

MINUTES OF THE
LAKE WARAMAUG ASSOCIATION
TENTH ANNUAL JOINT MEETING WITH THE LAKE WARAMAUG TASK FORCE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Gail Berner at 2:30 PM.
- II. **Introduction of Guest:** Craig Nelson, First Selectman of Warren, was welcomed by the Association.
- III. **Memorials:** A moment of silence was observed in honor of Larry Weber, local resident, and all victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks.
- IV. Gail Berner asked for a motion to waive the reading of minutes from the June 12, 2016 membership meeting. Betty Sutter so moved and the motion unanimously passed.
- V. **Treasurer's Report:** John Santoleri stated the budget for this year is \$48,000 for administration, marketing, outreach and website. He spoke of the Liback bequest, and was asked by a member in the audience for a physical copy of the budget. Mr. Santoleri stated that the LWA with the help of an accountant is filing a 990 with the IRS, after which time our financials will be made public.
- VI. **Report of the Lake Waramaug Authority:** Officer Pat Kessler offered the Marine Patrol Report. There have been no incidents of great concern this season. At the Spring regatta, there were 6 overturned boats which required a rescue. The no wake zone has been effective in keeping accidents at bay. Although a lot more people have taken to our waters this year, there were not as many tickets issued. He offered a reminder that if someone is towing a skier, near-by boats must keep clear by 100 feet, and 200 for a jet skier. A question from the floor was raised about the orange buoys near the aeration systems, which Molly Hart replied had to do with its receipt repair. Officer Kessler reiterated that patrols take place on Friday Saturday and Sunday, two shifts per day. Edgar Berner then thanked the first selectmen and other people who voted for the restriction in air craft landing on the lake, since it is nearly impossible to inspect them. A remark came from the floor thanking Mr Berner in kind.
- VII. **Police Road Patrol Report:** Officer Kessler reported that due to the increase in construction on our lake roads, many tickets have been issued. The Department has also required that construction personnel remove their vehicles and hire flaggers to keep passing motorists safe. A question from a member about speeding on route 45 prompted Kessler to report that they have documented the speeding. Another member asked about the possibility of speed bumps, which is impossible without State approval as Route 45 is a State, not a town, road. Officer Kessler did say that there was a possibility of installing a speed advisor. John Santoleri recommended the implementation of a subcommittee on speeding. Betty Sutter who is chairperson of the Roads Committee of the Association spoke to her request to the First Selectman to have a full stop sign on the Warren side, but the State denied the request. Ms. Sutter has since requested that the State install a "Reduced Speed Ahead" sign. Another member remarked that studies have shown radar street signs are ineffective, and speed traps need to be put in place, especially at Tanner Hill and Route 45. Officer Kessler responded that there are only three patrolmen, so the manpower to staff the traps just isn't there. The speed signs will document the infringements, a report of which is sent to the selectmen and to the towns. Another member expressed concern over the increase of cyclists on the lake roads, who are not cooperative. The State is currently performing a survey about bicycles, since the highest usage is in the Northwest Corner.

- VIII. Road Conditions Report:** Betty Sutter and Peter Bonachea reported about the scheduled repairs to our roads.
- IX. Report on Fireworks:** Rudy Montgelas reported on our plan for next summer.
- X. Report on the LWA Centennial Celebration:** Heather Allen talked about our 100 trees / 100 Acres initiative, and noted that information about native trees will be published on a page specifically dedicated to Centennial celebrations on our website by the end of the month. She is planning herself to plant two red oak trees in the Spring at her lakeside home, and the Association is planning on planting three trees in each town. She encouraged all members to plant trees. As well, there is preserved land around the lake but we would like to preserve more. We can't take open spaces for granted and hope the Centennial inspired people to contribute to this goal. During the Spring meeting, we have Dr Ward scheduled to talk about the importance of trees.
- XI. Lake Waramaug Task Force Report:** Ms. Berner introduced the Chairperson of the Lake Waramaug Task Force, Ms. Molly Hart, who in turn introduced her Board members present at today's meeting. She also thanked all for attending and gave a quick overview of the new Zooplankton Farm, which has seemed to have a positive effect on the Lake. She also stated that the Task Force has a water quality expert who can advise residents who plan on undertaking construction projects at their lakeside homes.
- XII. State of the Lake:** Tom McGowan reported this past year as being one of the more difficult ones for Lake Waramaug, what with no winter, drought and the resulting growth of blue green algae. The weeds were terrible this year. Curly leaf pond weed was first detected in 2006, since requiring surveying and hand removal. This year, the number of sites have increased, as have the number of plants. The east side of Arrow Point seems to be particularly choked by weeds, and as a result, the Task Force is taking another look at a very defined and surgical application of EPA approved chemicals, or they run the risk of getting ahead of us. Tom went on to describe our position is at a tipping point. Blue green algae, cyanobacteria, poses a health risk to swimmers. Bantam Lake has been shut down because of it, and therefore it must be monitored closely. Water clarity, on the contrary, has been good. Erosion sites, mainly at Sucker Brook, must be handled, especially with the increasing severity of summer storms. Cow waste has also set us back after recent operation failures, many of which were remedied with Task Force funds. As well, beautiful new homes are being built on our shores, but often not with the proper storm water management systems in place. Sean Hayden is advising on several designs for homeowners undergoing renovations or planting plans before going to the Inland Wetland Commission, to much success. Mr McGowan went on to report on the Zooplankton Farm at the old aeration basins at Arrow Point, which is groundbreaking. The zooplankton eat harmful algae. His hope is that coupled with the brown trout restocking program, which eat the alewives, the algae will be reduced. But we must have the support of homeowners by not using detergents laden with phosphorous, avoiding the use of fertilizers, and keeping their septic systems clean. The Task Force has their work cut out for them now, as the cost for divers pulling weeds has increased as there are now 104 as opposed to 60 sites. The Neighboring Tanner Hill Farm produces 12 tons of manure per year, the geese population has increased, and so has development. It is imperative that we protect the shoreline conditions via buffer plantings and to manage development. The LWA has tried to step up enforcement by the Zoning Commissions in order to protect the lake. Rain gardens are helpful, but are costly; and shoreline native buffer plantings, shrubbery, are most effective. There has been a voiced concern over the removal of so many trees, which the Task Force is looking into. The State requires forestry management plans, and the Inland Wetlands Committee ensures that enough filtration remains so that the lake is protected. Constant vigilance is necessary. A question from the floor was raised concerning the Tanner Hill

Farm and whether or not the CT DEEP is enforcing regulations regarding waste management. Mr McGowan said the Task Force has bought the equipment, yet he should clean up after himself. The DEEP has been reluctant to crack down on Tanner. McGowan yielded another question from the floor regarding the US Dept of Agriculture; it actually helped when they installed the sewage lagoon at the Tanner Hill Farm. The gate valve was open for one day. Water Pollution Patrol Unit ordered Tanner to comply on certain items, which Tanner asserts was an accident. Tanner is the son of the owner of the farm, but only the cows and business are owned outright. The land belongs to Yale University, who has leased back the land to Tanner via a Legacy Lease of 999 years. It is likely fruitless to appeal to Yale, but Gail Berner encouraged those concerned to write to their State representatives. The Association is also volunteering. Another question from the floor about the removal of curly leaf pond weed: the best time to do it is when the seeds aren't developed yet. A map with GPS location of weed sites could be provided. Scott Weaver, a LWA Board member, stressed that it was important to discriminate as there are healthy weeds native to the lake that need to be preserved.

XIII. Questions from the Floor regarding Development and Zoning: One member thanked Mr McGowan for educating those in attendance, and wondered where the Association stands in halting development. Ms. Berner replied that the Association is not trying to stop people from developing their property, but are looking to support the zoning regulations already on the books. Another question was brought forward regarding the LWA budget for lawyers and engineers. Tom McGowan replied that for years, development has increased and Washington used to hire professionals to review projects, but that has been cut from the town budget. Warren, thanks to Craig Nelson, has engineers hired to advise their Commissions. Ms. Berner went on to respond to complaints regarding education, information and transparency of Land Use workings, and hopes to have better public relations instilled now. Mr McGowan in the past had urged the Association to get involved, as the zoning commissioners, although well meaning, are not experts on land use or water quality control. She believes the Sean Hayden project will accomplish this initiative. In response to a concern from another member about the perceived inequities in regards to the issuance of variances, Ms Berner urged the constituency to speak to our Commissioners and insist they enforce the regulations. Peter Bonachea stressed the importance of the Association to remain on point as to our mission, and encourage the commissioners to follow the rules already in place.

XIV. Ms. Berner congratulated and thanked Mr Bonachea for his tenure as President of the Association, and offered her gratitude for the Lake Waramaug Country Club for hosting the meeting once again.

XV. The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Adams Beckett, Recording Secretary