

Lake Waramaug Association, Inc.

Minutes of the 102nd Annual Membership Meeting
Sunday, June 9, 2019

The 102nd annual Membership Meeting of the Lake Waramaug Association, Inc. ("LWA"), a non-profit organization, was held at the Lake Waramaug Country Club, New Preston, Connecticut, on Sunday, June 9, 2019.

Anne Block, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

No selectmen were present.

A moment of silence in memoriam for John Payne and Susan Summers was observed.

Anne offered a warm welcome on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, and thanked our membership for showing their interest in the Lake by being in attendance on such a glorious afternoon.

The Newsletter was distributed via mail, and made available in the foyer if those present had not received it. Also available were dues envelopes and fireworks donation forms.

The Board has been very busy with a new governance committee. New Bylaws have been updated, for the first time since 1974. 21st Century best practices for not-for-profits have been adopted, including term limits: 2 terms of 3 years for directors on the Board.

It is a very exciting time for us. New people are coming on the Board and bringing new ideas and great energy.

We are developing partnerships with the area land trusts and working on issues that impact our Lake community. Events have been scheduled for educational outreach purposes.

An educational and outreach committee has also been established, so we can better communicate with our constituents land use issues, and current events.

Land Use is now known as the Land Use and Preservation Committee.

A communications committee has been formed, headed by Mary Jo Keating.

The nominating committee has been busy replacing Directors as three had resigned this year, Cynthia Vance, John Santoleri and Rudy Montgelas.

Pedro Bonachea Heather Allen and Betty Sutter have reached their term limits. They will remain very special resources for the Association.

The three new directors are:

-Reid Funston, a multi-generational lake resident, will serve as our new treasurer.

-Mary Jo Keating is also a multi generational lake resident with three children and three grandchildren. A graduate of Wykeham Rise school she has a vast professional experience with communications and development.

-Mitch Solomon is an attorney, formerly with the NYC law firm of Skadden Arps Meagher & Flom. He was a member of the zoning commission in Washington, with an intimate knowledge of land use laws in our district.

John Santoleri made a motion seconded by Pedro Bonachea to elect Funston, Keating and Solomon to the Board of Directors. The motion was unanimously approved.

Reid Funston gave the treasurers report (attached). A 990 form was filed with the IRS in September.

Responding to a question from the floor, Gail Berner, Co-President, addressed our expenses in regards to Land Use, which she explained were legal and engineering fees to review applications filed with Inland Wetlands and the Zoning Board of Appeals. These hires were done in response to concerns we received from our constituents. In practice, there hasn't been a good understanding of our zoning laws that have long been adopted.

Report from the Lake Waramaug Authority, who concerns themselves with safety issues on the lake, Ed Berner and Pat Kessler: They provided Safe Boaters Guides for those in attendance. The slow no wake buoys have been installed near the State Park, particularly important since so many inexperienced canoeists and kayakers in that area.

It is important to have a supervised craft or bright buoy when swimming.

Every year, we try to build our ice rescue team, which is now fully equipped and trains all winter long. They work closely with the Fire Department to have a team available 24 / 7. The air boat is located at the foot of the lake and equipped with a quick launch system. Winter months pose the biggest safety risks to our community.

Fireworks will take place on July 5 with a rain date of July 6. The "rim the lake with flares" display will happen at 9, followed by the fireworks at 9:30. Special thanks to Cynthia Vance and her family for offering her property as launching site. We still have fundraising to do to reach our goal.

Last year we received an insufficient delivery, for which we have been reimbursed \$2500. Zambelli Fireworks have assured us that this year's spectacle will be the quality of year's past. A committee has been formed to address problems and continue the tradition and we are aiming to keep this a self-funded project of the Association.

Pedro Bonachea had flares on hand for \$5 each. He demonstrated how to ignite the flare. We'd like to have better participation this year, one that has predated the fireworks. They are available for purchase at the Lake Waramaug Country Club Beach, The Hopkins Inn, County Wine and Spirits and 9 Main.

Chris Adams gave the picnic update. The date has been changed to Saturday August 3rd.

John Santoleri, member of the Board of the Steep Rock Association, gave an update on the Macricostas Preserve expansion. It is the oldest land trust in the State, founded in 1925 by Erich Rossiter. Their Judea Garden also provides bushels of produce to local food banks. The Preserve is within the watershed of the headwaters of the Shepaug, Meeker Swamp and Lake Waramaug. This initiative will triple the amount of trails in the Reserve by acquisition of new land. 490 statutes do not take these lands off the tax roles.

These new acquisitions will preserve important views, wetlands and ecology.

\$450,000 have already been raised for the first phase of the project, which took two years to complete; another \$450,000 will need to be raised for the second Phase, which will likely take another two years, but the process is unpredictable. Opportunity costs are at issue; money needs to be available as parcels come on the market. Both state and federal programs are available for preservation, but reserved mostly for farm land. We do meet some criteria but the process is lengthy and many land owners are not willing to wait when they are ready to sell.

Linda Frank gave a report on the Cricket Valley energy plant in Dover Plains New York. In July of 2018 a group of concerned citizens, many of whom are members of local Conservation Commissions, joined to establish the Western Connecticut Clean Air Action group. This was in response to the news that a 1100MW gas powered electric plant was being built in Dover Plains, NY. This location is five miles to the west of Kent and fourteen miles west of Lake Waramaug. The plant is called Cricket Valley and will produce 3,599,182 tons of air pollutants annually.

The mission of WCCAA is to gather baseline air quality data for our region before the Cricket Valley Energy Center opens in 2020, and to continue monitoring thereafter to scientifically assess the impact on air quality in our region.

The towns of Sharon, Cornwall, Warren, Washington, New Milford, Sherman and Kent have purchased air quality monitors from Aeroqual, a respected air quality monitor company. The DEEP for the State of Connecticut will work with us to help review the collected data. The data is sent to the cloud and we hope each town will have access to their data thru a link on their town's website. Keep an eye out.

Sean Hayden of the Lake Waramaug Task Force gave the report on Water Quality. Warren Land Use Commissions will be adopting Low Impact Development regulations as part of their zoning code. It is cheaper than other forms of development and it looks a whole lot better too. A win win win, from every angle. A lot of evidence in other Connecticut communities that have already adopted these regulations.

A coffer dam on West Shore Road sent a massive plume of sediment that blew down the lake when the contractors on West Shore Road removed the dam improperly. Couldn't see weeds for suction harvest, for mapping or for harvesting. Sean went to the Commission to educate contractors on how to pull our coffer dams. There is no better way to protect the lake than a coffer dam, but the sediment accident defeated the purpose. The sediment dissipated in three days, and since it costs thousands of dollars to operate the suction harvester, Hayden delayed the harvest.

Sean has given talks on what LID is, including structures that lower the environmental impact of a project. Topography should not be changed to be considered low impact. He has grant funding and the professional staff available to continue the project. LID is a cookbook document, step-by-step process, which sits outside the regulations. One zoning regulation will require that LID guidelines are used. 10 year Plan of Conservation and Development incorporated those LID guidelines in Warren.

There is a reduction in curly leaf pondweed due to the diligence of our previous years' efforts.

Paul Frank made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes of our last meeting, held on September 9, 2018, which was seconded by Pedro Bonachea and unanimously approved.

Anne Block called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 PM, which was made by the floor and seconded and unanimously approved.

Respectively Submitted,

Christine Adams, Recording Secretary