

Citizens for the Preservation of Waterman Lake
Spring 2023 meeting
May 24, 2023
7:00 pm
Draft minutes

Officers Present:

Jeff D'Antuono, President, Ken Robertson, Vice President, Phil Viall, Treasurer, Liz Viall, Secretary

Members present:

Nancy Mitchell, Mike Robinson, Claudette Roy-Viall, Phil Viall, Tom Viall, Tom Roberts, Mike Stewart, Brenda Stewart, John Tucker, Leslie Tucker, Michael Furia, Vin Macari, Jean Marz, Steve Patalano, Rosie Bowen, Stephanie Corsetti, Kevin Moran, David Postler, Barbara Postler, ? Mitchell, Pat Mitchell, Peter Goodwin, Jon Manney, Dawn Manney, Mark Kraiwec, Stephen Fava, Judi Graham, Karyn Rhieu, Dennis Rhieu, Robert Eaton, Jean Eaton

The spring meeting of the Citizens for the Preservation of Waterman Lake was called to order at 7:01.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

The Secretary read a letter from Bob Eaton regarding dam repairs and the functioning of the Dam Committee. While it was read in as correspondence, it will be brought up again under New Business for further discussion.

Treasurer's report:

Phil asked that the Fall, 2022 Treasurer's Report be corrected. It was submitted showing total income was \$22,191.20. That amount should have been \$16,401.75.

2022 Summary:

Beginning checking balance:	\$17,330.21
Income:	\$18,497.10
Expenses:	<u>\$24,174.19</u>
Ending 2022 checking balance	\$11,653.12

2023 Summary

Income:	\$ 3,452.69
Expenses:	<u>\$ 8,403.41</u>
Current 2023 checking balance:	<u>\$ 5,697.80</u>

Emergency Account balance

2022	\$ 101.18
2023	\$. 101.22

He noted that a few people bought boat stickers. More dues are being paid online, and while there is a fee to do this, those fees were offset by the increase in the number of people paying dues in that way.

101 people paid dues in 2022, an increase of 84 from previous year. We have 153 residential properties on the lake plus five commercial properties.

The fees for online dues payment will be recorded as negative income going forward. This helped reconcile the bank account more accurately.

In terms of expenses, the gate maintenance item was for the replacement of old chain that had rusted away. The boat stickers handed out now were bought in 2022. The unsafe dam situation expense was for fill and fuel.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Water Quality report

Nancy Mitchell noted that readings were taken in May, July and October of 2022. The three mean data recordings were taken from Waterman Lake (Shores?), the tributary at Route 44 and the Sawmill Road tributary. URI reported the following:

Tested item	Measure	May, 2022	July, 2022	Oct., 2022
Total Phosphorus	ppb	48	25	28
Dissolved Phosphorus	ppb	3	5	5
Total Nitrogen	ppb	725	552	547
Nitrate - Nitrogen	ppb	17	73	245
Ammonia-Nitrogen	ppb	51	56	45
Chlorides	ppm	21	15	42
Enterococci (e-coli)	per 100 ml	10	458	97
pH		6.1	6.5	6.7
Alkalinity		9.9		

Water clarity data points were all in the low to moderate regions.

Chlorophyll levels overall were somewhat elevated in 2022. These levels are determined by pond scum and plankton, and will vary with the temperature. Six of the 11 data points for chlorophyll levels were in the Eutrophic or elevated algae levels. And five were in the

moderate or borderline regions. E coli was only out of spectrum at the lake tributaries; this was expected, but it was lower this year than the last few years.

Overall, this was a good water quality report compared to those of past years.

Readings come from three points in the year, and the data is averaged across the year.

The Water Quality Report was approved.

Dam Maintenance Report

Jeff reported that the water is now at or near summertime high. It was a good process, and will definitely be a summertime high by Memorial Day.

We had a permit from DEM to cut trees near the site of the leak, and we did that. Jeff saw the engineer presence as a recommendation rather than a requirement. Fill still needs to be fully compacted in the location. Step one was trees, and that is done.

PARE sent letter today, with a construction project cost of \$40,000. DEM has increased their presence in dam maintenance issues, and the rule for permits goes into effect May 29. We have 60 days from that to secure a permit. This is a one-time permit on controlling lake levels. Jeff leaves decision on how we proceed to the Dam Committee.

There was a discussion on the use of engineers, as well as need for fundraising.

We are on DEM radar because an inspection 4 years ago showed shortcomings that were not repaired within 2 years.

The \$40,000 project estimate from Pare Engineering is to draw plans, not fix the specific issues in the dam. Mike Furia feels the leak is a natural spring in that location. Nancy can check if URI can test water in the leak for chlorophyll or minerals from ground water, probably for a price. Temperature may also be a gauge of the water source. A test excavation showed rust-colored soil, which matches the water leak's color.

Phil moved that we test the water coming out of the dam to see if it comes from a spring. The motion was seconded and approved.

If it is coming from the lake, we need to address it. Phil is concerned the DEM was coming after us. We will continue maintenance, and an inspection is probably next June at the earliest.

A member noted that a Nuclear density gauge can measure compaction. It was also noted that the leak is between two ledge outcroppings, and there was a question of how we fix something like that.

There was a question about the schedule of water being raised in the lake in the spring. The water rises after ice out, or April 1, at a rate of 12 inches per week, to dated levels. These are 24 inches below the spillway by April 30, 12 inches below the spillway by May 1, and May 15, full. The state of RI considered this historical record (back to 1970).

There was a recommendation to meet more regularly, with specific agendas.
The Dam Committee Report was approved.

President's Report

Following Elaine Steere's death, Jeff wants to meet with her son David about getting boat stickers distributed to boat owners renting slips at the Marina.

Mike Stewart also wants to speak with the Gloucester Country Club and Camp Russell regarding purchasing stickers. Jeff would like to see stickers pushed in both locations. There was a question about day drop-ins at the Marina. We don't know the status of this, but Jeff feels we should be involved and get them to help us out.

He noted that we need a Fundraising Committee. We can't get anything done without that.

He also noticed people fishing off West Greenville Avenue and was concerned about litter. There is a trash can, but it's always full. Ken Robertson said he had emptied it at one point.

Phil said that the bylaws say Jeff appoints chair, then they both appoint members. There were several volunteers, whom Jeff will meet with. Mike Furia noted that his private fundraiser selling sweatshirts didn't work well because of the issues of ordering enough in each size.

There was a question regarding stickers. The goal is to raise awareness of our being a private lake and raise funds from those using it. They can be purchased online.

There were big complements on the new website, with Tom Viall recognized as the person behind that effort.

The President's report was approved.

There was no old business.

New Business –

Fundraising committee – Karyn and Carol volunteered, with Karen agreeing to chair the committee. Others also volunteered.

Mike Stewart was concerned with Cattails growing in new areas and felt we needed to develop plan to control or eradicate them. URI might have information on what to do. Some lakes use herbicides, but this kills fish as well. There was a question of treating them when

the water is down. Mike Stewart moved we investigate this possibility. The motion was seconded and approved.

Nancy noted volunteer effort that fixed weeds on Meshanticut Pond.

There was a recommendation on Bob Eaton's letter, that the Dam Committee should meet and work out differences. A motion was made that they present a report on their reorganization at the fall meeting, which was seconded and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.