

**Minutes of the  
Lake Waramaug Association Annual Meeting  
June 12, 2016 at The Lake Waramaug Country Club**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:29 PM by Peter Bonachea, President of the Lake Waramaug Association.

**II. Introduction of Guests**

None of the local town selectman were present at the Annual Meeting.

**III. Introduction of New Members**

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Palmer were introduced as new members of the Lake Waramaug Association. They reside at 117 North Shore Road, in the Town of Warren.

**IV. Memorials**

There were no reported passings amongst the membership.

**V. Membership Meeting minutes from September 20, 2015**

A motion was made to waive the reading of the minutes from the Membership Meeting of September 20, 2015. It was seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

**VI. Election of Directors of the Association**

Peter Bonachea indicated that the By-Laws provide for 15 directors who serve 3-year staggered terms. Peter Bonachea asked that Betty Sutter as Chair of the Nominating Committee report to the Membership the election of Directors of the Association. Betty reported that the incumbent directors were Heather Allen, Peter Bonachea, John Santoleri, Betty Sutter and Scott Weaver. Betty put into nomination the incumbent Directors and introduced Margie Fields to fill a vacancy in the Board of Directors. Betty asked Margie to introduce herself and Margie indicated that she had been a resident of Warren for 22 years and was pleased to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Lake Waramaug Association. Betty requested other nominations for the Board.

There were none and Betty requested a motion to close the nominations.

A motion was made and seconded and the motion to close the nominations was passed unanimously.

A motion was made to vote on the slate of directors and was seconded. The motion to vote on the slate of directors was passed unanimously.

Peter Bonachea declared that Heather Allen, Peter Bonachea, Margie Fields, John Santoleri, Betty Sutter and Scott Weaver were elected Directors of the Association to serve until April 30, 2019 or until their successors are elected and shall qualify.

**VII. Discuss Department of Transportation letter regarding West Shore Road**

Betty Sutter reported on the condition of the road around the Lake especially the section of West Shore Road near Cheree Point. The road is in very poor condition and the State of Connecticut has been contacted about its repair. The Department of Transportation

has responded that the repair of that section of the road is in the budget for this year and the repaving of the entire road around the Lake is in the budget for next year.

### **VIII. Report on Fireworks**

Rudy Montgelas reported that the annual fireworks will be held on Saturday, July 2nd at 9:30 PM with a rain date of July 3rd. The Shapiros had again agreed to host the fireworks and allow access to both Zambelli and the fire department to their property. Flares will be available for sale after the meeting and also at Hopkins Vineyard and County Wine and Spirits.

### **IX. Report of the Lake Waramaug Authority**

Officer Kessler reported about the issue of swimming in the Lake. Three women were rescued this past year swimming in the middle of the Lake. Officer Kessler reminded everyone that swimming in the middle of the Lake is very dangerous and should only be undertaken with a buoy or a kayak. Officer Kessler also reported of several seaplane landings on the Lake. He requested that members attempt to get a picture of the plane or a tail number and report these landings to the police department.

Betty Sutter reminded the membership that there is an organization of seaplane pilots. She indicated that we should contact them and ask them to ask their members not to land their planes on Lake Waramaug. She also said that we should try to get the seaplane ban into the boating guide in time for next year's publication.

Officer Kessler also reported that anyone operating a jet ski with a passenger on the front will be ticketed. He also indicated that there is a new water toy that attaches to a jet ski. While they are not illegal now, they could become illegal and the police will monitor this.

There was a question from the floor regarding a large tree trunk that was lodged under the dock at 173 West Shore Road. Officer Kessler indicated that he would look at it and advise the owner.

Ed Berner then addressed the issue of the seaplane ordinance. Washington and Warren had held their vote and the ordinance passed. There will be a town meeting at Kent Town Hall at 7 pm on Friday, June 17th to vote on the seaplane ordinance. Ed indicated that anyone from the town of Kent should be encouraged to go and vote in favor of the ordinance.

Ed Berner and Officer Kessler reported on the launch for the ice boat which was installed and now fully operational. They indicated that this was very helpful for getting the ice boat out very quickly and would assist them if there were any accidents on the Lake during the winter.

### **X. President's Comments**

A. Report on the Dam - Molly Hart of the Lake Waramaug Task Force reported that the Town of Washington had agreed to include the repair of the dam in their budget for this year. The first phase was a study of what was needed for the repair and it was

determined that a new pipe and valve were required to repair the dam. Plans have been drawn up and approved, but the repair cannot be undertaken until the water level comes down in the Lake.

B. Tanner Hill Spill - Molly Hart also reported that a gate on the lagoon at the Tanner Hill Farm had failed over the winter and a large amount of waste had spilled into the Lake. The Warren First Selectman, together with the Lake Waramaug Task Force, reported the spill to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Tanner Hill Farm, the Lake Waramaug Task Force and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection are working together to mitigate the damages of the spill. The water has been tested for E-coli and the water was clear. The Task Force will monitor any algae blooms that may occur as a result of the spill.

C. Response from Lake Waramaug Country Club to Ernhout letter - Peter Bonachea had a response from the Lake Waramaug Country Club regarding a letter written by Irma Ernhout expressing concern about water use at the club, the use of pesticides and its impact on Ash Swamp and the Lake. Dr. Peter Heald who monitors the Country Club's use of water and pesticides for the golf course indicated that the water use did not contribute to the low water level in the Lake and the Swamp last year and that the Country Club only uses organic materials to fertilize the golf course.

D. Centennial Preparation - Heather Allen reported that planning had begun to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the Lake Waramaug Association which is to occur next year. Some suggestions have included planting 100 trees in the area or saving 100 acres of land to memorialize the Association's 100 years of existence. Heather also indicated that a list was being composed of families who had been on the Lake for over 100 years. She also indicated that there would be a picnic to commemorate the Association possibly in August of 2017.

#### **XI. State of the Lake**

Molly Hart reported in Tom McGowan's absence. The Lake Waramaug Task Force had received two grants to establish a zooplankton farm in the space on Arrow Point formerly used as the aeration system. The zooplankton eat algae and while it is experimental, the Task Force and Tom thought it may assist in the algae problem on the Lake. She also reported on the weed pulling program. Both curly pondweed and milfoil continue to be a problem on the Lake but the Task Force is attempting to stay ahead of the problem.

#### **XII. Treasurer's Report**

John Santoleri reported that this fiscal year was unusual in that the Association received a large bequest from the Lidback estate in the amount of \$60,000 with an additional \$28,000 to be paid in the next fiscal year. Expenses were higher than previous years as well and consisted of Carolyn's salary, fireworks buoys and the wet suit replacements for Warren. Land use expenses were higher this year than had been in previous years.

Because of the large bequest, we are in a new reporting posture with the IRS. A question came from the floor regarding why land use costs were higher. Maria Mostajo, a member of the Board, commented that the Association was concerned that the town Zoning Commissions were not enforcing existing regulations and the granting of variances, especially in Washington, was creating cumulative stress on the Lake. A comment was made from the floor regarding the positive impact of development on the Lake and how new construction can correct problems of older homes. A suggestion came from the floor about how to educate property owners about the land use process around the Lake. Betty Sutter indicated that the regulations are available at Town Hall and on the Lake Waramaug Association website. The Board reported that now that the Association had been involved, zoning in Washington had improved. A question came from the floor as to whether the Association was against development on the Lake and Peter Bonachea indicated that this was not the mission of the Association and that the Association was interested in the Zoning Commissions in all three towns enforcing existing regulations.

#### **XIII. Other Business**

The next meeting will be September 11, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.