

Citizens for the Preservation of Waterman Lake
Spring meeting, May 23, 2018

DRAFT Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Attendance was 30, with President Jeff D'Antuano, Vice-President Ken Robertson, Treasurer Phil Viall and Secretary Andrea Robertson presiding.

The minutes of the October 18, 2017 meeting were read and a motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Phil Viall distributed copies of the 2017 and 2018 year-to-date financial report. In 2017 we had a \$12,804.66 beginning balance, and after collecting \$17,460.00 in dues and paying \$24,111.08 in expenses, we had an ending balance on December 31, 2017 of 6,153.68.

Emergency repair due to erosion between Brad Steere's house and Booker's field	\$2,056.00
Clear cutting the front toe of the dam	\$12,400.00
Dam cutting and mowing	\$8,300.00
Administrative costs	\$196.87
Meeting Preparation	\$303.21
Transferred to Fireworks account	\$855.00

- The Fireworks account began with a balance of \$176.27. Interest and donations brought the account balance to \$5,905.00. The expenses for the July fireworks totaled \$6,836.31. To cover these and leave the required \$100 account minimum balance, Phil transferred \$855.00 from the CPWL checking account.
- From January 1, 2018 until the morning of May 23, 2018, dues in the amount of \$4,600 were collected. An additional \$1,500.00 in dues was collected before the start of the meeting, which are not reflected in the Treasurer's report. Expenses incurred up to May 23, 2018 left an ending balance of \$6,206.40.
- Those expenses are:

Dam inspection by Pare Corp.	\$1,900.00
Clear cutting from the toe out 15'	\$2,500.00
Administration	\$107.04
Meeting Prep	\$40.14
- There have been no expenses yet this year for dam cutting, gate maintenance or fundraising

A discussion followed concerning the number of homeowners paying dues. A list of those people paying dues was included with the report, with a reminder from Phil to encourage your neighbors who have not paid to please do so. Jeff asked about a dues increase, but Phil noted

that it had been increased by \$15 to \$150 last year, with the number of people paying remaining the same. Commercial properties pay \$500. Five waterfront and 1 water view properties have all paid with the exception of Powdermill Creamery. Russell Lemieux noted they are under new management, and might be willing to pay dues. The 89 Residential waterfront payers represent 58% participation in paying dues. Sixty four (64) have not paid dues. Eleven (11) people also pay in part as people who use the lake but don't own waterfront property.

We have received an unsolicited bid from Chris Macari for dam mowing, in the amount of \$6,400.00. Phil was concerned Chris did not understand the full scope of the work; they met on May 10 and walked the entire dam. Phil offered him the chance to submit a more informed bid but we have not received it yet and Phil is assuming he will not submit one.

The Champlain Foundation does not fund dams.

Form 990 is ready for submission to the Secretary of State's office, but cannot be submitted until June 1.

The website is back in operation and will be updated in the next few days. The domain name was allowed to expire and there was a waiting period before it can be reclaimed. We once again own it.

Returning to the issue of dues, Phil said It would be nice to have more people paying dues. Some suggestions included a political-size lawn sign that reads "I support CPWL" with spots for stickers for five years' worth of dues. The cost is \$4 each plus stickers. It would be cost effective if four additional people began paying dues.

One person asked if we did reminder mailings. We do mailings in the spring and fall, but we do not do reminder mailings with invoices.

In 2011 we voted to post names of payers on the website. But as Jeff noted, the number of people paying remained the same.

Tom Viall noted that online payment of dues is possible, but costs 35 cents per transaction plus 2.75% of the cost. A convenience fee might offset this. Phil noted that 12 more people paid in 2017. Russell also noted new people have moved into Waterman Lake Shores. There are also others in Waterman Lake Shores who feel they don't need to pay because they have access to a boat ramp through Waterman Lake Association.

A motion to put non-payers on the website was made and discussed. Jean Marz asked why people don't pay. Perhaps we could include a note in a newsletter asking the question, seeking feedback. It might become a start of conversation with non-paying neighbors. Mark suggested having a walk-the-dam event so people can see where their money goes. Jean suggested doing this as a fundraiser perhaps, but others suggested that those who don't pay already won't

come to that either. Tom ?? suggested educating through the website. Phil admitted some material could be better worded, including where money goes, but new people are educated quickly. Jeff will send out emails reminding people to visit new website. He has a list of 105 emails, although some may not be good. The Facebook page could also be useful, but there is no official page. Kathy Griffith started it, and Jeff was unsure who the current administrator is. Jeff will check with Kathy. Part of the issue might be people don't want to pay by check. Online payment option will be explored with a convenience fee.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Water Quality report

Phosphorus is well within acceptable limits. Nitrogen is well within limits. Nitrate nitrogen is a little high, as is ammonium nitrate.

E coli levels in the tributaries at Route 44 and Sawmill are high, but well below limits in the lake as a whole, and all data is not as high as it has been in the past. Clarity is in the mesotrophic range. RI storm water solutions are available online. Geese may also be an issue.

There have been no water quality tests since the boat fire, and we started gathering samples last week for this year's reports. The next big collection will be in July.

A motion to approve the report was made, seconded and approved.

Dam Maintenance Report

Mark has allocated \$20,000 since 2016 for toe clearance. \$1,100 is left, the toe is clear and ready for inspection. The Smithfield Fire Department will not allow us to burn brush anymore, so we need to remove it as we can, or allow it to decay.

Emergency repair – There was a gouge out of the dam on Ray Steere's land, probably from storm action. Clay was inserted to stabilize it for now, at a cost of \$2,056.00. We will need to address the wall by Ray's property, where water is bleeding through more, but Mark wants advice from an engineer. It's an old stone wall and it concerns Mark. He prefers adding material and seeding over gunite.

We have increased the real estate on the dam by 75,000 square feet. Cutting is still a treacherous process in some areas and now we need to maintain this larger area so it doesn't become overgrown with brush again. He is looking into acquiring a boom-mower head. He would like \$1,000 in emergency surplus to get clay. He would use it for erosion along the dam as storms occur. Gopher holes are also an on-going issue, filled with clay and tamped down with 2 x 4s.

In 2017, \$8,300 was spent on mowing, not including the new real estate. He estimates we will now need \$11,000 to mow the entire dam plus toe. One possibility he is considering is asking the engineer that inspects the dam if we can harvest some of the material near the wall and make the treacherous areas more easily mowed.

Andrea reminded everyone that in May we increased the mowing budget by \$1,100. Mark noted that was for the less-than-half of the toe that had been cleared. We have doubled that amount now, going well past what that increase would cover.

Mark made two motions, to allocate \$1000 to complete repairs as needed in summer and fall, and to allocate \$11,000 for the 2018 season to mow including the toe.

A question of not having enough money for this was raised, but Phil expects another \$10,000. He also felt that if we need to, we'll have a fundraiser.

Jeff asked if mowing has gotten easier. Mark answered both yes and no. In some places it is still difficult. The main dam, along the top, has gotten easier because he seeds where he can. It's the thickets and bamboo that cause problems.

The first motion for emergency repairs was moved, seconded and approved. The second motion, for the 2018 budget was moved, seconded, and approved.

Russell pointed out that there should be a point where cost levels off. Mark agrees and will adjust the budget down if that happens. Jeff noted that this is also dependent on the engineer.

Mark also said that the grass is growing quickly now, and we need to start cutting. Pine Ledge needs cut badly.

Chris Macari is looking into a machine that would cut the dam but asked what is happening with brush and silt - brush will decompose, silt is a separate issue.

The Dam Maintenance Committee report was accepted.

President's Report

We started the summer with a boat fire on the lake. Richard Waterman, Harmony Fire Chief, sent a letter detailing their actions at the fire. He is also concerned with summer boat traffic, and the Harmony Fire Department's boat's ability to respond to emergencies. He is looking for help in replacing and updating the Fire Department boat. At Jeff's request, Russell spoke with the Fire Department, and told them we can't afford to contribute to the extent the Fire Department would like, but that the response to the fire was inappropriate. They can't put out a gas fire with water. Others around the lake have boats, so mutual aid is available. The FD is looking at a pump float that could pump water or foam. He also pointed out options that were cheaper for the FD in terms of boats, and proposed giving five names, who could come to the

Glocester Country Club to pick up help and shuttle them to the emergency. This would hold during boating season only. Chief Waterman liked that idea.

The dam inspection report will go directly to DEM within 90 days.

There will be no fireworks this year, because of the cost. Russell mentioned the Fire Department cost to Chief Waterman, but he didn't seem to want to have anything to do with it, especially since it would take the money from Smithfield Fire Department. Donations for other fireworks displays would be appreciated.

Steere's Marina is still available to launch boats for lake residents, until June 1.

The president's report was approved.

Fundraising

There was a question about the Ice Cream boat. The freezers are in storage at Mark's. Andrea Robertson's will ask her daughter if she is interested in reviving it.

Glocester Country Club might be open to a fundraiser. In the past we raised \$5,000, less \$1,000 in expenses. Greg said they are offering their kitchen for takeout food, with a dock area free for quick pickup. Tom Viall asked if perhaps part of the proceeds could go to CPWL, but the response seemed to be no. Jeff noted that holding a fundraiser there would be good PR for both the Country Club and CPWL. Greg will see if they are interested. We had done one on a Saturday evening, but Greg felt a Sunday afternoon from 2 to 6 would be more likely. No one has spoken with the Country Club about a fundraiser this or last year. Greg will check to see if there are dates available this year.

We haven't heard anything about the fishing tournament. Jeff will check with Carlton again.

Andrea had asked that someone else serve as Secretary. Liz Viall was nominated, and elected as the new Secretary for CPWL.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37.

