and seven violations of no life jackets on paddle boards. No wake zone by the State Park was successful. No regattas were held this year due to COVID 19. They spent a lot of time talking to wake boarding vessels. They passed out safe boating literature to them due to several complaints that they have received. They also stopped vessels pulling skiers without an observer.

Stacey Lender gave the Communications Committee Report: She is the interim Communication Committee Head. The new logo and new website are amongst the biggest accomplishments of the Committee thus far. Please contact us with any suggestions for improvements. Donations page will be updated as per your suggestions. Some swag (T shirts, caps, etc) items will be for sale soon. We've also increased our social media presence. We are close to 500 followers on Instagram. The "dogs of Instagram" feature has been very popular... Facebook: 267 followers. 300 people on our current e-mail list. We are working on new ways to increase engagement and therefore our membership.

Anne gave an update on the fireworks which were cancelled for this summer. The process was arduous in our attempts at going forward, but the Warren Fire Department was adamant that we not go forward with the spectacle. Zambelli is being flexible with their part of the contract so that we can re-schedule next year if possible. We have to play it by ear, and asked for our patience.

Chris Adams gave an update of the Rim-the-Lake with flares event which was a more somber toned commemoration of Independence Day. We also hired Don Hicks, a bagpiper from Kent Connecticut who played on his pipes from the water. We thank the Lake Waramaug Task Force and Peary Stafford, for allowing us to use their boat as performance platform and acting as our captain.

Gail Berner and Anne Block gave the report regarding Land Use. There has been a proposed special exception application in the town of Warren to allow the establishment of a commercial operation, but there are no new developments of this application.

The Lake Waramaug Association has offered their support to the Warren Land Trust grant initiatives in connection to the Tanner Hill Farm project.

The Kent Cell Towers Proposal to Sitting Council has been opposed.

Reid Funston gave the Treasurer's Report. Last year, we had approximately \$70,000 in revenue, \$58,000 in expenses, netting \$11-13,000. This year, we have about \$22,000 in administrative expenses, \$18,000 were dedicated to Land Use issues. Our fireworks expenses were \$8300, which will be rolled over to 2021, as this amount reflects our down payment for the fireworks that were postponed due to the pandemic. Marketing and outreach expenses were

about \$8K, in part due to our communications committee's work on redesigning our logo and website. The picture for this year is certainly more challenging.

Fireworks is a big conduit for our revenue. Unspent expenses are rolled over to subsequent years.

Our push will be for fundraising and membership drives moving forward.

Linda Andryc gave a report on the Canada geese problem. Ours are resident geese. They do not migrate. They like it here; the temperature is warmer. They may spend much of the winter on the coast, but by February or March they are back on Waramaug. There are capture programs and eradication solutions, but they are not feasible on the lake. Fencing is often cited as a viable option, which deters the geese from making their nests. The Task Force gave a good informational piece on their website, for which we will share a link. Planting a hedge or vegetation at the shore line is also a good deterrent as they are concerned that predators may be hidden there.

We are open to suggestions from our members on how better to control the geese population. It bears further research.

Anne Block called for a motion to wave reading of the Membership Meeting Minutes from September 8, 2019. Chris Adams made the motion which was seconded by Stacey Lender. Unanimously approved.

Robert Hackney was called to speak about his request to call a special meeting to discuss land use. Mr Hackney said he feels the LWA membership has dropped over the past several years as a result of large opposition to our land use practices. He therefore calls for a special meeting via resolution, written by Robert Hackney, read by Christine Adams and attached herewith, was moved by Robert Hackney and seconded by Jennifer Mackesey. The motion will carry and a special meeting will be called as soon as possible either in person or by Zoom by Spring of 2021.

Our next membership meeting, our 104th, will be held on June 6, 2021.

Moderators opened the meeting to Q&A.

Pat Kessler answered questions from the chat room regarding speed limits on the lake. There is none. Any reckless boating or boating that jeopardizing the safety of others on the lake is taken very seriously. That includes unreasonable speed.

The amount of boats is monitored. There is a small increase, but isn't of great concern. There are a lot of new boats, but not many additional vessels as compared to previous years. There is definitely more usage, and not necessarily limited to weekends.

Speeding on the roads around the lake has been better controlled with the speed sign. There is more traffic. Average speed is between 24-38 miles per hour. Joggers, walkers, and bikers are all over the roads which is keeping the speeds down.

In the past, the Association has funded speed signs. We can do it again.

To expand on the Warren commercial project, a commercial tree company, Gail Berner responded that there is a building put forward in a residential zone which has proven controversial by residents in Warren. The application first has to be approved by the Inland Wetlands commission, which has been rescheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2020. If passed, it will go to the Zoning Commission which would rule on a special permit. The project is on Brick School Road and Route 341. Residents are concerned the project would set a precedent. Residents are also concerned about the large tree trucks on Route 45.

We have spent no money on this project. The most we might do is to write a letter to the Warren Zoning Commission telling them not to allow a commercial business in a residential zone.

The Kent Cell Tower project opposition group asked for our support. A balloon test was conducted. The opposition is mostly aesthetic, but members of the opposition group responded that this tower would not improve cell service via this particular tower. Safety without cell coverage is a true concern. Blake Levitt, who is Communications Director for the Berkshire - Litchfield Environmental Council, says cell towers are not necessarily a solution. The Siting Council has to address the application before them, which is from a "vertical real estate company". They are not service providers, but rent space to them. They have lowered the height, but they will have to clear cut for its construction. Many biological and environmental concerns are connected to this proposal.

This tower, according to John Santoleri, will obstruct the view from Waramaug's rock.

Jean Speck, the First Selectman of the Town of Kent, also spoke about the cell tower project and how difficult it has been. She directed us to the portal for the cell tower project which can be found here: https://portal.ct.gov/CSC/1_Applications-and-Other-Pending-Matters/Applications/3_DocketNos400s/Docket-No-488-Homeland-ATT-Kent.

There is an evidentiary hearing scheduled for September 3, 2020 at 2 PM open to parties and intervenors only; the public comment period closes on October 3, 2020. A decision should be made by October 25th. Melanie Bachman is the attorney in charge of its opposition.

Alan Levande mentioned that the lack of cell service on the Lake is a safety concern, particularly in the aftermath of these violent storms when power is knocked out, as well as "land" telephone lines.

Anne and Gail responded to concerns about the Lake Waramaug Country Club lit courts. Lights are not allowed under the current regulations; neither are any new structures within 1000 feet of the Lake. Therefore the Association has opposed the project, citing the night sky ordinances of our Zoning Laws in Washington.

The meeting was adjourned by Anne Block at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Adams, Secretary

Resolution of the Members of the Lake Waramaug Association,
Inc.
August 31, 2020

Be it resolved by the Members of The Lake Waramaug Association, Inc., in Annual Meeting assembled, that the Officers and Directors of the Association are hereby directed to call a Special Meeting of Members of the Association, pursuant to the By-Laws of the Association, for the sole purpose of discussing and acting upon motions, suggestions and resolutions concerning the proper mission of the Association and whether that mission should include intervention in matters concerning land use in the Towns surrounding the Lake. Be it further resolved that said Special Meeting shall be called for a date that is within three weeks after the State of Connecticut issues Covid-19 Pandemic guidelines allowing for indoor gatherings of more than 100 people. Should such guidelines not be issued by year end 2020 the Officers and Directors shall schedule the Special Meeting for as early as practicable in the spring of 2021 with the goal of the schedule being to insure the participation of as many Members of the Association as possible.

