

CPWL Minutes  
Spring meeting  
May 19, 2021  
DRAFT

26 present

The meeting was called to order at 7:05.

After a correcting a typographic error, the minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

2020 was a good year despite the pandemic. 58% of waterfront homes paid dues, a response rate that is tied with 2016-17. Gloucester Country Club has paid, but Steere's Marina did not, nor did Camp Russell. The Lakes condominiums did, but the Village at Waterman Lake did not.

There were no administrative expenses because people have not been reimbursed for expenses yet. Phil estimates it should be close to \$400 for 2021.

Phil explained the history of the Fireworks account, and proposed renaming it the Emergency Account. Any surplus would be placed in that account. He plans to move \$5,000 to this Emergency Account. Jeff questioned this, but Phil sees it as a rainy day fund; we also earn a little interest on it. The balance is currently higher than it has been in the last five years. The rainy day fund would not be part of regular expenses, but would be there if we need it. A member noted that the core is deteriorating at the top of the dam. We are waiting for a report from Pare Corp, who will recommend what needs to be done, in what order. A suggestion was made to require a vote on the use of the emergency funds, by the Dam Maintenance Committee. Motion: We rename the Fireworks fund as Emergency Fund, which can only be spent by a majority vote of the Dam Maintenance Committee. The motion was seconded and all were in favor.

A member asked why Camp Russell didn't pay their annual dues. Jeff felt that CPWL was told they would pay, for two years. Jeff spoke with Linda Steere personally, but they did not pay yet. The Lakes paid in 2020, but not in 2019; they are back on track now. The Village at Waterman Lake did not pay this year but did last year.

Phil received an additional 10 checks tonight totally \$1,500.00.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. All were in favor.

Water Quality Report:

Nancy and Jeff take samples, and then take them to URI. Anyone can check the URI Watershed website. Jeff also tests each week during the summer.

Weekly sample averages taken June through October

	1m Center of lake	Route 44	Sawmill Tributary
Total Phosphorus (ppb)	13	22	21
Dissolved Phosphorus (ppb)	3	7	10
Total Nitrogen (ppb)	374	524	675
Nitrate / Nitrogen (ppb)	<25	87	408
Ammonia – Nitrogen (ppb)	<15	34	43
Chlorides (ppm)	26	No date due to lab error	53
Enterococci (per 100 mls)	11		
pH	6.4	5.9	6.4
Alkalinity	Minimum 12.9		
Water Clarity	Moderate range – Mesotrophic		
Chlorophyll levels	Elevated Algae levels – Eutrophic		
Water Temperature	68 degrees F in June. High temperature in August of 82.4 degrees F, with a drop to 63 degrees F in September		

There were elevated algae levels all last summer. The general thought on this is that last year's drought conditions and temperatures had an effect on the algae readings. There were no reports of algae blooms last summer. Jeff reminded everyone not to let anyone including pets in the water if these happen.

The spillway is covered with invasive weeds, a type of lotus. Jeff has contacted DEM about condition. They will put us on a list to check what type and how to get right of it. Katy Debusch is our contact at DEM.

Jeff discussed testing four vs two tributaries. Nancy will check with DEM about this.

Jeff emphasized the important of not using lawn chemicals, which affect the lake. A good eight weeks of frost should kill weeds. We had ice this last year. A member noted that In the small coves, weeds are 6 to 8 feet long. Jeff replied that the sources of weeds is too varied, and it is tough to keep them out. He wants to get involved with Save the Lakes organization to try to help with this. We have been lucky, except for the stretch on the other side of the dam. It does seem early to be getting weeds this year.

A Motion was made and seconded to accept the Water Quality Report. All were in favor.

### Dam Maintenance Report

The Committee walked the dam several weeks ago, and there are a few gopher holes to fix, but it seems to be in good shape. Mark at first said he can't do the dam mowing this year. Jeff has reached out to others, who have not yet responded. Mark would be willing to mow, but needs an attachment for his equipment. He asks that we buy the attachment, and he would cut the dam for \$10,000. The attachment costs \$6,500. Jeff wants other bids, and Mark is comfortable with this. Jeff may check with Pare, for a report update. Mark would be contracted for two years if he did it again. There was a discussion of fair pricing from Mark, and his good work on a difficult task. In previous years, no one else bid. A previous bid was requested, but it never came in. Phil encouraged any bids. We have a time span of 2 to 3 weeks before we need a decision. A non-performance bond is part of the bid requirement.

Phil proposed a motion that dam maintenance committee is empowered to make an agreement with a vendor not to exceed \$14,000 a year. The motion was seconded, and all were in favor.

There is still one plate out, but the water level is high. The Dam Maintenance Committee will monitor the level and then put the last plate in. There was concern about lake water being used for irrigation, but the consensus was that adding a plate now would be dangerous. Last summer had an all-time high followed by a drought, which affected the level. Jeff added 2" to draw down over the winter for dock protection. There was a question about buying and using a 6" plate; Jeff feels the last 12" plate will go in by the end of the month. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report, and all were in favor.

### President's Report

Jeff has been getting calls about docks and buoys. He has checked with DEM, but has gotten bounced around without getting any answers. He asks that we not do anything we wouldn't want a neighbor to do. We have no authority to tell people what to do. DEM is supplying buoys for rocky areas. There are no issue with beaches; the issue is with docks extending too far out to mark territory. Jeff asks everyone to take responsibility on their own to do the right thing. In terms of water safety, some newer boaters are not following rules. People will get information on lake rules to each owner / boater. Mike Stewart was concerned because since we own the land under the lake, we open ourselves to suits if we don't enforce rules. We will rewrite rules to include boats needing to stay 50' from docks, and PWCs needing to stay 200' from docks. A motion was made and seconded to accept the President's Report, and it was approved.

Fundraiser report – There was no report as we haven't had one. Jeff felt that we need a Fundraising Committee to come up with ideas and carry out events. He planned to stop in at the former Emma's/Bonnie and Clyde to see if they would be willing to sponsor a fundraiser. The golf course requires more early planning. Carole and Sue were asked to get in touch with Jeff. Jean Marz asked if there was interest in decorated boat parade. Jeff thought there might be. There are memories of food being sold around lake, but it was more for camaraderie than as a fundraiser. Aquapalooza was being developed in 2020, but COVID got in the way. Mike

Stewart suggested creating a fee for non-owner boats. This would require a sticker, and enforcement checking boats. Once again, the question of enforcement arose. Another suggestion might be to pay for an enforcement detail monthly, and get the word out. This might get people to pay their CPWL dues, so you don't have to pay a boat fee. The suggestion was made to introduce this through Camp Russell and Steere's Marina.

Old business:

Website – The url is same, and the site has been updated. Phil demonstrated the site. Tom Viall supports having a membership site that allows for dues payment, but notes that we lose some money for card fees. Previously the website had daily water level, but it is not being published. Phil hopes to get the automated version going again.

DEM requires an Emergency Action Plan. Phil is working on this – it is 70 pages so far, but it is in process.

By-Laws – Proposed changes to the bylaws were distributed and presented for the members' review, but not voted on. Tom Viall presented a quick view of the proposed changes. He wanted the by-laws to reflect how we are now, rather than in 2014 when they were last re-written. He reminded everyone that by-laws are there to protect us from a small number taking over an organization.

The changes were as follows:

- In terms of residents vs citizens, CPWL would now include anyone with interest in the lake.
- It maintains one vote per dues-paying family
- Set date ranges for meetings, adds a virtual meeting possibility, and changes the quorum to 10% of voting membership, but with no fewer than 10.
- Meeting locations must be in Gloucester or Smithfield.
- Meeting notification requirements were added, within 7 days of regular meetings.
- Special meetings could be held if 10% of members requested it. Special meetings need 2 days' notice.
- Members must be present to vote.
- Members can be notified by email, with specific inclusions.
- Higher officers must live on lake.
- Revised by-laws would require an annual budget.
- Revised by-laws would allow for the removal of officers with 2/3 majority vote; proposed vacancy language was added.
- There are two committees, but the President can create any committee he/she feels is needed.
- Committees have to have a charge.

Dennis asked whether we feel the lake is private and controlled. There was also a question of allowing people to have a boat on the lake, without paying dues. It was noted that that would be the structure of a condo association or taxable authority. There was also a question of

insurance issues, including whether we have insurance against boating accidents. It was suggested that we need to find out what our legal recourse is and what our legal requirements are. John Tucker gave a history of lake from Woonasquatucket Association through the Greggson Foundation. This led to the question of whether the land under the lake reverts to the heirs of owners. Gloucester town records say the Association owns the land under the lake. It was suggested we add 501c3 to the bylaws.

Mike Stewart talked with DEM about marking the lake, and will bring up areas in the fall when the lake level is down.

There was a request to test at a beach off West Greenville Rd.

The meeting adjourned 8:42.