

Lake Waramaug Association, Inc.

Minutes of the Joint Membership Meeting
Sunday, September 9, 2018

The Joint Membership Meeting of the Lake Waramaug Association, Inc. ("LWA"), and Lake Waramaug Task Force (LWTF) was held at the Lake Waramaug Country Club, New Preston, Connecticut, on September 9, 2018.

The meeting was called to order by Anne Block, co-president of LWA at 2:30.

Ms. Block introduced Mark Lyon, First Selectman of Washington, Craig Nelson, First Selectman of Warren and Richelle Hodza, the Zoning Enforcement Officer of Washington, who were in attendance.

There was a moment of silence in thanksgiving that there were no deceased members to memorialize as there so often are at these meetings.

Ms. Block reported on the August 25th picnic. This is the second picnic sponsored by LWA (the first being last year's Centennial Picnic.) There were 60 participants. Everyone had a great time dancing to the tunes of "Eight to the Bar." LWA is looking to make this an annual event. Next year it will be at the end of July. Through LWA's Constant Contact emails and website, everyone will be informed when the date is finalized.

Rudy Montgelas, Chair of the Fireworks Committee, reported on this year's fireworks. He remarked on the increased challenges each year has wrought. He thanked everyone for their financial support without which the fireworks would not be held and he gave special thanks to Cynthia and Lee Vance who donated the use of their property as a launch site. Next year the fireworks will be held on Friday, July 5th with a rain date of Saturday, July 6th.

Officer Pat Kessler reported for the Lake Waramaug Authority. Twelve shifts monitored traffic around the lake and there were only two tickets given out. There were two water rescues, one was a stranded vessel rescued after a 911 call.

In preparation for winter, Officer Kessler reported on the ice boat and two well trained divers who will be conducting practice exercises on the lake throughout the winter.

Officer Kessler will be installing electronic signs to monitor speed limits and he will be moving them around to various locations.

From the membership there were questions regarding regulations for paddle board which he said are the same as canoes – they have to wear life jackets.

He was asked about the rules regarding large groups of bicyclists around the lake. He said his hands are tied since there are no laws requiring cyclists to move aside.

There was much discussion about the tractor trailer trucks driving through the area and Officer Kessler said much of the traffic has been diverted from New York. Officer Kessler said he did not believe the State would do anything unless there were accidents resulting from the traffic but he would look into it.

The Lake Waramaug Task Force (LWTF) was represented by Molly Butler Hart who reported that the new Chair of LWTF will be Peary Stafford. She said the state of the Lake is good and turned over reporting to Sean Hayden, the Executive Director of LWTF.

Mr. Hayden started his report by thanking LWCC for hosting the launch of a flotilla from their beach to the zooplankton farm where LWTF instructed a group of children. He invited others to take the tour.

He checked the oxygen levels the morning of the Joint Meeting and the aerators are doing their job. Rain caused some runoff which enhanced the cyanobacteria but it was adjusted back to healthy levels thanks to the aerators.

The Tanner farm no longer has cattle. They divested themselves of the herd the last week of January. Samplings from Sucker Brook which had suffered from the e-coli runoff from the farm shows the brook is much improved.

There was a question from the membership regarding the weed propagation in the lake. There are some invasive weeds but the suction harvester has been employed. There are a couple of weeds – curly leaf, waterchestnut and water shamrock which need to be monitored.

A member asked if Mr. Hayden would be giving another workshop on identifying invasive weeds. Mr. Hayden said yes, he will, and will try to have it on the weekend instead of a weekday as was the first class.

There was a motion to waive reading the Membership Meeting minutes from June 10th which was seconded and so moved.

Under the topic of “Other Business” Mark Lyon, First Selectman of Washington, reported that the gate valve repair would commence this week and will be done by November. There may be traffic problems but there are no plans to lower the lake. There will be a functioning gate valve again as opposed to the 100 year old valve in place now. They will, once again, be able to manage the flow into the East Aspetuck.

The next Membership Meeting will be held on June 9, 2019.

Anne Block moved that the meeting be adjourned at 3:11. It was seconded by Paul Frank and so moved.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Hartman, LWA Administrator, for Christine Adams Beckett, Recording Secretary.