

# CPWL Meeting Minutes

## October 18, 2016

26 were in attendance and the meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

### Minutes from the Last Meeting

Minutes were read

**Motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes from the last meeting, motion passed**

### Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Phil Vial distributed copies and presented the 2016 year to date financial report.
- CPWL had a beginning balance on 1/1/2016 of \$10,519.23
- Income generated in the form of dues collected from 1/1/2016 until 10/16/2016 totaled \$13,869.00
- Expenses from 1/1/2016 to present totaled \$6,618.57, consisting of \$521.46 towards dam maintenance, \$5200.00 towards grass cutting costs, \$90.15 for administration fees (P.O. Box RI Sec of State fees), \$181.96 for mailing & copies and lastly an emergency loan to the fireworks fund in the amount of \$625.00 to cover the unexpected fire detail expense to Smithfield Fire for 2015 & 2016.
- The CPWL's checking account ending balance as of 10/16/16 was \$18,174.66
- Phil noted that of the \$6500.00 that was budgeted for grass mowing, \$1300.00 was not yet expensed for the final months of 2016.
- Phil noted that of the 4 commercial waterfront properties (GCC, Camp Russell, Steere's Marina & The Lakes) All but Steere's Marina has paid 2016 dues, however this is not unusual for Steere's to pay late in the year. Of the 3 water view properties, The Village at Waterman Lake has contributed to date, Tavern on the Water donated the buffet for the fireworks fundraiser and we do not receive anything from Powdermill Creamery.
- In reference to the emergency loan for the fireworks detail. Phil went on to explain that 9 days prior to last summers fireworks event he was contacted by Smithfield Fire. He learned of an outstanding balance for the prior years fire detail expense of \$759.00 had to be paid along with an additional \$1000.00 fee for the 2016 detail expense. We could not be issued a permit for this years event if these were unpaid. We eventually determined that last years invoice was mailed to the wrong address, in addition we incorrectly thought that Pyrotechnics covered the detail expense, there we had no knowledge of this expense. Phil contacted the board members and we all agreed to establish a loan from the maintenance fund to the fireworks fund, under the current circumstances. Discussion took place regarding what to do in respect to this fire detail expense going forward, it was decided to talk with Smithfield Fire to negotiate this cost down if possible.
- The fireworks account had a beginning balance as of 1/1/2016 of \$783.11, we collected .86 in interest, \$5502.00 in donations and the \$625.00 loan from CPWL gave us a working balance of \$6127.86
- The expenses paid for the fireworks event were the following; \$5000.00 to Pyrotechnics, \$759.10 to Smithfield Fire for the 2015 fire detail, \$1000.64 for the 2016 fire detail, leaving and ending balance of \$151.23

- It was noted that of the 139 residential waterfront properties, 71 household contributed in 2015 which was 51%, so far for 2016 we have received 79 household contributions which increased contributions to 57%, therefore contributions were slightly up.
- Lastly we revisited the subject matter of increasing the residential annual dues rate by \$15.00 from \$135.00 to \$150.00. This rate change will increase our dues overall by approximately \$1000-\$1200 per year.

**Motion made to set residential dues rate to \$150.00 annually and seconded, motion passed.**

**Motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, motion passed**

### **Water Quality Report**

Unfortunately, URI has not completed the data, hence no information to report to date. We will revisit this topic in the spring of 2017.

### **President's Report**

- The fireworks fundraiser and event went well. Jeff discussed what we should do regarding the fire detail. Jeff noted that when he examined the contract he discovered that we are to cover this expense, not Pyrotechnics. There was some discussion to move the fireworks location to Gloucester so we can hire Harmony Fire, but the current site is beneficial to the VWL who is the primary contributor for the event, therefore we should try to keep the location in Smithfield. Next spring Jeff will contact Smithfield Fire to see if the detail cost can be adjusted.
- No fundraising events materialized for this year, if anyone has any suggestions we will welcome them.
- As far as DEM is concerned, Jeff stated that his discussion this past year with DEM had been done by phone and Jeff updated them on what has been done to date regarding the violations. Since then Jeff has not been contacted to schedule an inspection. At this point, we will wait to hear from DEM and if a inspection date is scheduled Jeff will reach out to the dam maintenance committee as to the inspection date.
- Jeff would like to reach out to the new owner of Powdermill Creamery with hopes that he may contribute some dues.
- Jeff distributed copies of the recently proposed boating safety map and rules of our lake, noting that our goal is to educate the public of what is expected of them while boating on Waterman Lake. We plan to distribute them to our residents, the GCC and Jeff and Mike will meet with Walter Steere and ask for permission to install a mailbox type holder at the marina this coming spring.
- On the topic of getting more residents contributing dues, a member suggested that in the past, groups of volunteers canvassed the neighborhoods in an effort to collect donations. Jeff noted that it is a great idea, and if anyone would like to form a group to do this we can supply the names and addresses of all of our non contributing residents. It was noted that the best thing we can do to increase our donations is to educate the residents that we are not funded by the state or the town to maintain the dam.
- Lastly, Phil Vial brought up the topic of the shortage of fireworks funds and what the general consensus is if this type of situation occurs again. The members chose to continue the fireworks event and give the board members discretion as to what measures are to be taken

if we do not meet the expenses for the scheduled event. It was noted that we ran over budget this past year because of the unexpected fire detail cost of \$759. Had that expense not existed we would have been over budget by a nominal amount. It seems somewhat of a gamble to schedule the fireworks event as we will need to commit with Pyrotechnics by March and donations are not usually met until well after that date. If our donations come up short and the detail expense is increased, we are on the hook for a portion of this expense. It was decided to plan on the fireworks event for 2017 with hopes that we can negotiate a reasonable fire detail rate and adequate donations.

**Motion on the floor that the board has discretion of whether or not the fireworks event takes place, notion seconded, motion passed.**

**Motion was made and seconded to approve the President's Report, motion passed.**

### **Dam Maintenance Report**

- Mark spoke on behalf of the Dam Committee
- \$6500.00 was allocated for dam cutting this year, we've had 3 cuttings with 1 more cutting expected before the end of the year.
- Mark reviewed a 3 year plan, broken down into \$10,000.00 increments as follows; 2016-2017 continue the access road from West Greenville Rd to Ray Steeres property, working on erosion problems along this stretch of dam. 2017-2018, fill and seed the portion of the dam from Pineledge Rd to West Greenville Rd as funds permit. 2018-2019 continue the road near Ray Steere's curve, filling and hydroseeding the back of the dam as this area is difficult to cut. Currently, he is working on a project in Smithfield and may have ability to obtain free fill, however will need to pay to transport it. He will update us of the situation.
- Mark proposes a motion to allocate \$10,000.00 to finish the access road from West Greenville Rd to Ray Steeres property, Phil Vial asked if this would include fixing the erosion control, Mark stated that it is dependent on how far the funds will go. Jeff interjected that he thought our priority should be to address the section from West Greenville to Pineledge Rd, that section behind Lambert's house. Mark agreed that the \$10,000.00 could be stretched to address both areas. The Dam Committee should walk the areas to determine how to spend the funds. Mark stated that the area behind Lambert's house had been worked, and is better but still treacherous and there are 3 trees that still need to be removed. The other area that needs immediate attention is the stone wall section on the side near Ray Steeres, as it has considerable erosion issues.
- Mark also stated that he is frustrated by the amount of trash that he is forced to dispose of. He noted that this has been problematic and is costly to CPWL as it is time consuming and time is money. Mark stated that after the fireworks event it appeared that Pyrotechnics did not do a through job of cleaning their trash and he spent 4 hours cleaning up trash. Jeff said that he will let Pyrotechnics be aware of this next year. Mark also suggested fencing off some sections along the dam especially on West Greenville Rd to prevent access to the general public. However, the board thought signage would be the first step to address the trash issue, as we don't want the costly measure of fencing at this time.
- Mark proposed a new lake draw down and fill up policy that should be voted on as a group. As discussed in the past the draw down is never usually a problem, however the lake fill up timing is a more sensitive issue. Jeff stated that we need to leave a buffer period as the fill up timing is weather dependent. David Graham suggested giving full discretion to the Dam Maintenance Committee in conjunction with the board as to the date and number of plates to be installed based on the weather conditions at the time. There was discussion on the floor

regarding the spring fill up and that not all residents have the benefit of water water levels rising slowly due to the various elevations around the lake. David Graham made a motion to implement a general rule for drawdown and fill up as the following; November 1st for plate removal and plate installation on April 1st. Plates will be installed with the intention of raising the level of the lake by 1 foot per week according to the NSPE (National Society of Professional Engineers) with the goal of full capacity no later than Memorial Day. These rules being subject to any unforeseen weather patterns. The board has the discretion of any variations to these rules pertaining to spring filling.

**Motion was made and seconded to allocate \$10,000.00 for finishing the work to comply with DEM from West Greenville Rd to Pineledge Rd, by removing the trees, work on the toe drain and addressing the erosion issue near Ray Steeres not to exceed \$10,000.00**

**Motion was made and seconded to approve the Drawdown and Fill up policy of November 1st and April 1st, with the DMC and acting board full discretion on any variations to the Spring fill up timing.**

**Motion was made and seconded to approve the Dam Maintenance Report, motion passed.**

#### **Fundraising Report**

- No fundraising in the works presently, if anyone has ideas or suggestions please or would like to volunteer, please contact the board.

**Motion was made and seconded to approve the Fundraising Report, motion passed.**

#### **Old Business/New Business**

- Being the Fall meeting it is the time to elect officers, Jeff asked if there were any nominees interested in serving as a board member. David Graham nominated the current standing board to carry on, and it was seconded by the members.
- Discussion on the floor regarding the wake boats. Some residents are not happy but ultimately it is up to the owners to show common courtesy while operating on the lake. This is one reason we hope that the boaters will adhere to and respect the lake rules.

**Motion was made and seconded to keep the standing board in place.**

**Motion was made and seconded to approve Old & New Business, motion passed.**

**Motion to adjourn and seconded**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm**