

SHAKER PINES LAKE ASSOCIATION
11/7/2023 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order: 7:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Attendance:

Randy Daigle, George Temple, Charlie Macsata, Jaime Macsata, Linda Ostapoff, Dan Smith
Jaime Macsata – Tax Collector

Absent – Sharon Ledger, Betsy Nourse, Jeremy Stefanik

Reading of Minutes – October 3, 2023, Amended – motion made by Charlie & seconded by George – motion carried.

Recommendations & remarks from SPLA Members

Leslie Cunningham – 36 Wheeler Dr. – Reported she needs to take a tree out of lot 68 – the tree has an open split and threatening her home. Lorraine provided survey of lot done years ago. Survey sights volume and page for people that have deeded access to that lot (back lot owners). Leslie has all addresses of the back lot owners and will provide for our records. She will notify them of the tree needing to be removed, however, she doesn't believe they will take care of it financially and has indicated she will have to pay for it. Charlie questioned if we would want to consider asking for the deed to the properties to maintain them. It was noted that all owners are part of the Lake Association.

Ernst Ostapoff - 109 Cottage Rd. – Reported that they are still in process of taking down the tall pine trees – as they are dropping limbs and copious amounts of sap. They contracted with Monster to remove 3 on the lake shore – which was Inland Wetlands approved. Monster has been there once and in order to continue with the remaining trees, they will need to take down power lines. The original scheduled date slipped so they are asking for continued approval to use 106 Cottage Road for the trunks until picked up within 3 days after cutting trees. The board previously approved the use of this lot and indicated that they are still approved to use for this purpose.

Correspondence – none

Treasurer Report – Jeremy Stefanik – Jeremy provided the Treasurer's report in his absence. Linda asked that the Budget summary be clarified at next month's meeting as it is dated July. There is concern that the last two lake treatment payments aren't reflected in the summary. Randy indicated he has been in touch with Jeremy regarding obtaining additional Wright & Pearse invoices to be submitted to the town.

Tax Collector Report – Jaime Macsata – presented –

Total Collected September \$1,865.88

Total Outstanding through 10/31/23 \$16,191.87

3 Liens Released in September

44 Open Liens

13 Expired Warrants – collected payment on two accounts in September.

Total Collected October \$2,264.29

Total Outstanding through 11/30/23 \$13,626.58

10 Liens Released in October

34 Open Liens

13 Expired Warrants – collected payments on 4 accounts in October.

Committee Reports -

- **Ecology** - Leslie Cunningham -

The Water Draw Down began on October 16, 2023. We are not seeing many of the residents taking advantage of this period to clear their waterfrontage of leaves, pine needles, and debris. I have posted 2 reminders on Facebook to encourage, remind, and educate residents about the need. I will put up posters on both sides of the lake, I need an end date as to when the water will be raised to include on the post.

Lake Treatment Consult with Nick McMahon, Pond and Lake Management-We discussed the lake drawdown. The purposes in the fall are for lake clean-up of leaves and debris, and to kill weeds with a hard freeze. A Hard Freeze is a period of 2 or more days when the temperature remains consistently in the 20's or lower. Not warming up during the daylight hours. A hard freeze is required to kill weeds. The weeds root systems, which often go down into the sediments 2 or more inches must be frozen to eradicate the weeds. The sediment needs to freeze 2 or more inches deep. A surface frost or freeze is not enough.

Nick is not advocating doing a hard freeze or not, he says we need to discuss the pros and cons and let him know how we wish to proceed. He did say that a hard freeze done right will kill off most of the weeds, which is not in the best interest of the lake. We need some vegetation for small fish to take shelter in, and also for water health. The weeds and the algae both compete for the nutrients and phosphorus in the lake water. Without the weeds the algae will take over. His preference would be to treat the weed growth as needed, in front of homes and leave some areas of weed growth where it is less bothersome. He indicated that the weed growth is easier to deal with than an algae takeover. The north end has been difficult because it is so nutrient rich with all the accumulated sediments. He said that they hit it hard each visit.

Recommendations for next year were to continue the current treatment plans but to provide for an extra treatment if needed, so that the DEEP permit will allow for a third treatment.

Nice Birds are coming through with the migration. Last week we saw Bufflehead Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. The Blue Heron and the raccoons are loving the draw down. The raccoons are chowing on the clams and snails. A deer has been passing through the Wheeler Drive Lot walking across my waterfront and swimming across to Cottage Rd. Keep an eye out who knows what comes next?

Respectfully Submitted,
Leslie Cunningham, Esq.

Discussion – Jaime asked about adding more carp to the lake. Leslie responded that it is not a good time to add new carp due to the spillway. Carp also adds to the green in the lake. George recommended following the recommendation of Pond & Lake with regard to raising the lake back up. The Board agreed to bring lake up starting December 1. Beach shore clean-ups will be done on November 12th at 9:00 a.m.

- **Spillway Committee** – Randy Daigle
Leslie Cunningham, Dan Hart, Dan Smith

Randy reported there was a meeting on November 6th with Wright & Pierce representatives Barry Parfit and Thomas Hogan. Dan Smith, Dan Hart and Randy Daigle were in attendance representing the Association. Randy wanted to make it clear we weren't happy with the quality of work to-date. Invoices received have been very vague. Randy asked for more detailed information to be provided on future invoices, i.e., task completed, amount of time to complete, representative/s who worked on the task, rates, cost to complete. The group discussed where we are today and why we aren't out to bid. Wright & Pierce indicated that they believed we switched directions with regard to the concrete slab turning the project into a total redesign and requiring an individual permit from DEEP vs. a general permit. Wright & Pierce stated that it was implied during previous discussions. They assumed that this is what we wanted without any discussion and clarification. Both Randy and Dan stated that this isn't something we need. The current spillway has been in place since 1955 and has functioned fine. In addition, to date they have completed drawings but no specifications.

After the meeting the 3 board members in attendance concluded we are at a phase to release Wright & Pierce and utilize the information they have provided so far. Randy will speak to two other engineering firms, GM2 and Design Professional to get second opinions. Dan said the question will be “what can we do under a general permit?” The committee would like to put this out to bid as soon as possible. Randy asked what our thoughts would be on having Dan Smith’s company be part of the bidding process. Jaime indicated she was fine with it if all bids go out together and are received and reviewed with Dan recusing himself. George said it was best to send out the 3 bids. All agreed we would follow the formal process using the Quality Data Selection process which Randy and Jaime are familiar with. All agreed to get the general permit. Linda inquired about the timing of all of this, and discussion resulted in a tentative schedule:

1. Contacting the two other engineering firms and providing them drawings to review - 1-2 weeks
2. Depending on responses from other engineering firms – obtain quotes from one or both to assist with bidding process. 2 weeks
3. Once we have direction and paperwork – go to Town Inland & Wetlands for approval– typically 4 weeks – expect this to be done by January/February 2024.
4. Upon approval from Inland Wetlands, send out bids to 3 contractors to perform the work – typically 4 weeks. The goal is to have the project completed by May 2024.

- **Property Committee** – George Temple

Allison Cushing, Leslie Cunningham, Linda Ostapoff, Cheryl Cote, Paul Cote, Dave Olson, Dan Smith, Jeremy Stefanik

George reported that Bills’ Landscaping has submitted a bill in the amount of \$333 for mowing properties on June 2, 2023. Jeremy has provided George copies of every bill paid. George will call Bill Guzie about this invoice as a majority present recalled the lots were not done before Memorial Day and Paul Cote and George mowed all properties prior to Memorial Day so a mow on June 2nd wouldn’t have been required.

George has asked Signorama to quote on the address signs which will go on all Association properties. For 121 Cottage Rd the sign will be 5” X 50” at 121 and go on the existing brown signs. George will send a list of all signs and we can review and discuss at next meeting. Jaime moved to approve up to \$500 for all signs, Dan seconded. Motion carried.

Linda questioned putting signs on fences on 45 Cottage Rd.- Lower Beach – Charlie didn’t put signs on those fences as they belong to the adjacent property owners.

- **Communications** –

Newsletter – Jasmine Curry/Linda Ostapoff – no newsletter

Website Updates – Jaime Macsata, Jeremy Stefanik – Jaime added upcoming events and asked Linda to review.

- **Activity Committee** – Linda Ostapoff

Leslie Cunningham, Jaime Macsata, Lori Parker, Stacy Daigle, Carrie Temple, Lisa Strom, Kellie Dixon, Jasmine Curry

Linda reported on the ACTIVITY COMMITTEE MEETING dated October 24th 2023

ATTENDING: Linda Ostapoff (chair), Stacey Daigle, Kellie Dixon, Jamie Macsata, Lori Parker, Lisa Strom

Absent: Leslie Cunningham, Jasmine Curry, Carrie Temple

The Halloween event for children was well attended and a great hit with the kids. Thanks to Carrie Temple and many helpers for making this event a great success.

Upcoming Fundraisers:

- The calendar is ready to sell. Price is \$20, the same as last year. Calendars can be ordered at pineractivities@gmail.com

- Childrens Christmas Party Fundraiser November 22 ,6 PM Buona Vita. Scott and Doc playing at 6 PM. Raffles to support the Christmas Party.

Events:

- Harvest Lake Dance, November 3 has been cancelled as we felt that the tickets were not selling well enough. Knights was reserved for \$415. No refund was available but we have rescheduled for February 10th. The DJ was not paid a deposit. Raffle baskets that were already made for the November 3rd event will be used in the 11/22 fundraiser.
- Childrens Christmas Party Fundraiser November 22 ,6 PM Buona Vita. Scott and Doc playing at 6 pm.

New Events:

- Golf Cart Parade, Bonfire, Tree Lighting. Sunday ,November 26 5 pm at Memorial Lot .
- Food Drive: December 2 at Firehouse. 9 to 12
- Childrens Christmas Party: St. Martha's. December 9th from 1 to 3. Register by calling Carrie Temple at 860-416-4144
- Lights on the Lake: Lights up by Sunday, Dec 10, judging competed by Tuesday, Dec 12. Register at pineractivities@gmail.com

New Topics:

- Traditional Christmas tree has been difficult to install, expensive and we have concerns that digging a hole for it may damage the dam. A lighting display "tree" has been purchased instead.
- We would like to be able to show an upcoming event highlighted on the webpage. Jamie was not sure how to do this. We would like to see if this can be done.

Old Business –

Update on Water Testing – Linda Ostapoff – current company Apex has ghosted us. Linda is now looking at another company.

Dam Emergency Plan – Charlie Macsata – Charlie should have something to show next month.

Record Retention – Jaime Macsata – Jaime, Leslie, Sharon and Lorraine met and went through quite a bit of files and were able to discard all those unnecessary based on the State Statutes Records Retention Schedule. They will meet again in a couple of weeks. They confirmed that the Town of Enfield has minutes back to 1985. All minutes prior to that in hardcopy will be scanned and submitted to the Town.

Electricity on Memorial Lot – George Temple – working with Brian on getting solar for flag pole

Dead Tree on 45 Cottage Rd – George Temple/Randy Daigle -

New Business –

Randy provided a list of opportunities provided by Sharon:

Quarterly discussions on the budget to ensure we are on track.

Defining better/more descript line items in the budget.

Start budgeting process earlier.

Remote Access to meetings – Charlie to talk to Paul Russell & Jim Nolan

Randy indicated that since we follow By-Laws and send meeting minutes to the Town, we should be using Roberts Rules.

Jaime stated the By-Law were due for review and the use of Roberts Rules should be incorporated in them for the present and future boards to follow.

Closing Remarks/Round Table

Meeting adjourned. Dan made motion to adjourn – George seconded – 9:06 p.m.