

LAKE CHAFFEE

Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 1

June, 2010

It is Important to Attend These Meetings!

OUR HALL IS AIR-CONDITIONED

**GENERAL MEETING
CHAFFEE HALL, 2:00 P.M.
JUNE 27, 2010**

1. Call to order
2. Acceptance of Secretary's Minutes of the August 19, 2009 Budget Meeting
3. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
4. Chairman Reports: *sign*
 - a. Road
 - b. Constable
 - c. Beaches
 - d. Bingo
 - e. Fundraising
 - f. Environmental
 1. Weeds
 2. Water testing
 - g. Newsletter
5. Correspondence
6. Old Business
7. New Business
 - a. Delinquent taxes update
 - b. Increase in taxes
 - c. Teenage recreation
 - d. Dam/Valve Project
8. Adjournment

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS
CHAFFEE HALL, 2:00 P.M.
JULY 18, 2010**

1. Call to order
2. Acceptance of Secretary's Minutes of the June 27, 2010 General Meeting
3. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Officers
 - a. President
 - b. Vice-President
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. 2 Director's positions
 - f. 3 Alt. positions
5. Chairman Reports:
 - a. Road
 - b. Constable
 - c. Beaches
 - d. Bingo
 - e. Fundraising
 - f. Environmental
 - g. Newsletter
6. Correspondence
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

**BUDGET MEETING
CHAFFEE HALL, 2:00 P.M.
AUG. 15, 2010**

1. Call to order
2. Acceptance of Secretary's Minutes of the July 18, 2010 Election Meeting
3. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
4. Acceptance and vote on Budget 2008/2009
5. Chairman Reports:
 - a. Road
 - b. Constable
 - c. Beachs
 - d. Bingo
 - e. Fundraising
 - f. Environmental
 - g. Newsletter
6. Correspondence
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

Please remember!

There is no public parking at Chaffee Hall on Saturdays from 4:00 pm to 10 pm. because of bingo. Thank you for your cooperation.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Kay M. Warren, 5-30-2010

We have two major issues going on here at the Lake. One is the weeds—how to get rid of them seems to be the million dollar question; and the other issue is fixing the valve on the lock to the dam. Please read the information within this newsletter submitted by Ralph Sherman, our valve committee chairman.

We had Jim Davis here at our May 12 Director's meeting talking to us about a way that we could be rid of the weeds. Please read Diana Murray's, our Environmental chairman, report on what he had to say.

We have had quite a bit of vandalism here at the Lake, too much to be exact. Someone has been throwing stones at Chaffee Hall and put holes in the aluminum siding; at one time we had more of the loose tar on the roof than in the road; someone took down our community sign and threw it in the woods on Old Town Road; a picnic table at the Main Beach has been smashed and I am working with the State Police on this issue—we know who did the damage; the Pine Hill road sign was removed out of its cement and pulled out of the ground; kids have been loitering around Chaffee Hall and the firehouse and leaving their trash, etc. for others to pick up (the fire chief has asked that if anyone sees anyone loitering around the firehouse to please call Troop C; 3 paddle boats have been taken without permission from their owners—in one of these ventures a non-swimmer almost drowned); there have been other things done.

I had asked for a meeting of all the teenagers, with their parents, to meet me on the beach. Sandra Moquin, our beach chairman, was also present, to discuss ways that we can avoid these issues in the future. One set of parents showed. It was a good meeting and I believe we are all on the same page. Those that do not adhere to the rules will suffer the consequences. We have had an offer of a picnic to be donated to us to replace the one that was damaged. Time will tell.

MAIN BEACH

We have had to put some new signs at the beaches required by our insurance company. I must make it quite clear that there is NO FISHING at the beaches or the boat launch. This is for everyone's safety.

Sandy Moquin has been working very hard to clean up the beaches for opening weekend. She has done a fine job. She does need help to maintain the beaches to their highest quality. Anyone willing to help give Sandy a call or come down with a rake in hand when you want to go swimming. She sure would appreciate it. The raft is within the buoys now but once the ladder is put on she will have it taken out beyond the buoys.

NO ONE is allowed on the beaches after 9 pm.

ISLANDS

For those of you who do not know the ordinance about the islands I will review them for you. **No one is permitted on the islands from 9 pm to 8 am.** That includes everyone. There are no bathroom facilities and safety is also an issue.

LIFE PRESERVERS

It is a state law that anyone 12 years and younger shall wear a life jacket when using a row boat, kayak, canoe, or paddleboats, or any other water vehicle. Adults must have a life jacket or safety cushion within the boat. For your own safety, please adhere to this and not overload your vehicles.

TREASURER POSITION

We are in a desperate need for a treasurer for the Lake. Jack Pirzl, after having the position since 1984, wants to retire. If anyone is interested, please call me at 860-487-3744.

BINGO

We have some new people that have gotten bingo numbers. They would like the summer off. We need more people to volunteer to call bingo and to work the floor. We must get you a pin number from the state. Please call me if you would like to volunteer a couple hours a month to keep your taxes down. The bingo pays approximately 1/3 of our budget.

KITCHEN

We have a beautiful new up-to-date kitchen and no one to work on Saturday nights for a few hours. I have shut the kitchen down in the past for non-volunteers. We will be losing quite a bit of money if the kitchen closes permanently. You may call me for more information at 487-3744.

NEWSLETTER

I need someone to take over doing the newsletter. I do not have time. The only reason this is getting down now is that by our by-laws the agenda for the meetings in June, July, and August must be in your hands by June 17. I usually like to design my newsletter but I just don't have time.

Please come to the annual June meeting on June 27th. This is where you want to bring up any issues concerning the Lake.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR AIR-CONDITIONED HALL FOR THE MEETINGS THAT ARE ON THE FRONT OF THIS NEWSLETTER. The meetings are important to attend.

PARKING ON ASSOCIATION ROADS

There is a problem with some Lake Chaffee residents parking on Association roads. This is a reminder that there is no parking on Association roads, especially overnight parking. Lake Chaffee Ordinance 89-9-1 states:

"No parking on Association roads a any time. This will be considered as obstructing traffic. Each day will be treated as a separate offense. Fine: \$10.00."

According to Ashford's fire chief, if there is a call, whether it would be a fire or an ambulance call, if there is any vehicle/s obstructing emergency vehicles, whatever emergency is being called out would push the obstructed vehicle out of the way. Please adhere to the ordinance so this does not happen.

SWIMMING LESSONS

We will be having swimming lessons this year, for all age groups, at the Main beach. The dates are July 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 3, and 17. These are Tuesday nights and the main beach will be closed to the public during the time of the swimming lessons. The lessons will be taught by a Certified Red Cross/WSI. If you would like your child/ren to take lessons please fill out the enclosed application and mail, along with your check made out to LCIA, Inc., to Kay Warren, 31 Amidon Drive, Ashford, CT 06278-2004. Any questions please call me at 860-487-3744. A parent or guardian must accompany the child/ren.

GET-TOGETHER

With so many new residents and new summer residents we thought that it would be nice to have a catered supper on a Friday night so that we can all get acquainted with old as well as new neighbors. The get-together will be on Friday night, June 25, 2010 at Chaffee Hall at 7:00 pm. If you would like to attend please fill out the form in the newsletter and send your check made out to LCIA, Inc. to Kay Warren, 31 Amidon Drive, Ashford, CT 06278-2004. Hope to see you there.

GERALD DUFRESNE

Road Chairman/Constable – 860-487-3590

Jerry has found a boat and an oar floating in the water. If you are missing a boat or an oar please call Jerry.

Wondering why the Lake was not lowered? – December, 2009

Typically the lake is lowered between 4-5 feet; the lowering is controlled by a large gate type valve (12" in diameter weighing about 1,000 pounds). The water is directed through the valve down a buried pipe near the dam and it enters the spillway far below the actual dam. The event of lowering the lake in recent years has taken 15 or so days depending on rainfall. The process of opening and closing the valve has needed to be done often more than once each season to keep the lake lowered until the lake freezes (again all based on rainfall amounts). Having a functioning valve is essential to be able to lower the lake on demand should it be needed.

The valve is located about 10 feet deep in the lakes water, and is about 25 feet from the shore near the dam. The valve was installed 40+ years ago and has become unstable with the advice from those who have been opening and closing the valve for 18 years to lower the lake that the valve should not be opened for fear it will not close again and thus the lake would be completely drained.

In August of 2009 at the annual meeting the membership was notified that the valve used to lower the lake was in disrepair, and it should not be opened for fear it would not close again. After some discussion the membership voted:

1. To not open the valve
2. To lower the lake via a conceptual siphoning method (the discussions noted this may not be a viable method)
3. To investigate the options / costs for repair or replacement of the valve.

In the September meeting the board commissioned the "Dam Committee" (later renamed to the "Lake Valve Committee" as nothing is actually wrong with the dam) with its volunteer chairperson Ralph Sherman. At that point the Lake Valve Committee began researching the siphoning approaches and the associated costs as well as options on the valve.

After several pieces of professional advice, all of which would cost considerable funds, (most were more than \$1,500) and the overriding factor that none of the advice givers felt siphoning would be successful (mainly due to the shear volume of water to be moved 54 acres by 5 feet deep = 1,629,255 gallons) it was decided to not needlessly spend LCIA money attempting any of the siphoning approaches. One informal offer was also received to help LCIA lower the lake one time using the existing valve for a cost of \$1,500.

In concurrence with the research on siphoning the Lake Valve Committee asked 3 companies to bid on the valve job.

- One Company bid on the job and after several negotiations had put in a final bid of about \$16,400.
- Another Company never responded after hearing the valve was in 10 feet of water 25 feet from shore.

- The 3rd Company responded by coming and reviewing the job, the next day declared they were not able to handle the job with the valve being in the water.

Based on the time of year (then late October) and the desire of some members to lower the lake the board was faced with making an abrupt decision to approve the replacement of the valve and spend all the money set aside for lake improvements, or spend \$1,500 to hire someone to lower the lake (a 1 time only event), or leave the lake full for this season and continue to research a number of additional factors which need clarification before contracting on the valve repair.

The board held extensive discussions both in the formal meeting of October 14th, as well as, in informational meetings on October 21st, and 28th culminating with a special board meeting being called October 30th to vote on the issue. Several concerns arose during the discussions some of which pertained to gaining legal rights to access the area for the repair as well as, some concerns regarding what actions are required of the board when needing to expend this large sum of money without a direct membership vote.

On October 30th the board voted to not lower the lake for the 2009 winter season. The same vote included a commitment to complete the research on the outstanding legal items, and to seek additional competitive bids for the job.

As of this writing the board is actively researching the legal issues, once direction is set the Lake Valve Committee will be seeking more bids as we do need a functioning valve for the sake of the lake.

Update – May 2010

The outstanding issues have been addressed and there is currently a public ad running seeking bids for the valve repair/replacement job. Bidding is open to all licensed and insured participants. Bidding closes June 25th after which bids will be evaluated. Work is expected to commence after the lake has been lowered for the season this fall (part of the bid conditions is the bidder helps safely lower the lake a maximum of 5 feet). The topic will be on the agenda for the meeting following the close of bidding.

BEACH REPORT

Sandy Moquin, Beach Chairman

May 29, 2010

On May 29th the buoys and dock were installed. Leaves are continuously being mucked out of the water. Ten bags were removed on May 27th and 14 more bags were removed on May 29th by assistant Karen Holmes. We thank Brenda Parslow for storing the raft ladder. This ladder will be attached in the near future and the raft will be pushed out into deeper water. Until then, please do not jump and dive off of the raft while it is in shallow water.

Thanks also goes to the Mother's Beach mowers. Please come forward so that we can give proper credit. Our main beach was rototilled by Jerry Dufresne—Thanks Jerry. Further volunteers are mentioned in the Beach Chairman's message.

JUST SOME REMINDERS!

All persons under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult. This doesn't mean that they can be there with a friend or baby sitter who is 13-17 years old. Sorry! Our beaches are not to be used for boat launches. There is NO FISHING from either Mother's Beach or the Main Beach. We do not want anyone to be stepping on hooks. There has been a "No Bikes Beyond this Pont" sign installed at the Main Beach. Please do not throw glass or metal objects on the sand or in the water. There will be no garbage container at the beaches—you bring it; you take it away. Absolutely no pets on the beaches. I wish everyone a great and safe summer.

SANDY'S MESSAGE

Thank you to the following helpers at the Main Beach to create a successful beach opening on May 29th. Karen Holmes, Brianna Harmon, Chris and CJ Magestri. Karen did leaf removal of over 20 bags including bringing them to the dump. Brianna helped me and C.J. with buoy installation. CJ did an awesome job of dock installation. Thank you to Chris for removing the broken picnic table. A special note of thanks to Brianna and her mother for their offer for a picnic table donation. Bravo to all!

A special meeting was held at 1:00 pm, July 29th at the Main Beach with some of the teenagers with Kay Warren, presiding president. This meeting was meant as an open discussion on beaches and LCIA property use by adults and children. I am grateful to Roxanne Schroeder and her daughter, Amber, in their inspirational presentation in making our community a safer and more fun place to live as well as their reaching out to the younger folks present to motivate them in community involvement through volunteerism. Thanks also go to our young members: Zach,, Joe, Jackie, and Jaylynn for lending an open ear at this meeting.

Speaking of volunteering. I have been asked by at least three members of the LCIA why I am cleaning the beach and why I do what I do. My answer is this, "Because I care. I am a member of the LCIA and I care." I care about the community that I reside in. I know that you care too! There is so much to do! I'd like to compare our work at the LCIA as the "Butterfly effect." This term is related to the Edward Lorenz's chaos theory and sensitive dependence on initial conditions. This phrase refers to the idea that a butterfly's fluttering of its wings might create tiny changes in the atmosphere that may alternately alter the path of a tornado or delay, prevent the tornado from occurring. Sounds absurd, right? This wing flapping represents a small change in the initial condition of the system.

We too can have a butterfly effecting altering conditions in our community! Rome wasn't built in a day; but we're not building a city just maintaining a small minute segment of the world. I believe we can, I believe there's a large amount of giving" in everyone. Give your time and be proud!

Thank you again for our volunteers!

Sandy Moquin, Beach Chairman

SWIMMING LESSONS

There will be swimming lessons at Lake Chaffee this summer. They will be held on Tuesday nights, July 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3 and 17th at the Main Beach for all ages. The lessons will be taught by a WSI/Red Cross instructor. If you would like your child/ren to take swimming lessons please complete the form below and send it to Kay Warren, 31 Amidon Drive, Ashford, CT 06278-2004 accompanied by a check made out to LCIA, Inc. The cost is \$45 per child for lake residents; \$55 per child for non-lake residents. Parent or Guardian must accompany the child. The beach will be closed to the public while the swimming lessons are in progress. Any questions please call Kay @ 860-487-3744.

Preschool: 6-6:30 pm Ages 3-5
 Beginners I: 6:30-7 (non-swimmers, all ages)
 Beginners II: 7-7:30

Advanced Beginner: 7:30-8 pm
 Intermediate: 8-8:30

Please Print

NAME OF PARTICIPANT	Swimming Level	Phone	Age	Fee

The Parent or Guardian signing agrees to waive, release and hold harmless the Lake Chaffee Improvement Association, Inc. and any persons connected with the Lake Chaffee Improvement Association, Inc. and or any volunteers connected to such organization claims of bodily or property damage resulting from the use of facilities or activity during a Lake Chaffee sponsored program.

Parent or Guardian Signature

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

There are many new neighbors and most of us do not know each other. We thought it would be nice to have a catered supper on June 25th at 6:30 pm. at Chaffee Hall. The menu will be Oven-Roasted Potatoes; Pot Roast w/gravy; Sausage, peppers and onions; medley of summer vegetables; rolls & butter, coffee. Cake for dessert. Soda can be bought at the hall. The price is \$5.00 per adult; \$2.50 for children under 12. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please send your check made out to LCIA, Inc. to Kay M. Warren, 31 Amidon Drive, Ashford, CT 06278-2004. Phone: 860-487-3744 if you have any questions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Adults @ \$5.00 each = _____

Children @ \$2.50 each = _____

<p>TOTAL</p> <p>_____</p>

LAKE CHAFFEE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 321
ASHFORD, CT 06278-0321

Place
Stamp
Here