

Citizens for the Preservation of Waterman Lake
Fall meeting, October 22, 2019

DRAFT Minutes

The Fall meeting of the Citizens for the Preservation of Waterman Lake was called to order at 7:03. Thirty four (34) people were in attendance, with President Jeff D'Antuano, Vice President Ken Robertson, Treasurer Phil Viall and Secretary Liz Viall presiding.

Fire Chief Presentation

The meeting began with a presentation by Richard Waterman, Fire Chief of the Harmony Fire District. He knew that we lowered the lake in the winter and expressed that this was a problem with the Fire District not having enough water to fight structure fires during those months. There were 6 structure fires in Gloucester in the previous year, all total losses. When we lower the lake, the hydrant located at Waterman Lake Shores can be unusable; the Pineledge Plat is especially vulnerable.

Issues in combatting a structure fire include:

- the speed at which a fire progresses, and water supply. Firefighters have seven minutes to know a fire down, before it gets out of control.
- The pumpers which the Harmony Fire District has can only pump water 16 feet vertically.

He asked that when we do dam maintenance, we do it quickly, and then bring the water back up, but after some discussion he felt that at between 5 and 6 feet below summer levels, the hydrant may work. He estimated that it can take 6 to 8 water tanker truck loads to kill a fire; these tankers come as mutual aid from surrounding communities as the Harmony Fire District does not own one.

The only place on the Pineledge Plat for a tanker to get water is by the marina, and in 2018, the end of the hydrant line was visible in the water.

Jeff D'Antuano pointed out that the DEM mandates lowering the water level, to allow for dam maintenance. He wondered if extending the Waterman Lake Drive line further into the lake might solve the hydrant issue.

Phil asked Chief Waterman what he would like to see five years from now. The Chief answered that he would like to have a pumphouse available and hydrant in the Pineledge plat, set at a level that would not be tampered with or frozen. The Town of Gloucester does not get involved in fire services, but he acknowledged that many homeowners have underground cisterns, holding 35,000 gallons. Phil asked what the cost of a pumphouse and hydrant might be. The Chief did not know specifically but said the Harmony Fire District might share the cost. As for the hydrant on Waterman Lake Drive, the homeowner had used it a year and a half ago when the fire service was called.

Jean Marz asked about Old Quarry Road and Aldrich Road, and whether they would need a hydrant as well. The chief answered that elevation was the issue on these roads.

Mark Favreau asked about a transfer pump, but the Chief said that would not work as the Fire District does not own a tanker truck. The District does have a floating pump for boat fires. He encouraged anyone to visit the Fire District office if they had more questions. This ended his presentation.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 15, 2019 meeting were made available for attendees to read as they entered the Gloucester Country Club meeting room; a motion to approve the minutes without additions or corrections was made, seconded, and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Phil Viall distributed the Treasurer's report, with several specific comments on sections of the report.

Checking Account

Beginning Balance (1/1/19)			\$7,174.62
Income –	2018 Dues	\$300.00	
	2019 Dues	\$12,770.00	
	August Fundraiser	\$2,081.00	<u>\$15,151.00</u>
Expenses -	Dam Cutting	\$11,200.00	
	Gate	\$134.54	
	Fundraiser	\$0.00	
	Administration (PO Box, SOS, etc.)	\$159.47	
	Mailing/Copies/Meeting prep	\$255.76	<u>\$11,749.77</u>
Ending Balance			\$10,575.85

Fireworks account

Beginning Balance (1/1/19)			100.77
Interest income		0.04	0.08
Donations		0.00	
Expenses		0.00	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Balance			100.85

Phil noted that he would take any dues from any year. He collected \$750 on the day of the meeting that were not included in the Treasurer's report.

Glocester Country Club and the Village at Waterman Lake have paid commercial dues, but Powder Mill Creamery and two other commercial properties have not. Sixty nine (69) properties paid dues. He expects about \$1,000 more in dues this year.

He made a motion to hold dues at \$150 per residential property, and the same dues for commercial properties. The motion was seconded and approved.

He also moved that he be paid one half of the Staples cost to compensate for the cost of preparing materials for the meeting. The motion was withdrawn with a CPWL member offered the services of the Lexmark office.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer’s report. Phil noted that an email list seemed to be lacking, and he would like to do more with this.

Water Quality Report

Nancy Mitchell had reports for the May and July periods, but not for June, September or October as those levels were not recorded. Levels are taken at one meter deep in the lake, and at the two tributaries at Route 44 and Sawmill Road.

	measure	Lake (1 meter depth)	Route 44 Tributary	Sawmill Road Tributary
Total Phosphorous (P)	ppb	14	23	17
Dissolved Phosphorus (P)	ppb	20	8	6
Total Nitrogen (N)	ppb	420	568	535
Nitrate Nitrogen	ppb	103	175	308
Ammonia-Nitrogen	ppb	33	33	24
Chlorides	ppm	27	11	41
Enterococci	100 mls	4.1	64.4	54.5
pH		6.6	6.7	6.8
Alkalinity	Minimum 8.9			

The only data which was out of the spectrum of normal was the E-coli at the Route 44 tributary, reading at 64.4/100 mls. Maximum is 60 / 100 mls. The reading was very, very low considering what we have seen in the past.

Water clarity in May and June was in the moderate or mesotrophic range.

Chlorophyll levels had not been recorded yet this year.

Water temperature in May and July was 15 degree C through 27 degrees C (68 degrees F – 80.6 degrees F)

Jeff had received questions about the amount of weeds in the lake, but said the issue was the lack of a cold winter to kill them. He reminded everyone to keep an eye on them and try to clear them along the shoreline. Nancy & Jeff noted the conditions in the pond off West

Greenville Road. They were concerned it was affecting the oxygen levels in the water and suggested that we consider a cleanup. July and August are the key times for this.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Water Quality report.

President's Report

Jeff thanked everyone for their help with the fundraisers.

He noticed the number of unpaid dues, and felt there was a need for personal contact.

Rhode Island has set aside \$700,000 for dam maintenance, but most is going for state dams.

We don't have an emergency plan, but we will develop one shortly.

He felt the hydrant could be extended and other work done as well, but it will be expensive. He was going to check for grants.

Cathy asked if CPWL's status as a non-profit might help us as a fundraiser. Jeff said that our collection of dues becomes an issue in terms of that. Cathy responded that she could put a grant writer in touch with Jeff. Scott D'Allessandro noted that matching grants might help as well.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the President's report.

Dam Maintenance Committee Report

The dam was mowed five times and Mark thanked whoever picked up the trash in the critical areas.

There was a big snake population this year, the biggest in 23 years. It's a concern in terms of kids in the water. The snakes he saw looked like water moccasins.

The Chief answered most of the questions in his presentation, but the Dam Committee still needed to set up a meeting with him, so that any work done worked for the Fire District. He made a motion, with the chief's approval, to draft plans on extending the pipe further into the lake.

He also moved that we approve a policy on lake drawdown.

Bob Eaton had questions regarding the January draw down and the lowered lake level. Keys were changed twice on the gatehouse, at a cost of \$150. He asked for more accountability.

The Dam Committee identified several issues, and worked with the Fire Chief to improve the situation, as well as with Emergency Management in Gloucester, and the Fire Chief in Smithfield.

There is a lock box on the building so emergency management will have access to it if need be. The committee is working well and hates to see any changes at this point.

It is a lot of work, and any member should have experience in these area of the Committee's work. Mark complemented the team for the way they have worked together.

Jeff noted that January was not expected, and it was supposed to be clear. What used to be a set-it-and-forget-it process has changed because winters have changed, and now the lake level and gatehouse requires maintenance even in the winter. He feels that with six plates removed, we should have plenty of leeway. He noted an article in the Providence Journal Bulletin about dam safety in Rhode Island, and said we were not mentioned in the article at all. Phil pointed out that we are a high hazard dam not because of dam condition, but because of the chance of damage should the dam fail.

A motion was made to approve the drawn down policy in writing, with ice-out as the guide for fill up. It was noted that the dam is like a sponge and the water needs to be raised slowly. Jeff noted that there is debris at the grate, and we might cut tines to allow more debris through. We would have a better idea in the next weeks as drawdown begins.

Jeff allocated up to \$1,000 to extend the hydrant line 40 feet with the blessing of the chief.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Dam Maintenance report.

Election of Officers

Cathy nominated Jeff , who said he would like to see someone else in the President's position. However, he said he would remain to move forward with grants, and the Fire Department. Everyone also agreed to continue serving and the slate was approved.

New Business

Jeff thought we should rethink the makeup of the Dam Maintenance Committee. The bylaws don't reflect how we run the Dam Maintenance Committee, in that there is no executive committee. He feels we should revise it to be the Dam Management Committee. In a similar vein, the bylaws call for a Finance Committee and a Nominating Committee, but neither of those exists in practice.

Jeff proposed new members of a Dam Management Committee, representing five different areas of the lake. He nominated Mike Stewart, Bob Eaton, Scott D'Allesandro, Mike St. Angelo and Phil Viall. Mark Favreau was not on the committee. He also proposed creating it as a standing Committee of which he as President was the chair. He thanked Carlton Eaton for his service, but emphasized he was trying to spread responsibility for the dam around the lake. Scott questioned why Mark was not on the Dam Committee, and wanted to have someone with extensive experience on the committee. Bob also questioned this. Jeff saw it as a conflict of interest, as Mark was also the person whose company mowed the dam. Discussion followed in which several people named to the Committee expressed an unwillingness to serve unless Mark

was part of the group; they felt his institutional memory of caring for dam was critical. Tom suggested Mark be on the committee as a non-voting member, and Mark said he would be more than willing to advise the group without having a vote in decisions. The membership of the Dam Management Committee was settled as the people Jeff nominated, with the addition of Mark Favreau as a non-voting advisor.

There was no old business, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:11.