

**Property Owners Association Lake Hayward Meeting
June 22, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. at the First Beach Pavilion by Vice President Bob Sudell. There were 118 POALH Association members present.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to suspend the normal order of business to allow our special guests to address the Association.

Roll Call of the Board of Governors:

Present at the roll call of the Board of Governors were Gail Grzegorzczak, Diane Nelson, Linda Nuzzo, Deborah Smith, Bob Sudell and Bonnie Sudell. Also present were Lee Griffin, Treasurer; Brenda Armstrong, Tax Collector and Ed Bader, Budget Chair. Board member Mike Trocchi arrived after roll call.

Reading and Acceptance of August Annual Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made, seconded and passed to waive the reading of the August 18, 2013 POALH Annual Meeting Minutes. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of said meeting.

Special Guests:

Officer Craig Mansfield: While waiting for Officer Mansfield, Bob Sudell advised members that, due to the ongoing investigation of suspected illegal activities in the area, the police would not be able to comment on the progress. Bob thanked members who contacted the police and provided them with car descriptions and license plate numbers. He said that we have asked for additional police presence but that the Town has limited resources. POALH will be contracting with the police to provide dedicated patrols during special events as well as on a random basis. He encouraged members to adopt Homeland Security's mantra "If you see something, say something." Phone numbers are posted in our newsletter as well as on East Haddam's website. Bob then introduced Officer Mansfield, a 26 year veteran of the police force.

Officer Mansfield commented on the improvements that have taken place at Lake Hayward over the years and said that with positive change, those who are not part of our association will want to take part in our activities too. He spoke from personal experience, patrolling starting in the 80's. He said that more residents from Lake Hayward have used the confidential tip line (860-873-5013) than any other Town residents and thanked us for using it. He said that the tip line was not for true emergencies but that we could still remain anonymous when calling the police direct. He pointed to the recent success apprehending and prosecuting those who had been stealing copper piping, as well as making the local scrap yards aware of the potential problem. He said that, with consolidated dispatching, calls to 860-537-7500, after many prompts, go to Troop C. He suggested we call 860-465-5400 instead. For true emergencies, dial 911, which goes directly to the State Police Troop K in Colchester.

He again offered to work with us to set up a crime watch program.

He reminded us that Lake Hayward is a State body of water and that the DEEP is starting to patrol smaller lakes in unmarked boats. He reminded members that there must be enough life jackets on board for every occupant of the boat.

In his capacity of Emergency Management Director for the Town of East Haddam, Officer Mansfield urged members to sign up for the Everbridge Emergency Notification System. There is a link on the POALH website to the Town of East Haddam to sign up. He also said that, during emergencies, Lake Hayward is one of five areas in Town that will have signboards with pockets on them, for information to be posted. The local Boy Scouts will replace the information on a daily basis.

Officer Mansfield addressed the issue of speeding. He reminded members that the Town of East Haddam comprises 57 square miles and is the largest town in the State. East Haddam has two full-

time officers and four part-time. Lake Hayward is patrolled regularly as part of normal shifts but the bridge project has created the need for additional patrols on the roads that are part of the detour. He offered that, as part of the dedicated patrol program, an officer could sit and do radar to discourage speeders.

A member asked if signage could be placed before our rights of way. Officer Mansfield replied that the Board of Selectmen would have to approve signage on Town roads. Bob Sudell asked that members wishing additional road signage contact the Board with specifics so that we could approach the Town.

A member asked what could be done to address parking on narrow roads and parking facing traffic. Officer Mansfield said that cars cannot impede the flow of traffic and cannot park facing traffic and that if a hazard exists, call the Police so they can assess the situation. He reminded members that we can use the ball field by the fire station for overflow parking, being careful not to park where first responders would.

The issue of the squatters on Wildwood was brought up. The Town has addressed the issue and has served an eviction notice. The Town is also actively addressing the issue of alleged drug sales from the same residence. Officer Mansfield again urged members to "If you see something, say something." Call the confidential tip line with license plate numbers and vehicle descriptions. Send photos to police@easthaddam.org.

Gail asked what should be done in the case of suspected drug use on the beaches. Officer Mansfield said to call Troop K direct.

Linda Abel asked what should be done if something suspicious, such as a syringe, is found. Officer Mansfield said that we should leave it where it is, and call Troop K.

Blake Correa, CT Water: Before introducing Blake, Larry Lusardi, outgoing Water Company Liaison, commented that many improvements had taken place in recent years. He also thanked CT Water for moving the water bib from the tennis court side of the street to the pavilion side, at no charge to us. Blake said that replacing the water main on Ridgewood was complete. The next phase, scheduled for this winter, will be Cragmere and Longwood. Lookout, Lake Hayward Town Road and Sunset are scheduled for the following year. The goal is to replace all of the old mains.

A question was raised as to what part of Longwood would be replaced. Blake replied that the main from Hilltop to Briarwood had already been replaced, and that they would continue towards Cragmere this winter.

A member asked what type of grass was being planted. Blake replied that it was Contractor Grade, from Hart Seed in Wethersfield.

There was a compliment on the paving of roads after water main installation. Blake replied that CT Water tried to work with the Town to pave, rather than patch, where possible.

Deborah Smith introduced herself as the new Water Company Liaison. For water issues, members should call CT Water direct at 800-286-5700. Deborah will keep us aware of the work that CT Water is undertaking.

There was a question regarding valve failure and homeowner's responsibility. Blake replied that anything past the first shutoff was the homeowner's responsibility. A member from Wildwood had to replace the valve in the water pit, as water continued to drip after he closed the valve until CT Water turned the whole system off. He contacted customer service while the plumber was on site, as the system was very new, but was not satisfied with their response. Blake replied that he was not aware of the situation, but that complaints should be directed to customer service and homeowners should ask for a representative to come out to see the problem. The standard warranty is one year.

A homeowner asked that we publish in the newsletter how to shut off the water system in the fall.

Gail replied that we would.

Financial Reports:

Tax Collector: Brenda Armstrong reported that \$171,967.38 was collected in taxes last year. She said that the tax policy would be posted on the website and an upcoming newsletter. To summarize, taxes are based on the October 2013 Town of East Haddam assessment. Tax bills are mailed June

30th and due by July 31st. Finance charges in the amount of 1/1/2% per month start accruing after July 31st. A second tax bill will be sent out in December, including the accrued interest charges. After twelve (12) months, if taxes have not been paid, a lien will be placed on the property. The cost of the lien is added to the taxes owed. Brenda stressed the importance of the Association having homeowners' correct addresses. Payment plans may also be set up with Brenda. Bob added that we are modeling our tax policy after the Town of East Haddam.

Treasurer: Lee Griffin directed members to the back page the June 21, 2014 newsletter, which detailed the 2013-2014 POALH Budget vs. Actual. The latest financial review is available to members. All invoices have been paid up to date. The books are available for review by appointment and current statements are posted on our website.

Reports of Special Committees:

Lake Quality Improvement Committee (LQIC)(formerly Weed Committee): Gail said that this committee was created to improve the health of our lake for all residents, including those on the east side. Felicia Tencza, chair of the committee, commented on the change of name to encompass broader goals of maintaining property values by improving the health of the lake through both private and public methods, improving the recreational value of the beaches and the Association boat launch, educating and engaging residents, and of course, mitigation of invasive weeds. Committee members include Gail Grzegorzczak, Carrie Eckert (who ran the successful invasive plant workshop Saturday), Ed Bader, Randy Miller (who is also the liaison to the East Haddam Lakes Association), Tim Pelton and Wolfe Koste.

Since last fall, the committee explored other methods (beyond herbicide use) for weed mitigation. They chose to investigate suction dredging as a method to remove muck and weeds and improve the recreational value of the area for both boaters and swimmers. After evaluating four vendors, they chose All Habitat for a pilot program to dredge the Second Beach boat launch area, at a cost of approximately \$30,000. The committee previously presented their proposal to the POALH Board, who approved the concept.

Felicia also commented on the informational session held Saturday afternoon for homeowners with direct water access who might be interested in mitigating their muck and weeds. Information was sent to the 161 waterfront homeowners on both sides of the lake, inviting them to a presentation by David Roach of All Habitat.

Weed Treatment: Tim Pelton, known as "The Weed Guy," remarked that, in light of recent alleged marijuana activity at First Beach, he preferred the moniker "The Aquatic Weed Guy." He commented on the current program of weed control and the three areas of most concern: the north end, the Second Beach lagoon and the spillway area. These areas are monitored both pre and post treatment. He said that we are seeing improvement at Second Beach and the spillway, but we still have a significant problem at the north end. Last year we found v. milfoil in our lake for the first time, in addition to the fanwort we have been treating for. This year we will be treating with two products, Clipper and Reward. One is specifically designed for fanwort and the other for v. milfoil.

Aquatic Control Technology acknowledged that they were not as aggressive as they might have been last year at the north end, and we have received a credit towards this year's treatment. The boundary for treatment at the north end will be the new dock and boat launch area. With the credit, we are paying the same amount this year as last year - \$16,500.

For those concerned about the amount of chemicals we are putting in the lake, Tim tried to put in perspective the concentration. Measured in parts per million (ppm), the concentration of our chemicals is 1/10 of one part per million.

In response to a question regarding the source of invasive plants, Tim replied that it was the State boat launch. Monitoring of the boat launch by the State to ensure compliance of washing the underside and completely raising motors is still in the developmental stages. Randy Miller remarked that the Town was also trying to develop a program to monitor the boat launches.

Tim recognized Randy's efforts to get a line item in the East Haddam budget for the East Haddam Lakes Association in the amount of \$19,028.

Tim also commented on the initiative for dredging for private homeowners, which would improve the quality of their shoreline properties. After yesterday's meeting, there were twenty homeowners who expressed interest. He asked that those who were interested but had not said anything yesterday see him after the meeting.

Reports of the Board of Governors:

Pavilion Update: Bob Sudell said that the additional lighting for the center of the pavilion had been received and would be installed shortly. He is still looking at lighting for the larger porta pottie.

Landscaping is being done by the Garden Club. He acknowledged the work done by Gary Zawistowski along the property line between the pavilion and the adjacent homeowner. Once the property line has been surveyed, the Garden Club will plant that area also. He directed members interested in the Garden Club to contact Kathy Petersen.

Total cost for the pavilion to date is \$171,197.35. Cost for furniture and supplies is \$11,608.65.

Approximately \$7,500 will be returned to the budget. Insured value of the pavilion, as agreed upon by our carrier, is \$250,000. About \$30,000 in labor was donated during construction.

There will be a ceremony to bury the time capsule conceived and constructed by Dave Edgington on Saturday, July 5th at 1 p.m. Bob encouraged members to donate items to be buried and to attend the ceremony.

Gail asked if any family members of Mary Frances Braheny were present. One of the items destroyed in the pavilion fire was a bulletin board donated in her memory. The kiosk at First Beach was purchased to replace the bulletin board, and memorial plaques will be affixed to it today.

Budget Committee: Ed Bader stated that work on the 2015-16 budget would start soon, and be submitted for approval at the August Annual Meeting.

Properties: Deborah Smith presented the Properties' report on behalf of Gary Petersen. He recognized Dave Edgington's many years as chair and member of the committee. Gary wanted to thank those who participated in the two successful work parties this spring. He is always looking for volunteers and encouraged members to participate in the work parties.

The dock at the north end of the lake, donated by Neil Murphy and Jennifer Jendreau, in memory of Jennifer's parents, is almost complete. The area at the top with split rail fence is a drop off area, not intended for parking.

There are new trash cans at the beaches. All Waste has agreed that we may mix regular trash and recyclables in these containers.

A beach cleaning company was hired to mechanically rake the beaches, in an effort to fluff the sand. Due to the quality and depth of our sand, it was not as successful as hoped.

The beach rakers have been given small shovels and buckets to clean up the goose poop at the beaches. Collected goose poop should go in the trash cans.

A couple of loads of stone have been placed on Pilgrim Way in the area where it floods to aid traffic flow.

Additional projects include additional split rail fencing, cleaning up the rights of way and pressure washing the tennis courts.

As there are only three members on the Properties Committee, Gary is looking for help.

Gary is looking at relining the tennis courts, as part of the 2015-16 budget.

Pressure washing of the tennis courts will be done when it will impact the least amount of people, in the middle of the week.

In response to a question about the ball field, Bob replied that we are in the process of getting it surveyed. Once we know what is ours, we'll look at potential uses. A member commented that it would not take much work to get it in condition to be used as a ball field. Bob responded that it is on Properties' list of projects. We must also keep in mind that it is also used as a Life Star landing zone.

Gail commented that anyone in the Association can get a group of people together to play ball up there on their own. She shared the homeowner's concerns but said that we either have to pay for someone to complete projects or have enough volunteers to do so.

There was a question about the mechanical beach raking. Bob replied that not all of our sand is “beach” quality, and in some areas it is only two inches deep. Gary is looking into a plan to improve the quality of our sand over time. Bob thanked Gary Zawistowski for rototilling the Little Beach sand and the volleyball courts.

There was a question about a truck parked in what is assumed to be the Third Beach parking lot. The Board will look into it but also remarked that the parking lot was on the list of areas to be surveyed this summer.

Gail reminded members that parking is an issue and that members should use the parking stickers sent in the spring packet. The beach parking should not be used by homeowners as overflow parking. If cars are parked in the handicapped spots illegally the police should be called.

There was a question regarding rights of way, particularly one near Pilgrim Way that is impassable. This is on Gary’s list. Pete Paschke volunteered to help.

Recreation: Linda Nuzzo reported that we have a new swim instructor, Dennis Crowe, who is very enthusiastic and looking to bring new classes to the Lake. Although Arts and Crafts is all set for the summer, she is looking for help with Kiddie Bingo. She is still looking for volunteers to run some of the events. She encouraged members to attend the upcoming Ice Cream Social, run by Lee Griffin and Jason Griffing.

Social: Diane Nelson also asked for volunteers to help run events, especially those during Lake Hayward Days. She reminded members about the tag sale next Saturday.

The Golf Tournament will be Saturday, July 26th at Cedar Ridge Golf Course in East Lyme, starting at 8:30 a.m. Fred Odell and Don Biancamano are again organizing it.

She again stated that our new swim instructor was looking to bring new activities to the Lake, and directed members to our newsletter.

Town Liaison: Bob commented on the unprecedented storms that we have had recently that have caused drainage properties. He said that coercing the Town into putting curbs on your property only causes problems for your neighbors. We have created many of our own problems by clearing our yards of the groundcovers which promote infiltration and reduce runoff. We need to educate homeowners as to what they can do to reduce drainage issues and he is meeting with representatives of LQIC, The Eightmile River Watershed and the Town to put together a plan. He also said that he is looking into the ownership of roads in our Association, and pointed to Pilgrim Way as an example of a right of way, not a road.

New Business:

Wi-Fi Access: A question was asked about wi-fi access at the pavilion. Gail replied that internet access was installed as part of our security system to facilitate remote access to the cameras. As part of the bundled service, there is a hot spot at the pavilion. The Board has not made a determination as to whether access will or will not be available.

Celebration Gathering at Second Beach: A question was asked about the 4th of July celebration. Gail responded that this was never a sanctioned Association event, and that the volunteers who had previously presented it were no longer available.

Memorial Fund: A question was raised about donations to the Memorial Fund going into the general fund and the new memorial fund policy. Gail replied that the money has always gone into the general fund and that the memorial donation policy was created to clarify its use.

Survey: The survey distributed at the meeting today will also be on-line. We are looking to take the “pulse” of the community to see what it wants, and we are also looking for members with expertise in various areas so we can continue to use best practices.

Parking: Bob reminded members to use their parking passes, which will cling to the window, and are easily moved from vehicle to vehicle. In response to complaints about people using the beach who are not Association members, the Board is contemplating using a local service to tow vehicles.

As no further business was brought up, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie F. Sudell, Recording Secretary