

HIDDEN LAKE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 16, 2021
APPROVED MINUTES

OPENING

President, Jay Cassella called the Annual Board meeting of the Hidden Lake Association to order on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at the Haddam Town Hall Annex in Haddam, CT.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

President, Jay Cassella
Vice President, Anthony Grandazzo
Recording Secretary, Lori-Ann Hoberman
Treasurer, Bob Kiehm
Financial Secretary, Sheri Berger
Past President, Lloyd Pearson
Board Member, Cindy Porriello
Board Member, Victoria Nicholson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Heather Edelson

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob D'Amico
Bj Chotiner
Celeste Benoit
Jim Kearney
Ted Endriss
John M. Baulski
Charlene Baulski
Mary Shea
Eleanor Porriello
Nick Porriello
Jean Cassella
Eleanor Morrison
Aline Grandazzo
Sandy Kiehm
Barb Delicata
John Moynoski & Laurel
David Chalifoux
Neal Pearson
Cassandra Koerner
Brian Polak
Sandra & Mark Soby
Rich Dilraziano

Sandy DiRuzza
Mary-Beth Russo
James Nicholson
Vincent Sheehan
Keha Esposito
Betty Barsavich
Ben Napierski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual HLA Meeting of May 19, 2019 were read and a motion to accept was made by Vice President, Anthony Grandazzo and seconded by Treasurer, Bob Kiehm.

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

Financial Secretary, Sheri Berger presented the Tax Collector report for the Fiscal year 7/1/2020- 6/30/2021. **MIL RATE 3.2**

The tax remained unchanged at 3.2 mils with a \$100 base minimum.

***Please find attached the Tax Collector Report/List of all outstanding Delinquent Tax payments.**

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer, Bob Kiehm reports that for the month of April 2021 the **Income** was \$1.93
Tax collections \$0 and Interest income of the \$1.93

Expenditures for the month of May so far are \$21,819.99

\$313.74 under **Admin.Supplies & Expenses**-for annual membership to the Connecticut Federation of Lakes, \$150 and \$163.74 to President, Jay Cassella for reimbursement for supplies related to the annual meeting. \$2429.51 under **Property Maintenance Additional**-\$840 to Bravo Landscaping labor to install drainage on the (3) beaches, \$1589.51 to President, Jay Cassella for reimbursement for rental equipment and beach material for installing drainage systems on the (3) beaches. \$76.74 under **Miscellaneous BOG**- for anchors for the buoy system to mark the swimming areas off the (3) beaches.

Comments: Currently we are \$72,020.36 under our approved annual budget of \$113,000. We have spent \$36,540.53 from our General Reserve line items. Our Bank account balances total \$125,532.87

***Please find the April ending treasurer report attached**

SEPTIC REPORT

23 Tanks emptied last year, none reporting significant problems. The new pump out season begins July 1st.

DAM REPORT

None

ROAD COMMITTEE

No report

LAKE REPORT

The lake committee has been working diligently on many different aspects of lake management. The first annual chemical treatment is scheduled for June. There has been much discussion as to the issue regarding muck accumulation and the loss of depth we are experiencing. There are four satellite images on display indicating the depth of Hidden Lake at the specific points. Each location has been labeled with the two different depths. These areas are measured in meters.

The GPS coordinates supplied in the above described studies to locate the areas measured and charted them on satellite maps. The numbers at each location indicates the depth. The first number indicates the measured depth in 2005 the second number in 2018. This allows for the comparison and in most locations, the measured loss of depth. Also on the table is information regarding some of the solutions that the committee is investigating. The water testing is scheduled to be done in June and then in August. Invasive weeds are a great concern. The transporting of weeds from other bodies of water by way of hitchhikers on boats is a matter that must be dealt with. The Connecticut river is infested with Hydrilla. A very aggressive plant that is easily transported. According to the DEEP it will take millions of dollars to eradicate. With Hidden Lake being of such close proximity to the river it is vital we enforce our laws. It may even be necessary to restrict boating to only boats residing open our lake. This would mean prohibiting association members guests from putting their boats in our lake. It is something to consider.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The decorations are going up for Memorial Day, July 4th very soon. New flower boxes at the beaches also being filled very soon. Looking forward to the Yearly Tag Sale on July 17th as well as the Annual Wine Tasting in the Fall.

Welcome baskets continue to be made for all of our new home owners !

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Audit was completed and everything is in order.

BY-LAW COMMITTEE

Much work has been done by Chairperson, Bob Kiehm and the By-Law Committee to organize all of the recommended amendments to our By-Laws.

There will need to be a "Special Meeting" to go through the process of making any amendments to our By-Laws. The special meeting will happen by means of an invitation that will go out to all of our association members in the coming months ahead.

WEB-SITE

No report

FACEBOOK

No report

SPECIAL PROJECTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

The main topic other than the Budget and the election of officers is the destruction of property by the beavers. Many association members are here today to get to the bottom of this ongoing problem. It is apparent that we will need to vote on how we move forward. Our options are basically to leave them alone and deal with the loss of trees and destruction of property or to euthanize the beavers.

A lengthy discussion by many association members ensued covering tree damages, beaver dams, dangerous fallen trees, dangerous stake shaped tree stumps left behind, the possibility of a long term management plan, saving wildlife, other beavers will come again, aggressive animals, fear for children, possible trapping and relocating. After much discussion including cost of tree removal and new plantings as well as cost to trap & euthanize the beavers. An Association vote was taken (28) vote to euthanize the beavers and (9) vote to leave wildlife as they are.

The majority rules and the Beavers will be removed.

Vice President, Anthony Grandazzo asked of the cost to euthanize a beaver. President, Jay Cassella says he was told approximately \$200 per beaver. We believe there are 4-5 beavers currently.

Treasure, Bob Kiehm motions to have President, Jay Cassella make the call to get a permit and have the beavers trapped and euthanized. Vice President, Anthony Grandazzo seconds.

NEW BUSINESS

President, Jay Cassella gave all members a copy of the budget.

President, Jay Cassella asks if there are any questions regarding the budget.

Financial Secretary, Sheri Berger explains the tax increase owing to the recent home assessments on our properties. President, Jay Cassella states that he would like to propose that the Association also have a tax increase. A group discussion occurs regarding the BOG perhaps waiting until next year since everyone will have a higher tax bill already with the recent assessments. Board Member, Victoria Nicholson states that unfortunately it is needed. She explains that we will need to hire for work to be done around the lake moving forward as volunteers have really dropped off over the past few years.

President, Jay Cassella explains that the 2 % increase will be approximately \$40 per household.

A motion is made by Association member, Nick Porriello to accept the budget as is with the increase in HLA Tax and is seconded by Association Member, Barbara Delcotta.

President, Jay Cassella places the proposed budget and tax increase to a vote by all association members present. The vote is (18) yes and (5) no. Majority rules and the Hidden Lake Association budget for Fiscal year 2021/2022 passes as does the 2021/2022 tax increase.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Officers of the HLA Association are as follows:

President, Jay Cassella read off the slated Board Members for election today as is below:
Jay Cassella, President

Anthony Grandazzo, Vice President
Bob Kiehm, Treasurer
Sheri Berger, Financial Secretary
Victoria Nicholson, Board Member (Term expires 2022)
Heather Edelson, Board Member (Term expires 2023)
Cindy Porriello, Board Member(Term expires 2021)**UP for RE-ELECTION**
ADDITIONAL TERM
Lori-Ann Hoberman, Recording Secretary **RESIGNING**

The association agreed that all officers that are currently in place should remain in place.

The current Board has done an outstanding job! Thank you for your continued service to the association.

Vice President, Anthony Grandazzo elected Association Member, Jim Kearney as the new Recording Secretary. The Association agreed with this nomination. All in favor. Jim Kearney is the new recording secretary beginning June 1, 2021. Welcome Jim!
Board Member, Victoria Nicholson thanked Lori-Ann Hoberman for all of her hard work during her term. President, Jay Cassella nominates Cindy Porriello to remain. As a Board member for another term. All in favor! Welcome once again Cindy!

President Jay Cassella adjourned the Annual Meeting of the Hidden Lake Association on May 16th 2021 at 3:20 p.m. President, Jay Cassella thanked all of the Association Members for coming to the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lori-Ann Hoberman
Recording Secretary