

Property Owners Association of Lake Hayward Meeting
June 28, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the First Beach Pavilion by President Bob Sudell. There were 77 POALH members present.

He asked that those wishing to speak be polite and respectful of others and give their name and lake address before speaking. He asked that the audience limit sidebar conversations and give their full attention to those speaking. Those speaking should limit their comments to five minutes and only speak once on a given topic to permit all who wish to speak an opportunity. After all have spoken, if a member wishes to speak again, they will be given the chance.

Before the roll call of the Board of Governors, Bob reminded our members that the Board is made up of volunteers who are not compensated for their time, as it is prohibited in our Charter to compensate Board members. He also remarked that we have neither a full time public works department nor a full time police department.

Roll Call of the Board of Governors:

Present at the roll call of the Board of Governors were Cari Eckert, Gail Miers, Jason Griffing, Gary Petersen, Deborah Smith, Bob Sudell and Bonnie Sudell. Also present were Lee Griffin, Treasurer and Ed Bader, Tax Collector.

Reading and Acceptance of August Annual Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made, seconded and passed to waive the reading of the August 17, 2014 POALH Annual Meeting Minutes. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of said meeting as amended to include reference to the winner of the Permit to Discharge drawing receiving \$200.

Financial Reports:

Tax Collector: Ed Bader referred members to the latest newsletter which contained information on our tax billing and collection system, as well as details on the collection and lien process. He reminded members that we are a tax district and must follow the same laws as all towns in the state with respect to taxes. When he took over as Tax Collector, the first matter he tackled was to ensure that we were following the laws, working closely with Denise Dill, Tax Collector for East Haddam to ensure our compliance.

The second matter he brought to the Board was the issue of delinquent taxes. He identified 21 delinquent accounts, some of which were in arrears for over 20 years, and contacted Pullman & Comley, LLC to initiate collection efforts. After careful documentation of past mil rates, taxes due, including interest of 1-1/2% per month (18% per year), Ed submitted the list to the attorney, amounting to over \$65,000 in unpaid taxes. In the past six months, over \$50,000 has been collected. Two accounts have still not paid, owing a little less than \$12,000, and these accounts will be going to a tax lien auction June 30th. Of note is that we are only able to collect delinquent taxes going back 15 years, and that all expenses incurred in the collection efforts are paid by the delinquent taxpayer. Also following State law, Tax Collector Demand Notices have just been sent to 29 accounts, which either paid their 2014 taxes late or not at all. If not paid by June 30th a lien will be placed on their property.

The third issue that Ed faced was to convert our tax collection activities to a tax accounting system used by 60% of the towns in the State. Tax bills sent June 30th will reflect the change, with our new bills looking like those received from the Town of East Haddam.

At the May Board Meeting, Ed recommended and the Board agreed to reduce the mil rate from 4 mils to 3-1/2 mils.

Treasurer: Lee Griffin summarized his report referring members to the newsletter for details. There was a question from a member who had not yet read his newsletter. Lee referred him to the on-line newsletter, the web site and the paper newsletter delivered the day before.

Budget: Ed Bader reported that the Budget Committee is working on the 2016-2017 budget for presentation to the membership at our August Annual Meeting.

Reports of the Board of Governors:

Outgoing President: Gail remarked on how she became involved when she first moved to Lake Hayward, and how she will continue to stay involved as Third Beach Representative. She thanked every Board member and their families for their hard work and support.

Incoming President: Bob talked about the success of the Town Hall meetings, where no business is conducted, but at which informal discussions can happen to take the "pulse" of the community. He referred members to the wall on which the Town Hall topics brought up in June were listed and assured members that the Board would address each. Resolution of Glimmer Glen and Pilgrim Way concerns are the two issues that Bob plans to focus on in his presidency.

Bob asked members to consider helping Diane Nelson and Linda Nuzzo on Carnival Day and asked them to sign up after the meeting. He said that we are also looking for Board Members and members to serve on other committees, and hopes to set up a link on our web page to make it easy for members to volunteer. Although Don Smith, Bill Taylor and Adam Thompson have expressed a desire to serve on the Board, Bob encouraged other interested members to come forward.

Bob is starting a new column in our newsletter titled "Memories." He is looking for memories of any kind to share in our newsletter, with gift certificates to the Lake Hayward Store for the best memories at the end of the season.

Secretary-Clerk: Bonnie Sudell asked each member who had already completed a Voting Registration Form to hold up the piece of paper they had been given when they checked in. She explained that, per our Charter, registration with the Secretary-Clerk was necessary to vote at meetings or referendums. The intent of registration is to ensure that Association members and only Association members vote on matters that come before the Annual Meeting or Special Meetings. She stated that only registered members would be able to vote at the Annual Meeting. Nancy Andrews was concerned that many people would come to the August meeting and not be able to vote. Bonnie said that 66 people had already filled out the form that was in the spring packet; more had completed the form today, and that it would also be included in upcoming newsletters, as well as being available on the web site. A question was raised as to why we didn't just consider those attending meetings to be members; Bob Sudell said that we couldn't prevent non-members from attending our meetings, but we could control those who have the right to vote. There was considerable discussion regarding the forms that we currently use to check members in on, the rights of permanent renters who are registered to vote in East Haddam and past precedent. Bob stated that this issue was raised at the August 2014 Annual Meeting, and once the Board was aware of the voting requirements, it had to take action. Bonnie read the section of the Charter that dealt with voting rights. Questions continued. Nancy Andrews tried to make a motion but was told that this was a committee report and that she could make her motion under New Business.

Reports of Committees:

LQIC: Felicia Tencza directed members to reports that are on our web page. She said that letters had gone out this year, as they had last year, from east side residents to east side residents, asking for contributions to support ongoing weed treatment efforts. Over \$1,000 has been received to date. She reminded members that Kathy Connelly would be speaking at Lake Hayward on July 25th on the subject of lakeside buffers and uphill landscaping and urged all to attend.

Felicia reported that the Second Beach boat launch dredging project was complete and came in under budget. Sonar mapping indicates there was a 71% improvement of depth in the most shallow area. The final report, including a post dredge map is on our web page.

Randy Miller reported that we are in the process of receiving \$9,528 from the Town of East Haddam for fiscal year 2014-2015, as a result of a coordinated effort by the East Haddam Lakes Association. As Bashan Lake was unable to utilize their Town funds due to dam repair and drawdown, LQIC was able to secure for Lake Hayward Bashan's portion, another \$3,500. The State also had a one time grant that LQIC successfully applied for, and POALH receive another \$9,050 from that grant for herbicide treatment.

Randy also gave members a heads up that the Lake and Watershed Management Plan would be the first topic at the next Town Hall, July 18th. He referred to the handout with four slides, highlighting what a watershed is, what our watershed consists of, what the threats to our watershed are, and why we need a lake and watershed management plan. He encouraged all members to attend the Town Hall to learn more.

There was a question about boats launched at the State boat launch that are not in compliance with our rules. Randy said that DEEP should be notified, and if he sees a boat whose prop is not out of the water, he takes a picture of it, gets their registration number and sends both to DEEP.

Felicia expounded on the information in the Saturday newsletter, as some of the article was cut off. She reported that the DEEP department that processes weed treatment permits has only one employee left doing that work as a result of retirements and transfers. As a result, we have not received our permit yet. Inspection of the areas treated last year have shown a marked improvement, and specific areas will be targeted again this year.

Public Safety: Bonnie Sudell reported that Reliable Towing has declined to boot vehicles in our parking lot this year. We are looking into alternative methods of enforcement. Bob Sudell asked that members not be confrontational when encountering a non-member using our facilities. The East Haddam Police will arrest trespassers and we are urged to call them when a non-member parks on Association property or comes onto our beaches.

Rich Harmon asked members to please put their house numbers on their cottages as he, as a first responder, has had difficulty finding people who need help because their property was not properly identified.

Properties: Gary Petersen said that most of his report was in Saturday's newsletter, but he needed to thank some people who had come forward to help this year: Don Smith and Jason Griffing for power washing the tennis courts; Dave Edgington for helping build the mezzanines; Bill Taylor for raking muck at Third Beach; Brian Bagnati for the use of his equipment at Second Beach; John Jacoby for helping replace lights in the parking lot at First Beach; Steve Nelson who oversaw the wall being built; Rod Bernier for taking care of electrical problems; Neil Murphy for taking care of the North End properties; Tom Kress for offering to repair or replace all beach signs at the end of the year and Lee Griffin for putting up and taking down our American flags each year.

Third Beach is a priority for the Properties Committee this year, including the repair or replacement of the Third Beach stairs after the season. New sand will be added to Third Beach in the next several weeks, as First and Second Beach have already gotten new sand. Docks are also planned.

The tennis courts will be left open 24 hours a day, with the lights going on at 8 p.m. and off at 10 p.m. Gary will contact Eversource to see what can be done about the other light that is on all night.

Gary asked that as members spotted problems, they should contact him. He is also looking for additional volunteers and has a signup sheet. He thanked the rest of his committee, Brian Bagnati, Don Smith and Steve Reagan.

He also reported that the tree that had been discussed at the Town Hall meeting had been trimmed. There was some discussion about leaving the tennis courts open and Gary said that if it became a problem, they would be locked again.

Social/Recreation: Gail Miers reported that Don Smith had volunteered to take over as chair of Social and Recreation. She thanked everyone who had come forward with ideas this year and who had volunteered to run events. She pointed out that the Association was trying something different this year – four musical events tied to food truck vendors. The triathlon is back and Diane and Linda need volunteers to run the beach games and carnival.

Garden Club: Kathy Petersen let members know that the Garden Club was taking orders for a 2016 calendar, with photos of our Lake gardens.

Lake Hayward Store: Gail Edgington invited members to shop closeouts and new items.

There was a question about swim lessons. Bob Sudell said that the Association was no longer sponsoring swim lessons, due to insurance liability concerns, but that the young lady who had previously offered lessons was doing so independently.

Unfinished Business: There was concern expressed about the number of geese this year and the likelihood that they feed on the farm behind the Association, before coming down to our Lake, creating a water quality issue. This member suggested that we contact the owner of the farm to eliminate the geese. Gary responded that the beach rakers are supposed to pick up the goose poop. He will also get buckets and shovels to leave at the beaches, but reminded members that when he provided buckets before, they disappeared. Putting barriers across the beach area at night and removing them in the morning was also suggested.

New Business:

Bylaws: Bob asked if there was any comment from the floor on the proposed bylaws. There was a question as to why a whole section was removed. Bob said that the section in question was made up of rules, and they had been moved to a separate document. There was also a question about adding electronic transmission. As information is sent out by email, and is available on the website, communication by electronic means needed to be added to the bylaws. Bill Wamester commented that there are a great number of unregistered and abandoned vehicles in the area; he was encouraged to contact the Town directly to report violations. Bob Sudell said that the Town, particularly the Zoning Board, wants our direct feedback to eliminate abuses.

Smoking: Dr. Jeff Bender urged members to support a ban on smoking on the beaches. He pointed out other municipalities that had banned smoking on town property. Bob asked for a show of hands of those who would support a ban on smoking on the beach. There being overwhelming support, Bob said that the Board would discuss at the next meeting.

Voting Registration: Nancy Andrews made a motion to form a committee to review the Charter regarding the "registered voter" definition and voting rights of POALH members and to bring suggestions to the August Meeting and to not make any changes prior to the August Meeting. The motion was seconded. There was some discussion about changing the Charter if Association members were unhappy with the voter registration process and consequences, and members were reminded that the Charter revision process is complicated and time consuming. The motion passed.

Open House: Nancy Andrews was concerned about the open house promotion by Charlyn Montie. Gail said that the intent was to promote the quality of life we have here at Lake Hayward and to encourage possible homeowners to interact with others in the Association. Bob said that we did not have strict guidelines for newsletter submissions and that we would discuss at our next meeting. He stated that businesses should not be allowed to promote themselves in our newsletter. A member asked why we were promoting the swim instructor and her business. Bob replied that she had been the swim instructor when we did sponsor lessons, and that it is in our best interest to teach our children how to swim.

Don spoke briefly about Lake Hayward Bucks for the food trucks, where you get \$8 worth of food tickets for \$5.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie F. Sudell, Recording Secretary