

LAKE CHAFFEE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC
DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2009
6:30 PM – CHAFFEE HALL

President Laura Koropatkin called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

In attendance: Laura Koropatkin, Kay Warren, Brenda Chisholm, Jack Pirzl, Diana Murray, Laurie Layton, Tom Martin, Edward Chisholm.

Kay Warren motioned to seat Betty Dunn, Ed Chisholm seconded, motion Passed.

Ed Chisholm motioned to seat Bob Layton, Laura Koropatkin seconded, motion passed.

Tom Martin motioned to seat Carol Natitus, seconded by Ed Chisholm, motion passed with one opposed. Carol will be seated for discussion only.

Kari Olson arrived @ 7:00 pm

Brenda Chisholm motioned to move the "Public to be heard" ahead of the Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's report, seconded by Ed Chisholm; motioned passed.

Public in attendance: Matt Enzor, Jay Schroder, Art Apostle, Nancy & Craig Blackmer

Public to be heard:

Matt expressed his concern about speeding cars on Union Drive. Matt lives on Union Drive with his wife and three small children and has a concern for their safety. Matt would like the board to post signs on Union Drive for the speed limit and/or children playing.

Matt is also concerned about the weed issue at the main beach, Matt indicated that the weeds are moving in on the swimming area. Laura indicated that we just received the weed report today and we would be discussing this later in this meeting and also during the next general meeting held Sunday, August 16, 2009 @ 2:00 pm.

Matt's last concern was the tree branches that are hanging over the roads. The board shares Matt's concern especially with the upcoming winter months and possible icing of the tree branches during winter storms. The board has been discussing this in the past couple of meetings but due to budget restraints it is going to take volunteers to get this job done. **If anyone can offer to help trim tree branches/bushes away from the roads please contact Gerry Dufresne @ 487-3590.**

Art Apostle also has a concern about the weeds in our lake; again, the board has just today received the report from our recent weed survey conducted in July. Please attend the meeting on Sunday, August 16, 2009 @ 2:00 pm for further discussion of this report and how we might be able to move forward to help clean up our lake.

Art also expressed concern about being sued should someone be hurt on one of the islands. Laura reported that LCIA carries liability insurance.

Jay Shroader will be bidding on the plowing contract again this year. Jay will also donate time to trim the trees back....thank you Jay!

Betty Dunn thanked Jay for doing a great job plowing her road last year. There were some minor complaints about the plowing last year, Jay addressed those complaints and has a plan of action. Jay reported that while fishing he thought he saw a broken drain line where the dam is located; after discussion it was determined it is the old drain line that is broken and no longer in use.

Secretary's Minutes: *Kay Warren motioned to review the Secretary's Minutes of June 10, 2009, Tom Martin seconded, motion passed.*

Kay Warren motioned to accept the Secretary's minutes of June 10, 2009, Laurie Layton seconded, and motion passed with 2 abstained.

Treasurer's Report: *There was a discussion about the amount of people that have multiple properties but only pay one annual taxes. This, along with members who have not paid their annual taxes is creating a shortage in our annual budget.*

Please attend our budget meeting on Sunday, August 16, 2009 @ 2:00 pm.

Tom martin motion to accept the Treasurer's Report of 8/1/09, Diana Murray seconded, motion passed.

Constable Report: Gerry was not available but Laura gave a report.

Tree clipping is a slow process; our budget is very limited, volunteer help is needed. Property owners need to be pro-active. If you have bushes or tree limbs that you can easily get to, please remove those to make our roads passable for the mail delivery and plows.

Diana Murry reported that she had a dead squirrel left in her mail box after the delivery of mail one day. If anyone has any information please contact the state police. Also take notice: Tampering of mailboxes is a federal offence. The board told Diana she should contact the state police if anything of this nature should happen again.

Road Report: Gerry Dufrense was not available to give a report.

The road work should begin shortly; unusually heavy rain delayed the paving that was scheduled.

Bingo: We still need help on the bingo floor. So far this year bingo has contributed over \$7,000 to our budget, without bingo we would be looking to our members for this money. Any amount of time even just one Saturday every two months would be helpful. Please contact Kay Warren @ 487-3744 if you can help with just three hours of your time.

Kitchen: Kay Warren reported that Diana is doing a great job!

Diana is going to be gone for an extended period of time and the kitchen is going to need some help. We do have a few other volunteers in the kitchen but not enough, the board does thank the few we do have! Laura asked if any new board members would be interested in volunteering in either the kitchen or bingo. Carol Natitus volunteered to be trained in the kitchen.

Beach Report: Laura reported there are 5 members living on Oak Street that have completed work on Mother's beach. Laura reported that it looks great. Thank you to those members! Laura reported that members living on Armitage Court commented on how nice the beach looked and wanted to thank those who did all the hard work.

Sandy Moquin and her sister Karen have mowed and blown the leaves off the main beach again. The board would like to thank Sandy and Karen for their time and hard work in keeping the main beach looking nice.

The islands continue to be cleaned by Craig Blackmer. Tom Martin also helped in the island clean up by removing glass, Thank you Tom!

If members could remove what they bring onto the islands it could help us keep our islands clean. Ed Chisholm asked about purchasing some sand for the main beach.

Laura discussed having a boat launch for launching and retrieving of boats without ripping up the grass at the boat dock. After a discussion the board decided to replace a small portion of the grass with large crushed stone near the water's edge.

Tom Martin said the dock is unsafe and needs to be fixed. Ed Chisholm and Tom Martin will be attempting to lift the boat dock to re-set the dock on top of the cement blocks. If you can volunteer to help with this project please contact either Tom Martin @ 487-3599 or Ed Chisholm @ 487-0948.

Laura proposed an identification “tag system” for boats to prove LCIA membership. The board also discussed a “fee” for member’s boats, docks and swim rafts/platforms as a way to raise revenue for the lake.

Environmental: Water samples have been tested on August 6, 2009 and came back very good. Water tests are not posted with every test. If the water comes back with unacceptable standards there will be a sign posted at the beaches indicating the beach is closed.

Diana presented the results of the weed survey report that was completed in July of 2009. Please see attached report.

All members: For a further discussion of the weed report please attend the Budget meeting on Sunday, August 16, 2009 @2:00 pm.

Diana Murray was excused from the meeting @ 9:15 pm

Kay Warren motioned to present the budget to the membership on Sunday, August 16, 2009 @ 2:00 pm for a vote, seconded by Tom Martin, motion passed.

Tom Martin was excused from the meeting @ 9:30 pm

Fundraiser Report: The Bazaar only made \$400.00 last year and the attendance was down from the previous year. There is a lot of paperwork and not enough volunteers; therefore the bazaar has been cancelled this year.

Correspondence: The registered letter sent to Peggy James concerning the trailer on Union Drive came back to LCIA “unclaimed”. The board discussed what the next step was. The board will investigate how much it will cost to have the trailer removed. A letter will be sent to Peggy James indicating our intention to have the trailer removed at her expense.

New Business: *Bob Layton motioned All Lake-related e-mail sent to board members or chairs as representatives of LCIA be presented as correspondence to the entire board. Motion seconded by Kay Warren. Motion passed.*

Old Business: Bob Layton reminded everyone that he needs ads for the newsletter. The ads must be in by mid September; a business card-sized ad is \$25.00 per newsletter. Bob indicated to the board members that if each board member could provide **one** ad for the newsletter it could be self sufficient.

Of course any LCIA members reading these minutes can also provide Bob Layton with an ad for the upcoming newsletter by contacting Bob @ 487-2417

Kari Olson moved to adjourn meeting @ 10:04 pm, Ed Chisholm seconded. Meeting adjourned @10:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Chisholm
LCIA Secretary

LCIA Weed Report

Dear Members;

As you know the State of Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Came out a few weeks ago and did an invasive species survey of our aquatic plants.

On 08/12/09 Mr. Greg Bugbee of the Soil and Water Division returned my calls and gave me this information:

1. We have no exotic invasive species in the lake now as far as their survey can discern. The predominant species potamogeton amplifolius, or large-leaf pond weed, bass weed, musky weed.
2. These plants propagate through rhizome (root growth), and nutlet production in the late summer.
3. While a nuisance to recreational lake users this weed provides valuable forage for fish and amphibians as well as waterfowl.
4. Mr. Bugbee said that the weeds can be safely removed from areas important to recreational use such as beaches, boat docks and other swimming areas.
5. As to the matter of mass harvesting, he believes this is a bad idea. These weeds grow prolifically in shallow lakes with lots of soft sediment like ours. By denuding the sediment much silt is mixed with water providing more opportunity for more invasive species to root. Unless we are prepared to raise and spend a lot of money for removal of the silt build up by dredging, the problem will reoccur constantly.
6. The lily pad problem is also a problem for some lake residents. Mr., Bugbee said that removal of the rhizome is most difficult. He compared their removal to grass; you remove the topmost growth but the foliage just grows back.
7. He also cautions pulling the majority of the weeds because a percentage of growth is helpful to the ecology of the lake.

The map of the lake and results of the survey will be on the Experiment Station web site this fall. Mr Bugbee would be willing to come out to speak to us about the results at that time.

Diana M. Murray