



THE SHAKER PINES LAKE ASSOCIATION  
INFORMATION and  
WELCOME BOOK

May 2021

# **Shaker Pines Lake Association**

## **Enfield, CT**

### **May 2021**

#### **Shaker Pines Lake Association, Inc.**

The Board of Directors of the Shaker Pines Lake Association (SPLA) takes this opportunity to welcome you and your family to our community and to provide you with information regarding lake living. As part of the Association, you share in all of the benefits the community and lake have to offer including the many exciting events held throughout the year. Watch for the quarterly newsletter for upcoming events.

#### **The Shaker Pines Lake Association**

The Shaker Pines Lake Association (SPLA) members consist of all those who live in certain areas of the lake and are subject to lake taxes. The SPLA was organized in order to provide improvement of land and water, and the convenience, health and comfort of all persons living within the Association area. The Association Executive Board is the governing body of the lake community. It is an elected group of neighbors responsible for the care and maintenance of our lake and Association properties.

1. The original Charter of the Association was approved by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut on June 4, 1935.
2. The Charter and By-Laws of the Association are effective and enforced as long as they do not conflict with the laws and ordinances of the Town of Enfield.
3. Officers of the Association consist of an Executive Board of nine members, Board members are eligible voters elected at the annual meeting.
4. Four members of the Executive Board are elected on even numbered years and five members elected on odd number years at the Annual Meeting and serve for a period of two years.
5. A Tax Collector is elected each year for a period of one year.
6. The annual meeting of the Association is held on a Saturday in June of each year, to pass or reject all items, including the annual budget, and any recommendations put forth, by members of the Executive Board or by the members of the Association. Notification of the annual meeting is sent out 7 business days prior to each property owner by mail. In addition, the meeting notice is posted in the community board at the Cottage Road Lower Beach (the first beach upon entering Cottage Road).
7. Eligible voters are any person over 18 years of age who own real estate within the Association area.
8. Each eligible voter is entitled to one vote at any Annual or Special Meeting of the Association and shall be eligible for any office therein.

#### **The Shaker Pines Lake Association Executive Board**

The Executive Board holds its first regular meeting in accordance with Charter and regular meetings are in accordance with the by-laws. Each year the new Board elects from its members the following officers:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Treasurer
4. Secretary (Clerk)

The Executive Board annually appoints the following committees:

1. Ecology
2. Property
3. Communications

Additional committees such as Activity Committee may also be formed to manage the various activities held within the community.

The elected Executive Board meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Notice of location will be provided on the Shaker Pines Website 24 hours in advance of the meeting. The meetings are open to the public and all members of the Association are encouraged to attend.

## **Taxes**

The Shaker Pines Lake Association, Inc. is a tax district within the town of Enfield and is empowered by the Charter which was approved by the State of Connecticut Legislature to levy a tax on property owners within the area specified on a district map on file in the Town of Enfield Clerk's office.

The Tax Collector is voted into office by the Shaker Pines Lake Association at the Annual Meeting and has all the powers of Municipal Tax Collectors. According to the Office of Policy and Management, the Tax Collector follows the "Statutes Pertaining to the Assessment and Collection of Local Property Taxes and Miscellaneous Pertinent Section" Taxation Document #346. The Executive Board recommends the tax rate for the coming year at the Annual Meeting and Association members vote on the recommendation at the Annual Meeting.

Taxes are due and payable by August 1 of the current year. The monies collected are deposited immediately in the bank and reported to the Treasurer of the Association. These monies are used for the expenses incurred in the care and maintenance of the lake and properties owned by the Association.

If taxes are not paid by August 1, an interest charge of 18% per year is added, with a minimum charge of \$2.00. If taxes are not paid, a continuing tax lien is placed on the property at a charge of at least \$24.00. This lien is placed each year that the taxes are not paid. Each time the lien is placed, a fee is added. Any payment made will be applied to the oldest outstanding tax and related charges. (Sec.12-172 thru Sec 12-175). Failure to receive a notice does NOT excuse you from paying the tax.

If a lien on the property is not satisfied when the property is sold, the lien and taxes are transferred with the property and the new owner is then responsible for payment.

## **Lake Ecology and Safety Regulations**

***The following restrictions and regulations are meant to ensure the safety of the people in our community and the safety and ecology of our lake, beaches and community in general. If you have any questions, please contact any one of the Executive Board who will be happy to assist you.***

Vessels with electric motors are allowed on the lake. Please comply with the following State of Connecticut boating regulations:

- A) Speed limit is "slow-no-wake" which is defined as to produce no more than minimum wake and not exceed 6 mph. unless more speed is required to steer the vessel in a strong current. (Sec. 15-121-A1{j})

- B) Do not operate the vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs. (Connecticut General Statute CGS 15-133)
1. It is illegal to transport a vessel of any kind in the state (from one body of water to another) without inspecting the vessel for the presence of vegetation and properly removing and disposing of the vegetation. (Connecticut General Statute CGS 15-180)
  2. No gas-powered vessels are allowed except under the following conditions:
    - A) Public safety vehicles responding to emergencies, training and other community needs or
    - B) Association members or contractors performing legitimate Association sanctioned maintenance work. (For example, authorized lake treatment.)
  3. No anchored floats allowed on the lake.
  4. No hunting within association limits.
  5. **Absolutely no pets allowed on Memorial Park (Bridges Road).** Failure to comply with Town of Enfield ordinance to clean up after your pets may result in a fine. No pets allowed roaming at large.
  6. No rubbish or debris of any kind is to be thrown into the lake.
  7. No adding any sand beyond water's edge. Sand from outside sources may contain pollutants that can affect the ecology of the lake. There are also other government regulations that pertain to the filling of wetlands and waterways.
  8. No storage of any personal property is allowed on Association property.
  9. No feeding the waterfowl; this includes but is not limited to the geese and ducks. Please refrain from putting bird feeders on the lake side of the property.
  10. Ice fishing is allowed away from skating areas. It is your responsibility to fill any holes before leaving the ice.

## Lake & Property Maintenance

The Shaker Pines Lake area is an exceptionally beautiful place to live. This statement is made with the realization that the lake is our most valuable asset, next to our homes, affording us swimming, boating and skating privileges. As you get settled in your new residence, please take a walk or ride around the lake and you will quickly realize that the lake is relatively small, it's uses many. The lake must be taken care of, regardless of cost or inconvenience. When you attend the Annual Meeting of the Association in June, you will realize that the largest percentage of tax monies collected goes directly toward maintaining the lake (treatment of weeds, algae, etc.) We trust that you will understand this large expense and remember that if you sell your property, the lake is and will be your best-selling point. The lake is treated professionally for weeds and algae and is tested regularly by the North Central District Health Department.

We are proud of our community and urge you to keep your property clean and neat at all times. Each fall the lake is lowered to allow property owners abutting the lake to remove debris and leaves from the lake bottom and make repairs to beaches and retaining walls, etc. Any trees that fall into the lake are the responsibility of the homeowner and must be removed within thirty days in accordance with the Bi-Laws.

## Beaches

Cottage Road: The Association owns and maintains the two beaches on Cottage Road; these two beaches are open to all Association Members.

Wheeler Drive: The property owners on Bridges Road, Coslin Road, Hassmar Road and portions of Jondot Drive and back lot property owners on Wheeler Drive additionally have the right of way to the beach on Wheeler Drive. This beach does not belong to the SPLA and the Association has no responsibility for it and no right of use. We have no right or authorization to maintain this property. Please review your property deed to determine if you have rights to this property as a back-lot owner.

West Shore Drive: Back-lot owners on West Shore Drive privately and jointly own this beach. This beach does not belong to the SPLA and the Association has no responsibility for it and no right of use. We have no right or authorization to maintain this property. Please review your property deed to determine if you have rights to this property as a back-lot owner.

### General Association Beach Rules

1. The Association beaches are for tax paying residents and their guests only. They are not public swimming areas. If you have guests using one of the beaches, please accompany them or notify one of the Board members. To protect our property from vandalism and limit our liability we want to be sure that persons using the beaches are Association members or their guests. The police may be notified if people are not recognized and cannot show proof of membership.
2. There are no lifeguards on duty on any beach. Swimming is done at your own risk. Children should be accompanied by an adult on beach property.
3. Skating and ice fishing are at your own risk. There are no reviews to ensure ice safety.
4. No personal property is allowed to be left on the beaches.
5. Fishing is open to all association members and all state fishing regulations apply.
6. While fishing is allowed on the beaches, if there are swimmers on the beach or in the lake, please refrain from fishing for everyone's safety.

Bridges Road Memorial Park: This property is owned by the Association. It is not a beach and swimming is not allowed. This area is an earthen dam and is maintained as such. Recent issues with erosion damage have resulted in a "no dogs" allowed rule in this area. While fishing is not restricted, please be aware of the area near the edge of the water to avoid further erosion. This is a wonderful area for picnics and relaxation.

### Boat Launching

No electric motorboat launching or removal on the Cottage Road beaches between May and September. Should a need arise to launch a boat (for example a new boat), please contact any one of the board members. This rule is in place to protect the swimmers enjoying the beaches.

Kayaks and other non-motor vessels must be launched on the upper Cottage Road Beach (between 119 & 127 Cottage Road) and can be launched anytime during the season.

Under no circumstances can the launching vehicles (e.g. trailers, vehicles), at either beach, remain on the beach, they must be removed immediately after launching. Law enforcement will be called for any authorized unattended vehicles.

Parking is allowed on the curbside of both beaches.

### **Trash Collection**

The Town of Enfield collects trash on Thursday with yard waste collection on Friday. The town requires tipper barrels which can be purchased from the Department of Public Works. Please place barrels at roadside as late as possible on Wednesday for collection and remove empty containers as soon as possible. Recyclables are collected on alternate Thursdays. Large trash can be picked up by contacting the Town of Enfield. Keep in mind; any open trash containers invite scavengers and wildlife. For more information call 860-763-7527.

### **Noise Ordinance**

Please respect your neighbors' slumber and stop all unnecessary noise or disturbance in accordance with the Town of Enfield Noise Ordinance. For concerns, contact the Enfield Police at 860-763-6400.

### **Neighborhood Speed Limit**

Because our roads are extremely narrow with no sidewalks, please obey posted speed limits which are between 10-25 MPH to protect our members and children who walk, play and ride bicycles.

### **Schools**

For information on school bus stops contact The Board of Education located at Henry Barnard School on Shaker Road. Ask for Department of Transportation. For more information call Enfield Public Schools at 860-253-6500.

### **Postal Service**

This is a rural route; each house within the Association area must have a useable mailbox with their house number clearly printed on it located at the roadside. The mail carrier will not deliver to boxes attached to the house.

### **House Locator Requirements**

For your safety, a Town ordinance requires homeowners to affix house numbers to your house that are at least four inches tall and that are clearly visible from the road. For more information, please review the Enfield Code of Ordinances, section 14-212 on the Town of Enfield Website [www.enfield-ct.gov](http://www.enfield-ct.gov).

### **Fire Department**

The Shaker Pines Fire Department located on 37 Bacon Road is a combination department consisting of both paid and volunteer staff. The Fire Chief welcomes any and all visitors to stop in and meet the firefighters. In addition to being first responders for both fire and medical emergencies, the Shaker Pines Fire Department offers car seat installations free of charge. For more information call 860-749-8552.

## **Additional Contact Information and Resources**

SPLA Website: [www.shakerpineslake.org](http://www.shakerpineslake.org)

SPLA Facebook Page: Shaker Pines Lake

SPLA Message Board – Cottage Road Sandy Beach (1<sup>st</sup> beach on Cottage Road)

SPLA Newsletter – mailed or emailed out quarterly

## **Shaker Pines History**

The name “Shaker” came from a religious sect founded among the lower class in England in 1758. The group’s controversial beliefs in the second coming of Christ as a woman, their eschewing of greed, pride, sex and their simple communal way of life brought on religious persecution; and they fled to America in 1774. By 1782, they had established a community in Enfield and within ten years had settled over a large tract of land, part of which is our Association area.

The Shaker colony kept much to itself, as their religious beliefs were a complete mystery to most of the natives, but their solid community accomplishments were considerable. They were industrious craftsmen and farmers, improving the land and planting white pine trees. For irrigation and to power the lumber mill, they dammed up a ravine into which several brooks flowed in the spring months only to dry up in the summer season. This established the present lake.

Always dedicated to employing the natural resources available to them, they used the sandstone and timber in the area to construct the Mill for lumber for themselves and the surrounding farmers.

Their religious beliefs prohibited marriage, and by 1917 the colony had dwindled. The few remaining workers sold their possessions and moved away to become members of a distant Shaker colony. Subsequently, the Association used the Mill for the storage of firefighting equipment, including the fire truck, hose and trailer pump, and a local Civilian Defense Headquarters during the Second World War, unfortunately the ravages of time and vandalism took their toll on the Mill and it was demolished.

## **Conclusion**

We, The Board of Directors, hope that this “Information and Welcome” booklet will in some way help you understand the history and aims of this Association.

## **Current Executive Board Members**

The current list of board members can be found on the Shaker Pines website. [www.shakerpineslake.org](http://www.shakerpineslake.org)