

POALH Board of Governors  
Meeting Minutes  
March 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. at the home of Deb and Don Smith's, 16 Jeremy River Drive, Colchester by President Gail Grzegorzczak. Board members in attendance were Gail, Diane Nelson, Linda Nuzzo, Gary Petersen, Deborah Smith, Bob Sudell, Bonnie Sudell and Mike Trocchi . Also attending were Ed Bader, Lee Griffin, Treasurer, Jason Griffing, Kathy Petersen and Don Smith.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 13, 2014 Board Meeting were approved as amended.

Financial Reports:

Treasurer: Lee Griffin reported that some additional property taxes had been paid. Our garbage collector assessed us a surcharge to cover the cost of fuel, which was permitted per their contract. The East Shore checking account was closed as authorized at our last meeting. Lee received notice from the IRS that one of our vendors owes back taxes to the Government. The POALH will not use this vendor until the issue has been resolved. Lee's records and that of our Tax Collector Brenda Armstrong balance and another lien will be removed in a couple of weeks. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

East Haddam Town Budget: There will be a meeting on March 18, 2014 at the East Haddam Town Hall Annex to discuss the East Haddam Town Budget. At that meeting, Randy Miller will present a budget request on behalf of the East Haddam Lakes Association (EHLA), requesting \$30,000 for all lakes (Bashan Lake, Lake Hayward and Moodus Reservoir), including \$15,000 for Lake Hayward. Felicia Tencza and Joe Broder (representing East Shore residents) will also be at the meeting. Gail will post the powerpoint presentation on our website and email Board members. Gail shared two reports from the Lake Quality Improvement Committee (LQIC), one dated February 9, 2014 from Randy Miller, titled "What the East Haddam Lakes Association is Doing For You" and one dated March 7 2014, from Felicia Tencza, Chair of the LQIC. Both are attached. Gail gave Board members a pamphlet from the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, Inc., titled "The Backyard Water Resources Guide." The Board voted to include this pamphlet in our spring packet.

Old Business:

Handbook: tabled

Glimmer Glen: Gail shared (again) the letter from Glimmer Glen residents, which was included in the June 23, 2013 POALH Meeting Minutes and will forward to us videos made by residents to illustrate the problem. Bob Sudell will meet with the East Haddam Public Works department before our next meeting.

Memorial Fund Donation Policy: Deb presented a draft policy for discussion. The Board agreed that we do not want to be a conduit for donations to other organizations in memory of association members. Monetary donations will go into the general fund and will be used at the discretion of the Board for the enhancement of the Lake. All physical

donations will become the property of the POALH, and the Board will have the authority to approve projects or items before their completion. Acceptance of the policy was tabled.

First Beach Parking Lot and Water Company Staging Area: Gary Petersen met with Blake from the water company March 7<sup>th</sup>. The water bib should be moved to the pavilion side of Lake Shore Drive in the next two weeks. It will be teed on the side to accommodate future needs. The water company is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up Ridgewood, and anticipates being finished with the main in three weeks, with work on laterals to follow. They are parking their heaviest equipment in the parking lot near the road, with lighter equipment further back. They will be off Association property by May 1<sup>st</sup> and will repair any damage to the parking lot then. The quality of water should be much improved after completion of the project, as the lines are currently 1-1/2" to 2" in diameter, while the new mains will be 8" with 6" laterals.

Security Camera and Comcast Installation: Lee will get the model of the camera to Gary and Bob so that it can be ordered. This item is part of the pavilion punch list. Gail will work with Lee on obtaining a Comcast IP address.

Town Liaison: tabled.

Newsletter Submission: Gail and Bob will discuss parameters for submission.

Dog Park: Interest in a dog park at the ball field will be part of the upcoming survey, still being developed by Bob. Gary will contact the fire department to confirm Life Star's landing requirements. Bob will contact our insurance company regarding our liability if we were to have a dog park. Bob will also contact Mike Long for a Hold Harmless Agreement and Certificate of Insurance for the dock at Little Beach.

Signage: It was agreed that, because the large signs advising of POALH rules are on the beaches, but not in the parking lots, that we need signs in the parking lots at both First and Third Beach, advising members that they must have a valid parking sticker to park there.

Parking Stickers: Parking stickers will be ordered, valid for 2014 only, to be placed on the front driver's side windshields(per the current bylaws) of vehicles using the Association parking lots. Four stickers per property will be included in the spring packet, and these stickers are intended for both Association members and their guests. They will be removable to allow placement on any vehicle using the parking lot. Members will be responsible for getting the stickers back from their guests, as there will be a cost to replace them. The Board would like to go to a "hanging tag," and will pursue removing reference to the parking stickers from our Bylaws.

Web Master Opening: Moira Boone advised Gail that she is stepping down from her position of web master, which includes maintaining our website and creating our weekly newsletter. She will help with the transition to a new person. Don Smith expressed an interest in the website, but not the newsletter. Mike Trocchi also expressed an interest so he, Don and Jason will discuss particulars with Moira. It is important that we have someone in place before our first newsletter of the year, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Board Resignation: Dave Glazier sent a letter to the Board, resigning his position as Representative at Large and Security Chair. Diane suggested that Beach Reps check both the parking lots and the boat racks occasionally for stickers, placing notes on vehicles/boats not in compliance, advising them to obtain the appropriate stickers or remove the non-compliant vehicles/boats. A note will be included in the spring packet

advising members that any boat not displaying a POALH sticker will be taken to the ball field. Gail will get the boat stickers and the key for the security box back from Dave. Gary will get the security box key and Lee will, at least temporarily, get the boat stickers. Bob will ask the police to, while on routine patrols, enforce our parking rules. We will stress, at the June Meeting, that we will be enforcing our rules, and that the police will assist. Notice of enforcement by the Town will also be included in the first newsletter.

Calendar: We will have a calendar on the website, coordinated through Don and Diane.

Spring Packet: All materials to be included must be to Gail by April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Beach Reps have been asked to submit something for inclusion. Social/Recreation will prepare colored flyers. Water Company information, including phone number, should be included.

Jeff Bender: Jeff has not contacted Gail to speak at a Board meeting.

### Committee Reports

Properties: Gary gave all Board members in attendance keys to the pavilion doors, as well as the code for padlocks and the water bib. When made available, he will distribute keys to the bulletin boards. There will be a work party Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> to put the rafts and swim lines out. There will be a work party Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> to clean up the beaches. The lawn contract will be advertised shortly and the bid opening will be at the pavilion. Ed Bader offered to provide some criteria for inclusion in the bid packet.

Beach Rakers: Due to the amount of snow this winter, Gary has been unable to get a quote from his contact regarding mechanical raking and fluffing of the beach sand. He will continue to pursue. Our current beach rakers rake four times a week, and are supposed to fill in holes and pick up goose poop, as well as smooth the sand. To comply with State labor laws and our insurance requirements, we cannot hire those under sixteen. Gary will contact Gary Wilde, resident of Wildwood, to gauge his interest.

Property Surveying: Gary will contact Bob Weaver to survey the ball field and the Third Beach parking lot.

Social/Recreation: Diane and Linda reported that both a swim instructor and assistant were in place. Swim lessons will be three times a week. Yoga on Saturday mornings, two Junior Chefs events (one to tie into the proposed campout), Adult Chefs (to tie into a cocktail hour event), Arts and Crafts to tie into the theme of Lake Hayward Days, Karaoke at the beginning and end of the season, a Tag Sale June 28<sup>th</sup>, Adult Bingo, Men's Night or Men's Breakfast, and some kind of Cookoff are in the planning stages. A "Meet Your Neighbors" Ice Cream Social will be Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Arts and Crafts assistants are in place, but Bingo has not yet been finalized. Diane is still researching grills and will have details by our next Board meeting.

Event Signs: Diane asked what additional signs are needed for events. A sign for the "Lake Hayward Store" and three signs (one for each Beach) announcing Association Meetings were proposed.

First Beach Lake Hayward Sign: Painting the back side and installing a clock/thermometer are on the pavilion punch list.

Incubator/Water Testing: Scott Miers is still evaluating models but we will have one purchased by Memorial Day.

Water Company Liaison: Deb Smith will be the liaison and will work with Larry Lusardi to transition the position.

Hospitality: Lynne Booth will continue in that position. It was noted that we do not have an organized process to find out who's new at the Lake. We will have baskets for newcomers at the Ice Cream Social.

New Business:

Board Meetings: Deb recommended that we start the meetings promptly at the designated hour if there is a quorum and that we limit the meeting time to three hours. What is not covered in three hours will be addressed at the next meeting. The Board approved her suggestion. We will also ask Board members to limit the time spent on each topic to move things along.

Meeting Dates: There will be a Lake Quality Meeting at the pavilion on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Summer Board Meeting dates will be Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Bob and Bonnie Sudell's, 113 Lake Shore Drive (a combined meeting/pot luck supper); Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at Gary and Kathy Petersen's, 76 Wildwood; and Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at Gail Grzegorzak's, 34 Glimmer Glen.

The next Board Meeting will be Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 9 a.m. at Diane Nelson's house, 2 Deborah Lane, Farmington.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie F. Sudell  
Recording Secretary

Attachments (2)

## What the East Haddam Lakes Association Is Doing For You

Randy Miller

February 9, 2014

The East Haddam Lakes Association (EHLA) is open to anyone with an interest in maintaining East Haddam's three lakes ( Bashan Lake, Lake Hayward and Moodus Reservoir), though it is largely composed of residents (full-time and part-time) of these lake communities. The EHLA meets regularly throughout the year to discuss and act on common issues, share knowledge and information among the lakes, and work with town and other government agencies and officials for the betterment of the lake communities and East Haddam. The premise is that working together the lake communities can create a strong and unified voice, whether it is reaching out to East Haddam's elected officials, the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) or Chatham Health District to name a few. Topics addressed by EHLA range from invasive weed mitigation, to septic tank maintenance, to drainage, to riparian buffers, to road and dam maintenance and beyond. Lake Hayward residents play an important role in the leadership of EHLA.

For the past four years EHLA has submitted a request to the Town of East Haddam for funding of a very small piece of the ongoing expenses incurred and paid for by the lake communities, primarily for invasive weed treatment and public education on maintaining lake quality. In January 2014 a formal request was made to the Town for year five, which is the upcoming fiscal year July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015. While the Town has provided modest financial support the past four years, the request for the upcoming year is approximately triple that of years past, for many justifiable reasons.

East Haddam's lake communities are a tremendous economic engine to the Town. In fact, the lake communities compose almost 20% of the Town's Grand List, which means lake communities provide almost 20% of the Town's property tax revenues each year. The Lake Hayward community itself composes approximately 8% of the Grand List. And, year round and seasonal lake residents provide millions of dollars annually to the local economy.

A key reason that the lake communities are such a large component of property taxes is that land (whether vacant or with a house) in lake zoned communities is assessed at a higher rate than most land throughout the Town. For example, the assessment of land for waterfront properties at Lake Hayward is 3.1 times the base land rate. What this means is that if a piece of non-waterfront land was assessed at \$50,000, because it is waterfront it is assessed at \$155,000. This same rationale is applied to non-waterfront properties in the Lake Hayward zone but at a rate of 1.25 times the base land value. The waterfront factor at Bashan Lake is 3.6 and at Moodus reservoir it is 2.5. These factors are based on analysis performed during the Town's recent revaluation process.

For all the waterfront lake properties in East Haddam, this results in waterfront property owners paying about \$820,000 more per year in taxes than if the land was not in one of the lake zones. In the January budget submission to the Town the EHLA is asking for only a small piece (less than 4%) of the incremental amount to be included in the 2014 – 2015 budget. Given the importance of lake property

taxes to the Town's financial well being, and what studies show will happen to property values if the lakes are not maintained (36 – 45% decrease), it is the position of EHLA that the Town should budget the funds requested for the upcoming year.

That, in a nutshell, is EHLA's position for upcoming budget discussion with the Board of Finance. Lakes are important financial, environmental, tourism and recreational assets of East Haddam. Town financial support is critical to maintain healthy lakes which help maintain property values. These are issues that we privately have been funding for years.

LQIC - Lake Quality Improvement Committee

March 7, 2014

Felicia Tencza, Chair

email: bmr948@yahoo.com

I would like to share with you what the expanded weed committee is doing.

First off, the members of the committee come from both the east and west sides of the lake. Lake Hayward is a huge asset and property owners from both sides of the lake have a stake in the health and quality of the lake.

Committee members are: Ed Bader, Cari Eckert, Wolf Koste (east side), Tim Pelton (east side), Randy Miller, Felicia Tencza, and Gail Grzegorzczak.

The initial and primary purpose of the committee is to investigate methods to mitigate the ongoing problem of invasive aquatic plants. While at Lake Hayward we know them as milfoil and fanwort, there are additional invasives, present in other CT lakes, that pose an increasing threat to our lake. However, maintaining the health of the lake goes beyond just treating the invasives as they are identified. The committee's scope will expand based on the talent and interest of the stake holder members to pursue additional goals. Committee membership will be flexible to bring in property owners who have a skill/talent/interest/background/or work ethic to pursue and spearhead important lake quality efforts.

As to the committee name...although *weed committee* does roll off the tongue, LQIC more accurately describes what we hope will be the ongoing efforts of the committee. We seek to improve the quality of the lake in the many ways it takes, beyond invasive weed mitigation. A few of them are to educate and encourage use of riparian buffer plantings (see Second Beach demonstration project <https://sites.google.com/site/eightmilehayward/about>), remediate septic tank leachate, prudent use of turf and garden fertilizers and pesticides to reduce nutrient overload, erosion control, monitors at the state boat launch, and other efforts. But spearheading these efforts takes people power...those willing to help make and keep the lake healthy.

This committee can be your platform to contribute to the goal of a quality lake. We welcome your help!

The committee has met many times during the fall and winter. We recommended to the Board to continue the herbicide weed treatment approach this spring. The 2013 year-end report from our lake treatment vendor is posted on the Association's website [http://www.lakehaywardct.com/docs/Lake\\_Hayward\\_2013\\_Weed\\_Report.pdf](http://www.lakehaywardct.com/docs/Lake_Hayward_2013_Weed_Report.pdf). The report shows the areas treated in 2013 and the proposed 2014 treatment areas.

The committee initiated and continues discussions about additional weed mitigation options that can be used to supplement the herbicide treatment. Our first area of focus is suction harvesting and/or suction dredging. We sent out RFPs (Request for Proposal) to three suction harvesting/dredging vendors and one hand harvesting vendor. We hope to make a recommendation regarding weed

harvesting/dredging in the next several months. We are in the early stages of that process, but will provide updates in forthcoming POALH newsletters as the process matures.

One of our criteria for recommending a vendor is the vendor's ability to do lake restoration work (mitigate weeds and muck) for waterfront homeowners who might like their waterfronts improved. Lake restoration methods, to name the most common, are weed suction harvesting, suction dredging and bottom mat barriers. We will publish detailed information about these services and costs when a vendor is selected.

You can find a nice description of suction harvesting at one of the vendor's websites:

<http://aquaticinvasivecontrol.com/dive-services/aquatic-species-control/> .

Another mechanical treatment method used by some lakes is suction *dredging* (vs harvesting) for weed mitigation. You can see a description of it at:

[http://www.aquacleaner.com/spot\\_dredging\\_services.html](http://www.aquacleaner.com/spot_dredging_services.html) .

Lastly, I hope you will take a look at some of the good lake information found at the following lake interest groups' websites:

1) *The Connecticut Federation of Lakes*

We encourage you sign up for a free CFL membership and receive their electronic newsletter.

Sign up is found on their

website.<http://www.ctlakes.org/MenuDisplay.aspx?sess=95CEO50OZDEZZAERYOHC&BrowserHeight=463&BrowserWidth=960&Tree=CFL&HomePage=CFL-1>.

2) *The New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NEC-NALMS)*

<https://sites.google.com/site/necnalms/about-us>

3) CAES (CT Agricultural Experiment Station) has performed two surveys of the lake. Information can be found at: <http://www.ct.gov/caes/cwp/view.asp?a=2799&q=535034>

4) Most importantly, everyone is a *Lake Steward*. As a lake resident, you live in a watershed...even those cottages not adjacent to the lake. What you do affects the quality of the lake. The Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District has a very handy booklet to help you be a responsible *lake steward*. Please check it out at:

<http://www.conservect.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=mNdeGigUw7U%3d&tabid=232>