

SHAKER PINES LAKE ASSOCIATION
08/06/2024 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order: 7:01PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Attendance

Randy Daigle, Jaime Macsata, Jeremy Stefanik, Sharon Ledger, Stacy Daigle, Charlie Macsata, Betsy Nourse, Dan Smith, Matt Stiefel

Jaime Macsata – Tax Collector

Absent – Jeremy Stefanik

Approval of Minutes

July 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Matt Stiefel to approve meeting minutes, seconded by Betsy Nourse. All in favor, motion passed.

Recommendations & remarks from SPLA Members Nothing to report.

Correspondence –

Sharon Ledger-

- Letter from Jon Lax looking for update on previous letter
 - Document Boat Launching process at 45 Cottage Road (Ensure By-laws, Welcome Book and Sign at 45 Cottage Road relay same message)
- Letter sent to Bob Duga regarding 45 Cottage Road

The sign at 45 Cottage Road has been updated removing number 4 that stated No Motorized vehicles on beach lot. We will be updating the by-laws and welcome book to boat launching instructions.

Jaime Macsata –

Received credit memo from QDS in the amount of \$30.14 for postage.

Leslie Cunningham-

Received a past due invoice from Pond and Lake Management in the amount of \$2,865 for the base line water testing.

Jeremy paid this bill today.

Matt Stiefel-

George Temple forwarded an invoice from NE Landscaping in the amount of \$374 for monthly mowing to be paid.

Randy Daigle-

The contract with Civil Solutions LLC has been signed and the \$7,500 retainer fee should now be paid.

Also, an invoice from New England Aquatic Services in the amount of \$4,500 should be paid.

Treasurer Report – Jeremy Stefanik

Checking Account	\$ 31,696.35
Capital Account	\$ 131,352.86
Reserve Funds	\$ 10,000.00
Settlement Interest	\$ 5,400.03
Spillway Reimbursement	\$ 20,134.91
Interest	\$ 6.34

Total Cash on Hand	\$ 198,590.49
Restricted Funds	\$ 275,000.00
Total Assets	\$ 473,590.49
Activity Account	\$ 3,874.61

Jeremy was not at the meeting and will provide an updated Budget statement at next meeting for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

Motion was made by Jaime Macsata for Jeremy to open new bank accounts and transfer monies from M&T bank to Berkshire bank. Seconded by Charlie Macsata.

This will provide a much better return on our monies.

All in favor.

Sharon Ledger will reach out to Jeremy and provide this information since he is not at the meeting.

A request will be sent to the Town of Enfield to be reimbursed in the amount of \$10,116.39, the final amount that was paid to Wright and Pierce. We will also be requesting the ARPA funds from town.

Tax Collector Report – Jaime Macsata

Through July 31, 2024

Total Collected 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025 \$27,239.36

Total Collected for July 2024 \$27,239.36

Total Outstanding through 07/31/24 \$16,798.48

40 Open Liens

Edgar Langlois’s property at 43 Wheeler Drive, has been sold for \$62,595 with outstanding liens on this property exceeded \$100k. We will not be getting any funds from this settlement. Jaime is requesting permission to reach out to Carl Landolina to determine if the outstanding liens on the property would be the responsibility of the new owner.

There have been a few people that have overpaid (small amounts) and Jaime was looking for direction what to do as it is very cumbersome to refund. It was decided that she should do nothing unless a refund is requested by the taxpayer.

Committee Reports -

- **Ecology** - Leslie Cunningham, Randy Daigle
 - Lake quality/treatment update
Quality of the water is not good.
Below is Nick’s response:
We saw more planktonic algae as well as filamentous algae, native and invasive plants. We treated the algae as hard as we could and I hope it settles down in a day or two. The yellow floating heart that we found on the last visit.
 - Water Testing Baseline results
Nick did not see anything significant to be concerned about. Leslie will follow up with Nick to see who would be able to interpret the results for the board.
 - Water Testing – Dept of Health
SPLA will only notify lake members when the water testing results come back that it is unsafe to swim. However, we would like Dept of Health to post on their letter head or at least provide SPLA with a form that we will post.
 - Geese
Discussed below in properties

- **Lake Projects** – Randy Daigle, Dan Smith

Leslie Cunningham, Dan Hart

- **Spillway Repair – Randy Daigle**
Randy received proposal and will sign allowing the new company to begin work.
- **Dam Inspection – Randy Daigle**
One body of water – Spillway and Dam inspection are one.
- **Dredging Committee – Dan Smith**
Randy provided a copy of the water and sediment depth report received from New England Aquatic Services.
This report provides the sediment depths, recommendations on the dredging methods to be used and estimated cubic yardage that would need to be disposed of.
Through the filtration process the debris will not smell by the time it reaches the beach. Charlie Mascata will reach out to his contacts at Mayfield to see if they would want the debris to use as fertilizer.
We can now move forward with getting proposals and looking into grants. Town manager, Chris Bromson, has agreed to having the town grant writers assist with this.

- **Property Committee – Dan Smith and Matt Stifel**

Leslie Cunningham, Dave Olson, Charlie Macsata, Deane Asciati

- **Emergency Tree Removal at 35 Cottage Road (Spillway)**
During a recent storm trees 2 trees at the spillway were damaged. We received a quote from N&G Landscaping and Tree Service to remove the trees in the amount of \$3,130.
Motion was made by Stacy Daigle to contract with N&G Landscaping and Tree Service to have them remove the trees at 35 Cottage (Spillway) in the amount of \$3,130. Seconded by Jaime Macsata. All in favor motion passed. These funds would come from the \$10,000 emergency reserve fund.
- **Tree Trimming Services update**
Received Tree service quotes from Monster Tree (previously submitted to George) and N&G Tree Service. Urban was contacted and declined to submit an estimate due to not winning a job at SPLA 5 years ago. Taylor Tree service did not show up to provide an estimate and did not respond to follow up note. All members favored the estimate from N&G as it was more thorough and in the tree and branch removal. However, it is \$7678.44 which is more than Monster at \$6700.05 (less removal from properties). SPLA would not be required to pay taxes therefore, the quote from N&G would be \$7,220. This is higher than the Monster since they will be taking down an additional tree. It was agreed that we would go with N&G to have the trees removed and this would come out of the \$8,500 maintenance budgeted amount.
- **Porta Potty for lower Cottage Beach**
Quote was received for \$150 a month and \$325 for the rest of the season. Sharon Ledger brought up that this was on the ballot in 2021-2022 and was voted down by the membership Yes-8 No-27. If we are thinking of the we should put it to a vote on the 2025-2026 ballot. Agreed it would table and revisit.
- **Clean up at 121 Cottage Road (Upper Cottage Beach)**
Received a quote from NE Landscaping to clear out 121 Cottage Road in the amount of \$1,964.21.
\$1,648.90 is clear the brush out and \$315.31 to seed. Matt will check to determine if this includes the top soil, as we normally receive from Plaza Excavating.
The removal of the trees is \$7,200 since we budgeted \$8,500 this would leave us a \$1,280 amount left in budget. After the cost to clear out 121 Cottage we would be about \$700 over the budgeted properties amount.
- **Kayak Racks at 121 Cottage Road (upper beach)**

A four quantity kayak rack was discussed for upper beach. The committee believes this is a good idea and would cost around \$500 (or less). We will need BOD approval for this. Charlie mentioned we need to have the brush cleared and a tarp dug up. Matt will obtain a quote from New England Landscaping and present to the BOD. NE expects to have this quote completed by Aug 5.

Since the 121 Cottage Road beach would need to have the brush cleared and tarp dug up prior to us adding this option, we are tabling.

Will also need to complete some research as Charter, By-Laws and welcome book all state No Storage of any personal property is allowed on Association Property.

Would we allow this at no cost or charge a storage fee?

- **New picnic tables**

Dave O will repair the broken table at memorial park. Charlie will find out from the town if they could loan us tables for special events or possibly sell us tables at a discount. Charlie will report back to the team.

- **Canadian Geese situation**

Matt researched having CT DEEP and USDA Wildlife services removing and remediating the large population of Canadian Geese at Shaker Pines. Geese are causing high levels of bacteria at 121 Cottage Road, UpperBeach causing it to be closed for 2 days. The Geese droppings are also contributing to the high levels of Algae in the lake. Everyone is complaining about the high level of growth and have never seen it this bad. Matt spoke with Kelly Kubik of CT DEEP about conducting a "round up removal" of the geese during the June 2025 timeframe. This is during the time the geese are shedding their feathers and can't fly. Matt will obtain a quote to put into the 2025 budget. Matt also spoke to Justin Willey of USDA Wildlife Services. He is a Staff Biologist. He sent Dave Warren (Specialist) to visit SPL properties and conduct an assessment. Justin and Dave believe they can take action now to assist us. The Cost is \$2,495 for 6 visits. It will be a combo of dispersal and lethal removal. A special form is required for home owners that want to allow services on their property. Property Committee members would like to move forward with this option. BOD will have to obtain approval for this expenditure this year. The email communication and Goose information letters are attached to this email. Motion was made by Stacy Daigle to approve \$2,495 to USDA Wildlife Services to remove the geese. Seconded by Jaime Macsata. All in favor motion passed.

At this point it was decided we would take the funds from the interest received on the Windstanley monies. However, after additional thought we should take the funds out of the \$5,000 budgeted for the dam inspection, since this is now part of the spillway. Discuss at September meeting.

- **Blighted properties**

Charlie mentioned it's a town issue more than lake committee responsibility. Matt discussed several docks that are potential safety hazards as they are rotting into the water. The property committee would like a letter sent to the community that they need to be removed or repaired. These docks "could" be in violation of Army Core of Engineers regulations. Matt will be identifying the docks that could be safety hazards prior to the lake being lowered.

- **Life Ring**

Dave Olsen has the Life Ring (from boyscouts) for 121 Cottage Road (upper Beach). He would like to install it. This is a good idea however, the clean up of brush needs to be done first.

- **Solar Light for Memorial Flag Pole**

Matt was sent a quote of \$548.75 from Bartholomew Electric for the memorial park flag pole. At this time the property committee is putting the decision on this at a " ON HOLD" status.

- **Communications** – Stacy Daigle

- Newsletter – Jasmine Curry, Stacy Daigle
Newsletter articles are needed prior to September 16th.
- Website Updates – Jaime Macsata, Jeremy Stefanik
Website has been updated.

- **Activity Committee** – Stacy Daigle

Leslie Cunningham, Jaime Macsata, Lori Parker, Carrie Temple, Lisa Strom, Kellie Dixon, Jasmine Curry, Lori Coccomo-Stifel

- Tie Dye is scheduled for August 18th
- Block Party is scheduled for September 7th
- July 4th parade \$1,400 was collected for the Shriners. This was less than last year. Sharon Ledger asked if SPLA could make a donation to the Shriners. Since this is tax payer monies we cannot do this. However, the activity community could. Stacy will send the Shriners a check for \$500 from the activity fund.

Old Business –

- Dam Emergency Plan – Charlie Macsata
Needs flash drives to distribute to all involved.
- Record Retention – Jaime Macsata
Planning to meet again in September
- Teams (remote Meeting access) – Jeremy Stefanik
Charlie will contact fire department to determine what needs to happen to allow us to get through fire wall.

New Business –

- Follow up from Annual Meeting
 - Sign on West Shore Drive – Sign was removed as it was in poor condition. Nothing additional to be done as this is backlot owners.

Closing Remarks/Round Table

Meeting adjourned

Meeting adjourned. Charlie Macsata made motion to adjourn – Dan Smith seconded – 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Ledger
Sharon Ledger
SPLA Secretary