

Hitchcock Lake Improvement Association and Wolcott Land Conservation Trust

Annual Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2020

I. Call to Order

Joint HLIA and WLCT annual meeting called to order at 6:41 pm at East Street Eatery, Wolcott, CT by Presidents Kathleen Mrazik and Thomas Tella.

II. Treasurer's Report, Annual Review and Membership Summary

Annual reports distributed to attendees.

III. Approval of November 25, 2019 meeting minutes as posted on web. Lina Marunas made a motion to approve. Judy Miceli seconded. The motion passed.

IV. HLIA President's Review (attached)

V. Election of Slates

Membership Vote for the 2020 HLIA Board of Directors Slate

Voice Vote Taken: Majority in Favor: Yes /Majority Against: 0

HLIA Director positions ending 2023

- Noreo Gabriel
- Laurie Greco

V1. Audit Committee appointment of Kim Belval to represent the membership. Judith Miceli to represent the Board.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Cindy Cayer, HLIA Secretary --posted on the website pending approval at the next regular meeting.

Hitchcock Lake Association Annual Review (Review of 2019)

Kathy Mrazik, President, January 25, 2020

2019 saw our Membership increase again as it did in 2018. The total number of households that paid dues (on and off-lake) was 166 or 50% (up from 157 last year). Of this, 144 were Lakefront or 60% (up from 134 last year). There is always a turnover of residents, so in a few cases both buyer and seller paid dues, and in other cases neither buyer nor seller paid dues. We DO know that things are looking up, as most of our NEW residents paid dues and seem happy and eager to be a part of our community.

In 2019, we entered into a one year contract with Solitude Lake Mgmt. after having been in a 3 year contract previously. The Solitude contract continued to include 6 weed inspections and additional water quality testing. 2019 was also the 1st year of a 3 year DEEP permit. We had the great misfortune of obtaining the DEEP permit quite late, due to a failure on Solitude's part to submit our paperwork in a timely manner. This set back our 1st weed treatment to June 5th, almost 3 weeks later than the 1st treatment of 2018. By this time, the lake, especially the South side, was quite overrun with Curly-leaf pond weed. The June 5th treatment for the Curly-leaf pond weed was quite successful and people were able to once again enjoy the lake. The mid-summer treatment was for nuisance growth of thin-leaf pondweed and microscopic algae in both the South and North Lakes. Solitude's September inspection concluded: "Most of the targeted pondweed and naiad were gone and what was left were small stalks. No nuisance algae species were observed in either the South or North Lakes. Trace-quantities of curly-leaf pondweed were observed, but as under-developed budding plants. This is normal in all lakes as the curly-leaf pondweed sprout early in the fall, are dormant through winter, and start growing again in late spring". Overall, the treatment program was a success. Tapegrass continues to be a concern in both lakes and is not easily treated through chemicals.

More positive news from Solitude's Annual Report Summary: "Microscopic Algae: Water samples underwent microscopic examination for the presence of potential toxin producing cyanobacteria (blue-green cells). These blue-green cells can be threatening to not just aquatic life but to humans and animals that use and live around the pond. A count of 70,000 cells/mL is the threshold level for potential health effects to humans, pets, and other wildlife. This year, all the rounds of sampling were well below the "potential health" threshold, with the highest counts coming in at 510 cells/ml on July 24th. This is well-under the highest number last year, which was 3,500 cells/ml in September and **that** figure was also quite low!

We are ALWAYS concerned about safety. The violations of the WLCT Rules and Regulations that are the most common are: operating without being registered with the HLIA, operating during Quiet Time, operating too close to shore or other vessels, towing over capacity, and operating in the dark. Non-owner operated vessels tend to be an issue around the holiday weekends. This past summer was fairly quiet, with few complaints received, and those complaints were addressed.

As noted in 2018, the valve box between the two sides of the lake was damaged and must be repaired/replaced. There are also concerns with the age of the main valve at the dam (over 100 years) and its long-term functionality. The WLCT Board voted in November 2018 to keep the valves closed in the Fall of 2019 if repairs were not made by that time. Thus, the lake was not lowered this fall, out of concern that if the main valve became stuck in the open position, the North Lake would be drained.

Our go-to board member on “dam and valve issues” is Rob Browne. He is an enormous asset to the board with his years of knowledge and his task of opening/closing the valve, and maintaining the dam property per DEEP guidelines.

In the summer of 2019, we received GOOD “DAM” news, however!! Our Mayor, Tom Dunn, Town Engineer Mark Possidento, and our Town Council representative, Debbie Golden, attended our September meeting to make us aware of state grant money that will be given to us after a Cedar Lake project concludes. The hope is that these funds will be available by the fall of this year. This money will go a long way toward our repairs. We will keep our members informed of any new developments. We are very grateful to Mayor Dunn and Debbie Golden and Mark Possidento.

In 2019, we were under budget by over \$5000.00. Our weed treatment costs were \$13,990.00, \$3,765.00 less than in 2018. In March, we moved \$75,000.00 from our Money Market account to a 6 month CD, thus earning \$1,045.80 in interest. The rate we enjoyed (2.47) has gone down drastically (to .20), so we will be looking for a better rate in March rather than rolling it over a second time.

Yearly dues collected reflected a \$1,685.00 increase over 2018 (total \$23,050 vs. \$21,365.00). We did not have a dam inspection expense, thus saving \$1200.00.

We saved money on mailings as we emailed the registration paperwork to most of our lake residents. Of the 166 households who paid in 2019, only 17 did not provide us with an email address (a few truly do not have one). Our CDC wine glass and tee shirt sales and Trivia Night brought in approximately \$385.00. Our thanks to Jill Browne for creating the glasses, Laurie Greco for again running the Trivia Night and Cheryl Corey for taking over the tee shirts sales.

Community programs and events included: Dock to dock dining, kayak clubs, cocktail parties, a holiday party, and for the first time, a picnic at Grove Beach. Thanks to Laurie Greco for being the 2019 Chairperson of the CDC, and thanks to many others, including Susan Chase and Josette Whipple that organized events, and those who hosted events. Speaking of Susan, we thank her again for her Power Point Presentation on “Weeds And What To Do About Them”.

It was very well-received.

Our membership generously contributed food to the Wolcott Food Pantry and we will continue in this endeavor.

2019 was a year of transition as 3 officer positions needed to be filled. This has been a smooth transition, thanks especially to Lina Marunas, who created an invaluable manual of instructions for each month of the year. She has continued digitalizing records, updating the website and email addresses, running needed reports, and so much more, including answering my many

questions!! Cindy Cayer, our secretary, worked with me on a weekly basis since April on the registration paperwork, which is truly time-consuming. Dave Judd came forward as the Treasurer and we are grateful for his accounting skills!

The Bylaws have been studied by Lina and Cindy, and some revisions will be discussed soon. We are also very grateful to Mark Sussman, an environmental attorney and South Lake resident who is aiding us in this endeavor and has volunteered his services as a sounding board for any legal matters. Thank you, Mark!

Looking to 2020!

We will continue to save money by email communication.

Continue digitizing Lake Records, including some information dating back the 50's.

Our 2020 contract with Solitude includes no increase in price, and we expect no delay in treatment, as we are in Year 2 of our 3 year DEEP permit. We will continue with weed treatments, as they are successful but continue exploring more weed treatment/shorefront options including:

Hydo-raking and mini-dredging which are available to individual homeowners through Solitude; and weed removal and placing "benthic barriers" (lake mats) along the shore through C&D Weed Removal. These protect individual swim areas from weeds. The company installs them in the early spring/removes in the fall.

Financial: Work on increasing our membership by continuing to reach out to those who are not members. We need everyone's help in encouraging their neighbors to join the HLIA in paying their very reasonable dues.

Socially, in addition to our current activities, we hope to have a Causeway Party this September. Please volunteer to help, so it comes to fruition!

In closing, thank you again to our board of directors who have been such a great team this year, whether by getting our limited mailings out, putting up weed treatment signs, serving on committees, and being present with your support. We are thankful to those lake residents who sent positive emails during the stressful time of waiting for the DEEP permit to come through. Many were grateful that we kept them informed of the situation and thanked us for all we do, and that means a lot. We are very blessed to live here on this beautiful lake. Let's continue to work together to not just maintain it, but also improve the overall health of the lake for those who come after us.

2020 HLIA Annual Meeting Attendance list 1/25/20 -HLIA members

Doug & Sharon Anderson

Kim Belval

Robert & Jill Browne

Dave & Cindy Cayer

Susan Chase

Jeremy Chicano

Bruce & Cheryl Corey

Gina Fazio & Vinnie Valentino

Noreo & Joann Gabriel

June & Carl Gemino

Laurie Greco

Ken & Linda Hubina

David & Nancy Judd

Bob & Ann Marie Lovallo

Mike & Nancy Martone

Lina Marunas

Regina McNamara & Tom Tella

Chuck & Judy Miceli

Tim Moynahan

Mike & Kathy Mrazik

Chris Parsons & Paul Murphy

Eardley (Earl) Punter

Brian Spirtt

Jon Stein & Sharon Mayor

Ed & Barbara Sullivan

Mark & Lisa Sussman

Brian & Darlene Tynan