

**Minutes of the  
LWA Annual Joint Meeting with the Lake Waramaug Task Force  
September 8, 2013 at the Lake Waramaug Country Club**

Paul Frank called the meeting to order at 2:30.

**REPORT OF LAKE WARAMAUG AUTHORITY, Chair Ed Berner and P.O. Pat Kessler**

**Lake Patrol Report:** Officer Kessler reported that it had been a good year, with no accidents. Once again, motor boat traffic was much lighter than in previous years. At the same time, kayak and canoe traffic was much heavier, mainly in the area of the State Park, where Clark Outdoors is doing an increasing business in canoe and kayak rentals. The officers put in 24 patrol shifts for a total of 182 hours. There were only a few violations, including one for failure to carry a life jacket and one for a child standing in a vessel while it was underway. There were no violations where boats had failed to be inspected at the boat launch, at least that the patrols saw while they were out on the Lake. The officers also assisted four stranded or disabled vessels and performed four water rescues where kayaks or canoes had tipped over. In none of the tip-overs did the boaters have life jackets on board, and Officer Kessler noted that in the case of rentals from the State Park, Clark Outdoors is responsible for life jackets, not the renters. And he told us that the officers routinely make contact with boaters to perform safety checks and talk to the boaters to educate them about boating regulations and safe practices. Ed Berner thanked Officer Kessler for the great job that he and the other officers have done.

**Slow-No-Wake Zone:** Paul reported that the DEEP will hold a public hearing on the petition to create a Slow-No-Wake zone at the narrow end of the Lake basin between the State Park and Arrow Point on Friday, November 1st, at 6:00 p.m. at the Warren Community Center (the old Town Hall). The public is invited to attend and express their views. **[Please Note: Subsequent to the meeting, the DEEP changed the date and time of the hearing to Friday, November 8th, at 6:30 p.m.]**

Tom McGowan showed us the proposed area on a large map, noting that it would be a very confined area about 1750 feet in length. A regulation already exists that requires motor boats to observe the slow-no-wake speed of 6 mph or fewer within 100 feet of the shore, a dock or float, and moored vessels. So the new zone would be "filling in the blank," as Tom put it, since the shoreline is already covered.

Paul reiterated that this proposal was an initiative of the Lake Waramaug Authority, not the Association, and that it was prompted by the safety concerns of Washington's Resident State Trooper, Steve Sordi.

**BOAT LAUNCH REPORT, Peter Bonachea**

Peter reported that the boat launch had operated smoothly this summer and that weeds

were found on only one boat. This shows that the program is working and that the boating public understands that boats must be weed-free to enter the Lake.

As of the end of Labor Day weekend, there had been 718 launches: 152 for Lake residents and 566 for visitors, 21 of whom came from one of the three Lake towns; 98 of the visitors came more than once.

There was an increase in the number of day-use stickers issued and also an increase in out-of-state visitors, primarily from New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Florida. Overall usage, however, was down.

#### **TRAFFIC PATROL REPORT, Officer Pat Kessler**

As we did last year, the Association has arranged for traffic patrols on the Lake roads on selected weekends, during random hours between 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Officer Kessler reported that the patrols have proved productive and that it appears motorists are becoming aware that officers are patrolling in these areas, due to recorded vehicle speeds being within the posted speed limits. The officers also conducted radar in various locations around the Lake and recorded the following average speeds: between 25 and 31 mph on West Shore Road/Lake Waramaug Road/Golf Links Road; between 35 and 42 mph on Route 45; and between 25 and 31 mph on North Shore Road in the area of Arrow Point. And tickets were issued in the following locations: 5 warnings for traveling fast on West Shore Road; 3 warnings for traveling fast on North Shore Road in the area of Bliss Road; and 2 written warnings for traveling fast on East Shore Road in the area of the boat launch.

#### **THE LAKE WARAMAUG TASK FORCE, Chair Linda Frank**

Linda thanked everyone for being here and for all their support over the years. She noted that the Lake has been "stunningly clear" this year and emphasized that we must continue to be ever-vigilant, especially for invasive weeds, in order to maintain the gains that have been made.

#### **TESTIMONIAL TO PAUL FRANK, Tom McGowan**

Before Tom gave us his State of the Lake report, he wanted "to digress for a moment," he said, noting that our President, Paul Frank - who has held that office since 2001 - has only eight months left in his final term. Tom emphasized how much time Paul has spent on Association work during those years, telling us that "there is not a day that goes by that he doesn't think or do something about the Lake." One of Paul's major accomplishments during his tenure as President was to oversee the forging of the Lake Waramaug Agreement - in which the State agreed that there would be no State launch on the Lake in exchange for a public boat launch in Washington for a limited number of boats that would be inspected for invasive weeds - and its subsequent implementation. The implementation of the Agreement took a tremendous amount of time and attention to detail during the lengthy construction of the launch and the establishment of the protocol for the inspection program, and Tom told us that Paul had to expend a great

deal of effort to help keep the whole process moving over the course of several years. Paul, he said, "has been a treasure." With his customary modesty, Paul said that all the work that had been done during his Presidency had been a team effort, adding that "I played a minor role." And he noted that while he felt that Tom had exaggerated his achievements that "it's no exaggeration to say that this Lake would not be what it is today without Tom McGowan."

### **THE STATE OF THE LAKE, Tom McGowan**

"The Lake has been fabulous this summer," Tom told us. Phosphorus levels are at their lowest since record-keeping began in 1982. There are a number of reasons for this, chief among them the in-lake restoration systems. As he has reported at past meetings, Tom reminded us that the layer-aeration systems are now turned on briefly just before the Lake turns over in the spring and fall: this allows naturally occurring iron in the Lake to bind with phosphorus in the presence of oxygen, canceling the ability of the phosphorus to support algae or weed growth. The Frost pumping system on the end of Arrow Point has the same effect, drawing iron-rich water from near the bottom of the Lake and oxidizing it so that the iron binds with phosphorus. The in-Lake systems also improve the habitat for cold-water fish and for zooplankton, which eat algae and are nature's way of controlling it.

The new State law banning the use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizers - which both the Task Force and the Association supported - has also had a good effect, Tom said, along with a greater awareness among lakeside residents that it is especially important to maintain their septic systems, and not to blow leaves into the Lake during fall clean-up. The Task Force and the Association continue to monitor development applications around the Lake, trying to ensure that people abide by land-use regulations and follow best practices in their construction projects, including installing biofilters to capture run-off before it reaches the Lake. All of these efforts are having an effect in reducing phosphorus and the growth of algae in the Lake. The excellent state of the Lake, Tom told us, is a "testimony to the whole history of the work that we've done."

### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS, Paul Frank**

Paul gave us some highlights of the work of the Association committees:

- **Roads and Traffic:** Paul thanked Chair Betty Sutter for her recent work arranging for the State to make much-needed paving repairs to West Shore Road.
- **Lake Use:** The Association continues to encourage the creation and enforcement of regulations that ensure the balanced use of the Lake.
- **Land Use:** Co-Chairs Richard Kleinberg and Heather Allen have been monitoring development applications around the Lake; attending land use meetings and

public hearings; and working on suggestions for regulations in Washington that will enhance protection of the Lake.

- **Membership/Events:** Chair Gail Berner has been working with other Board members to try to come up with ways to encourage membership and cultivate community.
- **Communications:** Chair Cynthia Vance has been working on enhancing the Association website, including ways to have the website take the place of email alerts, and Board member Chris Beckett has been working on creating a bigger and better semi-annual newsletter.
- **Fireworks:** Paul added that Board member Rudy Montgelas is the new Chair for the annual fireworks display; he also thanked Dorothy Hamilton for hosting another great display.

When Paul asked if there were any further questions or comments, longtime Association member and former Board member Maria Allen stood and thanked Paul on behalf of the membership for his long and productive Presidency, and asked for a rising vote of thanks to applaud his work, which the members present enthusiastically provided.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Allen, Recording Secretary