

Hitchcock Lake Improvement Association

Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2021

I. Opening

The regular meeting of the Hitchcock Lake Improvement Association was called to order at 7:02 p.m. on May 24, 2021, by Kathy Mrazik.

II. Roll Call

Board Members Present

	Kim Belval		Cheryl Corey	X	Lina Marunas
X	Robert Browne	X	Noreo Gabriel	X	Judy Miceli
X	Cynthia Cayer	X	Laurie Greco	X	Kathy Mrazik
X	Jeremy Chicano	X	David Judd	X	Edmund Sullivan

Members in attendance: Mike Ruotolo, Kate Healey, Mark Sussman, Cathy Leogrande, Joseph Leogrande, Chris Parsons, Elizabeth Keith, Susan Chase, Tom Tella, Michele Mayo, Jeff Mayo, Michael Mrazik

- III. **Approval of Minutes** - Lina Marunas moved to accept the minutes of the March 2021 meeting as posted on the website. Seconded by Jeremy Chicano. Judy Miceli abstained. The motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report - David Judd

- a. \$5,449.73 received for membership, boat stickers and donations in May (through 5/24).
May expenses of \$1439.27 include Solitude payment, donation to Fire Department, thank you gift for tax prep, and PayPal fees. Credit has been returned for overpayment on bond insurance.
Renew the lake & CDC columns are reversed on the spreadsheet shared at the meeting.
PayPal contact had been changed from Dan DellaVecchia (former treasurer) to Dave Judd.
- b. HLIA taxes were submitted by Frank Nardelli on May 3, 2021. Frank was sent a VISA gift card to thank him for his service.
- c. Zoom Payment renewal – Cindy Cayer made a motion to extend the ZOOM contract from 6 months to one year. Kathy Mrazik seconded. The motion passed.
- d. Reinvestment of CD funds – No new information. Dave Judd asked interested Board Members to contact him to assist with this item.

V. CDC (Community Development Committee)

Laurie Greco has created a timeline for perspective CDC events including Boat Tie-Up, Kayak Club, Trivia Party, and others. The CDC Committee will meet next week to plan some events now that Covid restrictions are being lifted.

Dave Judd suggested testing interest of members for events before planning.

VI. Environmental and Safety

- a. Solitude Weed Treatment May 12th – The South Lake was not fully treated during the 5/12 Solitude visit and is having an issue with weed and algae growth. Solitude will treat the South Lake again on May 27th. Solitude will not charge for this weed treatment as they admitted that they only treated along the shore on the South Lake.

Solitude will evaluate weed growth and algae on the North Lake and treat if necessary.

Michael Ruotolo reported algae in water on Equinox. Judy Miceli reported muddy brown algae blooms in front of her property. Tom Tella reported that he cleaned up weeds with rake. Elizabeth Keith cited that algae near her house is very thick

Noreo Gabriel commented on the video received from South Lake resident that showed extreme weed growth. The weeds are not breaking apart and algae is heavy. Kate Healy reported algae in front of her property and said that she has raked the algae to try to control.

A South Lake resident contacted Kathy Mrazik and asked who will help to rake her area. The Board Members agreed that each property owner is responsible to care for the water in front of their property. It is quite possible the majority of the weeds may sink.

- b. Mattatuck Beach – Mayor Tom Dunn informed Kathy Mrazik that Parks & Recreation will unlock and lock the gate at Mattatuck Beach.
- c. Buoys – Rob Browne has put the buoys in the water on the North Lake. Jeff Lumia and his son put in the South Lake buoys. Rob reported that the jet ski buoy on the North Lake has been repaired.
Elizabeth Keith suggested a buoy be placed in the center of the North Lake (between Pratte Lane and Hemingway) to remind jet skiers that it is a no-wake zone. Rob reported that he felt the buoy may be hit in the nighttime and be a nuisance for boaters, especially skiers. Kathy Mrazik said that the boating rules will be sent out before Memorial Day to remind boaters of the regulations. Kathy also reported that **we** contact all the people who are cited for breaking the rules. Ed Sullivan suggested we ask DEEP to monitor.
- d. Memorial Day weekend email – Lina will send the safety note this weekend.
- e. Docks – permission for docks. Homeowners wanting new docks need to contact the Land Trust.
- f. Dam Project Update – No new information. Town Engineer Mark Possidento said there is a meeting planned with OPN and DEEP.

VII. Correspondence

- a. Letter was sent to the town requesting funds per town budget. Kathy Mrazik reported that the \$4,500 should arrive this week.

- b. Concern over Japanese Knotweed plant – This bush grows along property on Pratte Lane, on the causeway and is widespread throughout the state. Cheryl Corey and Kathy Mrazik have examined the growth on Pratte Lane property and reached out to Solitude for advice. Solitude reports it is a land plant. Tom Tella reported that it is invasive but does not grow in the water.
- c. Suggestion for sludge cleanup pending lake being lowered in fall – Frank Nardelli related that about 10 years ago, neighbors shoveled sludge and the town provided trucks to remove. Rob Browne reported that on Birch and Lake Streets sand was filling in the lake (before the drains were fixed). Partially town fault, they brought dump trucks and machines to clear that area. Since that time new storm drain repairs and high-tech catch basins have been installed to eliminate the sand issue. If neighbors wish to work together to remove sludge, they are welcome to do so. Carting the sludge away can be an issue, as it needs to dry first. Removing sludge is dependent on the lake being lowered. If a new siphon system is not installed, the Fire Department said that they will offer their siphon system.
Tom Tella suggested that we increase the HLIA donation to the fire house. The budget is currently \$100.00 and we did not meet at the fire house this year. No action was taken.
- d. Request to Grove Beach for summer meetings – Summer HLIA meetings will be held at Grove Beach.
- e. Outreach to new residents – There was a general feeling that the HLIA needs to reach out to new residents and send a welcome card and inform them of our website (which we currently do). Many present felt that there are safety violations by new people because they are not reading the rules and regulations. Cindy suggested a mandatory meeting for those seeking a boat sticker. Tom Tella suggested a welcome committee “person-to-person” for folks with new motorized crafts. Kathy asked for volunteers for the welcome committee.
- f. Concerns about speeding, not traveling counter-clockwise – Kathy Mrazik will send a note to remind individuals who are not in compliance.
- g. An off-lake, South Lake resident completed the boat waiver to use the Tibbetts property and did not understand that it is for use by North Lake boaters only. The person launched a boat and left a car at the dock. The landowner does have lake rights but only to the parcel listed in the land deed. Kathy responded to his email stating the rules.

VIII. Old Business:

- a. Town’s 225th Anniversary – In October. HLIA has decided not to participate.

IX. New Business

- a. For 2022: A discussion was held regarding pursuing a CT company, Pond & Lake Connection re: weed treatment for 2022. They will be contacted. Also, our three-year permit with DEEP is up at the end of this year, so must be renewed.

- X. **Nominating Committee** – Kathy Mrazik will add to August agenda. Directors with expiring terms: Rob Browne, Jeremy Chicano, Edmund Sullivan.

- XI. **Announcements** –Elizabeth Keith urged the Board to think about the buoy for the jet ski at the trouble spot. Discussion was held on limiting the use of jet skis on the lake. There was no action on this item. Kathy Mrazik said she will send an email to members with registered jet skis to remind them of the safe boating procedures.

- XII. **Adjournment** Motion to adjourn was made by Rob Browne and seconded by Laurie Greco. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.