

## **Hitchcock Lake Improvement Association**

Minutes of Regular Meeting, July 30, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Lina Marunas.

### Roll Call

Board Members: Robert Browne, Cindy Cayer, Cheryl Corey, Dan DellaVecchia, Andy Giordino, Laurie Greco, Lina Marunas, Judy Miceli, Kathy Mrazik, Edmund Sullivan.

Members: Susan Chase, Susan Browne, Linda Tuper, Bruce Corey, David Cayer, Mike Martone, Nancy Martone, Linda Segal, Jeff Segal, Rachal Lang, Janet Cuddy, Regina McNamara, Tom Tella, Patricia Mellitt, Mark Fontanella, Nancy Fontanella, Rick Bauer, Mike Mrazik, Josette Whipple, Marshall Wallenta, Scot Forrest, Mike Donato

### Minutes

Motion by Laurie Greco and seconded by Robert Browne to approve the minutes of the June 2018 regular meeting as posted on the website. Motion passed.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dan DellaVecchia presented the July 2018 Treasurer's Report.

President Marunas added the following:

The general liability insurance renewal is due in August. The cost is \$949.98 and is included in the budget.

The Secretary of State filing fee of \$50.00 is paid. This is also included in the budget.

The Wolcott town budget includes a line item for \$4,500.00 toward weed treatment of Hitchcock Lake. This is an increase over this year's amended payment of \$4,466.00.

### Committee Reports

#### CDC

Kathy Mrazik thanked all who participated in the July 21 Dock-to-Dock Dining event on North Lake. She reported that the event was a success. The CDC will seek a coordinator for the 2019 South Lake Dock-to-Dock Dining event. She announced the following future events:

Saturday, August 18, 6:00 p.m. – Cocktail Party, 114 East Street. Hosts: Kathy & Mike Mrazik.

Sunday, August 26 – Kayak Club, 158 East Street. Host: Kate Healey

Sunday, September 9 – Kayak Club, College Place. Hosts: Robert Browne & Laurie Greco

Saturday, September 22 – Cocktail Party, 40 Pratte Lane. Hosts: Cheryl & Bruce Corey

Saturday, October 20 – Trivia Night, East Street Eatery

#### Environmental & Safety

Solitude Inspections – Solitude inspected and treated the lake on July 23, 2018. President Marunas thanked board members who posted signs and asked that neighbors remove any remaining signs as the restriction dates have passed. The invasive weed issue that was prominent last year does not seem to be a problem this year in the South Lake. This may be attributed to the extended contract and more inspections by Solitude.

Dam Valve – Rob Brown reported that the valve was stiff when he exercised it in June. Rob reported that opening and closing the valve is the only maintenance available. He continues to monitor the dam and valve.

Alternative Weed Treatment – Rob Browne reported he has asked C&D Maintenance to visit the lake now that the tape grass is growing. C&D Maintenance provides weed harvesting services. He asked that property owners who are interested in C&D services contact the company.

Maintenance at corner of Pratte Lane and Central Avenue – John Sharek has cleared the corner of weeds and debris. He has requested an appropriation of \$115.92 to purchase a weed abatement chemical that is approved for use by the water.

Motion made by Robert Brown to allocate \$115.92 for purchase of the chemical. Judy Miceli seconded. The motion passed.

Black Bear – There was a black bear spotted on Equinox Avenue. Tom Tella, President of WLCT, provided information on the “Do’s and Don’ts of dealing with bears.”

Paddle Boat – Robert Browne reported that a paddle boat that was abandoned and sinking near Hemingway Avenue was removed.

Row Boat Oar – An oar was found floating in the water. The owner may collect the oar at dock of Tom Tella.

Rules and Regulation Violations – President Marunas began the discussion by explaining the lake rules and regulations were updated this year by the Wolcott Land Trust. The HLIA has authority for oversight of the rules regarding boating safety. She reported that the rules and regulations document is available for view on the HLIA website.

When the HLIA is alerted that someone possibly violated the rules, a letter is sent informing the individual of the possible infraction. Members who are notifying the HLIA of concerns often send photographs or videos of the possible boating violation. Six (6) residents were recently notified of boating violations during the last month. Some of the members replied by mail, emails or telephone. Those notified were invited to attend meeting to discuss violation issues.

Members attended the meeting to discuss issues: Jeff Segal, 2 Equinox Ave., responded to the violation of boating after 9 PM with a wake on June 30, 2018. The HLIA received a video of the violation in question. He provided letters with notarized signatures that he said will attest that he was not on water in his boat on the date time in question. He voiced a concern that he is being harassed resulting in issues with his neighbors over his remodel project, an issue with the WLCT over a fence that was over the water, and an issue with a right of way next to his property. President Marunas emphasized that the only issue being dealt with at this meeting and with the HLIA is the June 30<sup>th</sup> boating violation in question.

Jeff Segal indicated that his HLIA dues check was held for three (3) months. President Marunas responded that the check was held, at the direction of the WLCT, until all required paperwork was submitted for issuing a boat sticker. Once paperwork was complete, check was cashed, and sticker issued.

Jeff Segal wants the June 30<sup>th</sup> violation in question expunged from the record and he requested to view the video that supposedly shows the violation. He stated that dates and time stamps on videos can be altered.

Linda Segal agreed that she will send a copy of her CT Boating License to the HLIA so that she will be an approved driver of the boat.

Jeff Segal voiced a concern that his name was not included in the minutes of the June meeting as volunteering to run for a director's position on the HLIA Board. President Lina Marunas instructed that the July minutes should reflect Jeff Segal's interest in election to the Board. At this time, Jeff Segal indicated he is no longer interested in a position on the Board.

President Marunas thanked Jeff Segal for attending the meeting.

Linda Tuper, 30 Equinox Ave., reported that there are large wakes hitting and damaging her boat and dock. Board members responded that Connecticut Boater's Guide prescribes the distance boats must operate from shore not the wakes and while Connecticut law does require boaters to repair damage done by wakes, it would be near impossible to determine which boats caused the wakes.

Scot Forrest, 26 Equinox Ave., said that he has a complaint of his minor daughters being videoed when in the water and waterskiing. Scot Forrest indicated that he uses GPS on his boat to ensure that safe boating distances are observed for the boat and skiers.

Mike Donato, 94 Midwood Ave., suggested that there be an ordinance that restricts time for operation of lawn maintenance equipment. This item was referred to the Wolcott Land Trust for discussion.

Janet Cuddy, 17 Pratte Lane, requests permission to build a dock at the right-of-way. She indicates that she began building the dock and received a notice to stop. President Marunas informed Janet that the WLCT has oversight of dock installations.

Kathy Mrazik, 114 East Street, asked that ski boats and jet skis be considerate of pontoon boats and make sure that they are operating at a safe distance and speed.

Mike Donato, 94 Midwood Ave., asked that pontoon boats not be an impediment to the skiers and tubers.

Mike Mrazik, 114 East Street, reminded everyone of the State law requiring boaters not to pass closer than 100 feet of other boats.

President Marunas reminded everyone that the lakes are small and need everyone's diligence and consideration for safe boating.

Dave Cayer, 112 East Street, Thanked everyone for a great "Dock to Dock" party in July. He particularly thanked those that functioned as water taxis and cited Josette Whipple for her involvement in the event's success. All agreed with a round of applause for Josette.

Correspondence – Several dues payments were received. The membership level is about 50%. Second letters were sent to about 100 members. The HLIA received commendation and thank you notes from Doug & Sharon Anderson and Scott Poletti commenting that the weed issues of last year have been resolved.

Old Business:

Nominating Committee - A nominating committee is being formed. The committee is comprised of the President, two Board members and two members from the community. Laurie Greco and Noreo Gabriel will represent the HLIA. Tom Tella and Rick Bauer will represent the community. This year there are openings for 3 directors and all the officers are up for election. Any member who would like to run for a board seat or an officer should contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

#### New Business

Bylaw Review – Tabled to next meeting.

Directory – Susan Chase, 26 Birch Avenue, suggested that the HLIA produce a directory of all residents of the lake community. She further suggested that the names of dues paying members be indicated in bold. Dan DellaVecchia suggested that the website may be a good place for the directory. Members had concerns over confidentiality. Susan Chase agreed to do more research on the project.

Marshall Wallenta, 9 Pratte Lane, suggested that the HLIA issue a receipt for dues paid.

#### Adjournment

President Lina Marunas thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Motion by Laurie Greco seconded by Robert Browne to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Cindy Cayer. Posted to the website pending approval at the next regular meeting.