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MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2010 2:00 P.M. LAKE WARAMAUG COUNTRY CLUB

Please plan to attend our "end of summer" meeting. This is our fourth annual meeting held jointly with the Lake Waramaug Task Force and will feature a special presentation in recognition of the 35th Anniversary of the founding of the Task Force: Stephen Bartkus, Curator of the Gunn Memorial Historical Museum in Washington, will present his "History of the Inns on Lake Waramaug". Through pictures and stories, we will revisit the 19th and 20th century inns and cottages around the lake. Not to be missed! And remember that the Gunn Museum's spectacular exhibit, "Life on Lake Waramaug: Past, Present, Future", continues through October 10th. Copies of the newly reprinted "A History of Lake Waramaug" will be available for purchase at the meeting, at the Gunn Museum and at the Hickory Stick Book Shop in Washington Depot.

Tom McGowan, Executive Director of the Task Force, will lead a "State of the Lake" discussion concerning lake conditions and clarity during this long, hot summer; operation of the in-lake LayerAir Restoration System along the Route 45 shoreline and the Frost site system at the tip of Arrow Point; the invasive species boat inspection program (including enhancements to facilitate enforcement on the lake by clearly identifying boats which have not been inspected at the Washington Boat Ramp); progress in land preservation in the lake shore and watershed areas, and other lake topics.

Take advantage of this opportunity to learn about important matters affecting the protection and preservation of Lake Waramaug. And please stay after the meeting for a period of conversation and refreshment.

The celebration of the Task Force's 35th Anniversary continues at the Washington Art Association (4 Bryan Plaza, Washington Depot) with its exhibition and sale "Lake Waramaug Observed", featuring 35 paintings of the lake from one site in all seasons by Charles Raskob Robinson, and many other paintings by local artists depicting the lake and its surrounding watershed area. The exhibit is now open and continues through September 19th. **The Task Force will host a reception for the community at the Art Association on Saturday, August 28 from 5-7 P.M. Come and toast their 35 years of lake restoration! For more information, visit the Task Force website at www.lwtf.org**

DUES REMINDER

If you receive a dues payment envelope with this mailing, our records indicate that your 2010 dues remain unpaid. Please send your payment today. Your contribution supports our efforts to protect and preserve Lake Waramaug. INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO THAT WE MAY CONTACT YOU PROMPTLY WITH LAKE NEWS AS THE NEED ARISES.

Association Committee Organization. At our June meeting, we spoke about organizing a number of committees to further the work of the Association and to encourage our members to take a more active role. The committees will be:

Lake Use – matters concerning the ecology and balanced recreational use of the lake, coordinating with the Task Force (as to water quality), the Lake Waramaug Authority (as to safety and enforcement on the lake) and the Town of Washington (as to the boat launch).

Property – lake shore community regulatory matters (zoning, inland wetlands, planning, health, sanitation and other regulations and standards of the three lake towns).

Traffic and Patrol – conditions and safety on the lake roads, coordinating with the State Department of Transportation, State Traffic Commission, the three lake towns and the Washington Police.

Communications – communicating with the membership and the larger community: newsletters, website, email announcements.

Membership and Events – outreach to members of the lake community; encourage membership in the Association; involve the community in Association activities; plan and hold various events, including the ireworks display, to encourage the protection and preservation of the lake.

We ask all of our members to consider participation in one or more of these committees. Some volunteers responded at the June meeting, but we are taking this opportunity to extend this invitation to all of our members. Please keep in mind that we need both weekend and full-time residents and that many of these tasks can be handled from remote locations, not requiring your presence here for all meetings. **Your participation is vital to the continued protection of the lake. Please send us an email at info@waramaugassoc.org telling us of your interest and committee preferences.**

Road and Traffic Conditions. The State has now repainted the yellow lane divider line on the lake roads and has repaired the road surface at the notorious narrow blind curves at Cheerie Point on West Shore Road. At our June membership meeting, Mark Lyon, First Selectman of Washington, reported that the Department of Transportation had surveyed conditions on West Shore Road and had determined to increase warning signage (posting advisory speed limits of 15 MPH) at Cheerie Point and to post new warning signs at the intersection of Golf Links Road and West Shore Road. Thanks to Betty Sutter and Peter Bonachea for their work in achieving these safety advances.

Donations of Land and Conservation Easements to Protect Lake Waramaug and the Surrounding Area. Consider the urgent need to preserve open space and to protect ridgelines and viewsapes. There are substantial tax incentives for such donations. Call Tom McGowan at 860-567-0555 or Susan Payne at 860-868-9348 to explore these opportunities.

Maintain Your Septic System to Protect the Lake. Discharges from septic systems near the lake and watercourses within the lake's watershed have the potential to have a dangerous impact on the lake's water quality. Septic systems require periodic maintenance including pumping to remove accumulated solids at least every three years. **Recent purchasers of properties should make sure that their systems have been inspected and serviced during this period.** For a primer on this important subject, see "A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems" (US Environmental Protection Administration) at the Association's website: www.waramaugassoc.org/Septic

Landscaping Near Lakes and Streams; Demonstration Buffer Planting. The Task Force advises that lawns do not protect the lake. Lawns within 200 feet of lakes and streams should **not** be fertilized. The reason is that fertilizer application, whether chemical or organic, can act as a pollutant and cause physical impact to adjacent wetlands or watercourses. If you have a problem lawn and believe that you must apply a fertilizer, be sure to use a zero phosphate product (the middle number should be "0"). But the better practice is to add native plants to your lawn area. Visit the Angell property at 47 West Shore Road to see the model buffer planting sponsored by the Task Force. After five years, it has become a natural looking country landscape, doing its job filtering runoff, preventing erosion, and serving as a native habitat for many insect and bird species. Pick up a card from the box at the site identifying the plantings you will see there.

Inland Wetlands and Zoning Regulations. Protection and preservation of Lake Waramaug requires compliance with extensive Town regulations, particularly within 100 feet of the lake or other water body or watercourse. **BEFORE you undertake ANY activity (including construction, alteration, tree removal, removing or depositing sand, soil, stones and other materials, installing docks and fences, etc.) call the designated official of your town:**

Washington	Michael Ajello	860-868-0423
Warren	Craig Nelson	860-868-7881, Ext. 106
Kent	Jennifer Calhoun	860-927-4625

