

Lake Waramaug Association, Inc.

Minutes of the 100th Annual Membership Meeting
Sunday, August 27, 2017

The 11th Annual Joint Meeting of the Lake Waramaug Association, Inc. ("LWA"), and the Lake Waramaug Task Force, non-profit organizations, was held at the Lake Waramaug Country Club, New Preston, Connecticut on Sunday, August 27, 2017.

Anne Block, President, called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

No town representatives from Washington Warren or Kent were in attendance.

A moment of silence was observed in the memory of:

Rod Funston

Harold Wellings

George Wahlberg

Rudy Montgelas reported on the fireworks display and thanked all those who contributed, especially the Vance Family who provided the firing site. A storm came through on the 1st, but we were able to squeeze in the display on the rain date just moments before another rain date.

Chris Adams reported on the Centennial Picnic which was held on 22 July, which was well attended and well received. The Association is contemplating making a similar function an annual event, focusing on community building.

Ed Berner of the Lake Waramaug Authority, Branden Simmons and Officer Kessler of the State Police reported on lost and found procedures (which can be found on the Town website). Jet skis are given day passes and inspected prior to being allowed on the Lake. They cannot launch at the State Park, but must go through the town launch and be inspected. A sea plane came through our area, flew low over our waters, and took off last week. If one sees a plane on the lake, the Authority asks that you take a photo or record the registration number, if visible, for reportage so we can continue with our ban on sea planes on the lake. Sea planes are not safe for other boaters on our waters, and because of logistical concerns, cannot be inspected for invasive weeds.

As of now, there are a few shifts left on the lake; there have been 12 shifts, or 62 hours, thus far this season. Boat wise, the traffic has been slightly lower. More people are using the State Park as they can't get onto other lakes. Canoes and kayaks capsizing have been a significant problem this year; there have been four water rescues this year, all in the area of the State Park. Paddle boards as of this year must be manned with a life jacket which is State Law. They have become increasingly popular. The no wake zone has achieved its objective, keeping things safer in the area of the State Park, and there have been no violations this year. Regattas have happened without a hitch. There have been increased complaints about loud stereos on boats which are disturbing others.

Heather Allen reported on our Centennial Programs. We are continuing with the 100 Acres project through conservation and funding sources. We hope to preserve 100 acres of land around the lake and would love to hear from you if you have an interest in contributing. We have made good connections with the local land trusts as a result of this project.

We also enjoyed Dr. Ward's talk on the Importance of trees and look forward to another program in the fall, a talk within the Steep Rock Preserve.

Several of our members have planted trees in commemoration of another Centennial initiative, to plant 100 trees around the lake to provide much-needed filtration of the waters that run into our lake.

Continuation and innovation is our goal in protecting and preserving our Lake.

A member of our constituency expressed dismay that there have been so many trees harvested from our shores. Gail Berner addressed him directly, mentioning that there were no regulations concerning the removal of trees, and this is a continuing problem the Association is addressing.

Maria Mostajo, LWA Vice President, reiterated our initiative: to plant trees, and to share their photos with the Association.

Betty Sutter made a report on the Roads, which will be repaved this fall. The stabilization projects are complete on West Shore, yet there are no more projects scheduled to date. Additional work will progress as needs permit, and more intricate work will commence, which will require the State to bid these projects out, the timing of which remains in question. The narrow roads are problematic. In some areas, keeping one lane open isn't possible, therefore detours are likely. On September 25th, the milling (scraping of the road) will happen, taking only one day, and paving will begin on October 2nd which will take two weeks.

The same member of our constituency who commented about the harvesting trees reported that the State of Connecticut is bankrupt. He feels the town should advocate for the structural soundness of our roads.

John Santoleri provided the Financial Report. On the Association website the 990 for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2016 has been posted, as well as summary financial reports for prior periods when the Association was not required to file a form 990. The 990 for fiscal 2017 (which ended in April) will be posted on the website shortly. For the fiscal year ending April 30, 2017, total Association revenues were \$77,000. There was a special thank you to the Estate of George Lidback which generously donated \$90,000 to the Association. (\$65,000 was given last year, and \$25,000 for the recently finished fiscal year). Expenses were \$55,000 this year. (\$25,000 for administration, \$10,000 for fireworks, \$7,500 for land use, and \$7,500 for marketing and outreach and \$5,000 for Centennial programming and miscellaneous. We generated a surplus of \$21,000, and had total assets of \$177,000 at the end of this fiscal year). All have been generous in giving to the association's Centennial Projects.

We are attempting to track administrative time and to categorize her work so we can allot Carolyn Hartman's time to the appropriate committees. Ms. Hartman is the Association's Administrator.

Sean Hayden of the Lake Waramaug Task Force, the new executive director of the Task Force, was introduced by Molly Hart. Mr. Hayden gave a report on his work.

He is a soil scientist, and worked in Litchfield County including lake groups. In the last 10-15 years, he has seen degradations in other lakes (Bantam, Candlewood), but Waramaug is an exception. Ours have been improving. Vigilance and community participation is the key, and its positive effect shows. The Task Force number goes directly to Sean, so any questions will be

diverted directly to him at (860) 860-0331. The professionals looking at the water quality and invasive weeds are superb. Data is publicly available.

Molly pointed out the four aerators in the Lake. 6-9,000 feet of piping are subsurface. Sometimes during a storm an aerator will go out. Please report if you notice if one non-functioning. Ours is the only area lake with that system.

The State Park beach was closed due to E. coli levels. Test samples in Hartford need 4 days to process. These levels are likely due to geese droppings, which get washed into the water after a storm. Sun and water will break down E. coli.

Last year the State came in and shot 200 geese. Molly encouraged those who are concerned about the goose population to write their State senator.

The zooplankton farm, designed by our limnologist, is working well. An intern empties the tank, which is comprised of 1000s of gallons, into the lake, then feeds the zooplankton in the tanks so that they reproduce prior to the next emptying.

There are tests every month taking water samples at every level of the lake. The zooplankton count has gone up.

Sean also reported on the dam, the repair for which will NOT be happening this year. Mark Lyon 1st Selectman of Washington has been working on it, yet there is a budget issue. They hope that it will be scheduled for the Fall of 2018.

Once the draw down happens, it will provide a rare opportunity to observe the lake's shoreline, as well as repair of docks etc, which will require a permit from the Inland Wetlands Commission. When the dates of the draw down are known, we will get in touch with our membership. Permits are good for five years, so one may get a permit now in preparation.

The draw down will be significant: 3 - 4 feet.

A question was raised about the personal bubblers used to prevent ice from forming around one's waterfront. Sean is looking into the ramifications of such devices with our limnologist.

There will be a memorial service October 7 in New Preston for Harold Welling, past member of LWA's board of directors..

The meeting was adjourned by Anne Block, president, at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Adams Beckett, Recording Secretary.