

January 4, 2021 Witches Woods Tax District

Board of Directors Minutes - Draft

Due to the State of Connecticut social distancing recommendations for Corona virus 19, the Board held a Zoom virtual meeting which was recorded.

Members Present: Mike Moran, Tom Pandolfi, Sandy Pandolfi, Phyllis Bonneau, Ray Bonneau, Maggie Houlihan, Bill Breslau and John Barber. Absent was Glen Humes.

President Mike Moran opened the meeting.

A Motion was Made, Seconded and Approved to Accept Last Month's Minutes. The vote was unanimous.

Reports of Committee Chairs:

Lake, Dam and Beaches - John Barber

- Lake Level - On Christmas day I received an email with a concern about the high level of the lake due to the recent rain storm. The homeowners were concerned about the lake freezing, which would negatively impact their boat. I responded the next day saying we always try to keep the lake level 2-3 feet below normal during the winter to prevent freezing of permanent structures near the water. I also mentioned the valve was quite open. I believe the valve has been open ever since that time. I mentioned keeping the lake at a particular level is not an exact science. It involves trial and error on the valve setting. One major factor is how much Lake Bungee is emptying into Witches Woods. I have noticed the valve from Bungee has also been quite open since Christmas.

- Dam Inspection - I asked Karl Acimovic when we could expect the final dam report. He replied as follows:
 We are currently working to synthesize everything from the two site visits and will then finish up the sketches that go into the back of the report. Realistically I think we are looking at everything completed and ready for you to read and sign by the second or third week of January. The report must be submitted to DEEP typically within 30 to 60 days of the inspection, however, the statute allows until March 15, 2021 before it is considered late. The final inspection was done on November 19th. I sent Karl a picture showing the cattails had been removed at the spillway.
- Leaning Trees - I got three estimates for cutting down the three leaning trees. There were two trees on Crooked Trail and one on Crooked Trail Ext. The least expensive option for all three was to leave the trees on the side of the road cutting the trunks in 4 foot sections. Both Lindon Tree and WCs Tree Service gave me estimates of \$900. Chad Hart gave me an estimate of \$600, therefore, I asked Chad Hart to cut down the 3 trees and he completed the job on December 28th, and I am awaiting his bill.
- Solitude Lake final evaluation - I received the following lake evaluation from Paul Conti on December 10th.
 From our late season survey at Witches Woods Lake, we found a moderate abundance of native plants distributed throughout the lake's littoral zone. The most common plants found were Thinleaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton spp.*), and Tapegrass (*Vallisneria americana*). In lesser densities were Naiad (*Najas minor*), and coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*). Very few filamentous algae mats were observed growing on the bottom of the pond. Water clarity was high indicating that little microscopic algae were present. The macroalgae *Nitella* was found in healthy densities. No invasive plants were found. The highest volume of plants was found in the cove and the sandbar. Overall,

Witches Woods Lake looks to be in good health. I do not expect any ecological issues to arise in 2021 regarding the plant distribution. Being that some blue-green algae was observed late in the season, the lake should continue to be monitored. If serious abundances of blue-green algae or other microscopic algae's occur, treatments should be performed. Microscopic algae blooms are recognized through changes in water color. If water becomes green and turbid, and sometimes soupy, a microscopic algae bloom is taking place. Sampling the water and analyzing it for nutrients can also better gauge the potential for algae blooms. Water quality samples cost around \$400 per sampling event.

Building, Zoning & Appeals - Ray Bonneau

- Permit # 21-308B was issued Frank Mauri of 21 Indian Spring Road for replacement windows.
- Beavers continue to cause concern. Ray contacted a certified Beaver removal trapper who charges \$250 set up fee, \$50 a day for trap(s) inspection and \$300 for each beaver caught. The board will consider this trapper but will get two other bids.

A Motion was Made, Seconded and Approved to authorize not more than three thousand dollars for the removal of the beavers. The vote was unanimous.

Safety, Rules, and Regulations - Bill Breslau

- Bill opened a discussion of the signage policy on the lake. Our current guidelines are very specific as to permissible signage and Bill will put a committee to review our current policy.

Roads - Tom Pandolfi: Tom had nothing new to report.

Communications - Phyllis Bonneau:

- Phyllis had nothing new to report.

Treasurer - Maggie Houlihan:

- Happy New Year! Attached is the December 2020 Financial Report for your review. The District is in excellent fiscal health with (3) deposits from Tax Collection and (8) recent bill payments to:
Eversource (street lighting)

Solitude Lake Management (late season survey)

Eli Spink (tree removal for stand pipe project on Indian Spring Rd.

Amazon Prime Video (billed in error)

(2) payments to Full Myle Grounds (November mowing and leaf pickup, December snow plowing payment)

Fred Chmura (tree removal – Capital funds)

Eli Spink (stand pipe project – Capital funds)

- The Reserve Fund Certificate of Deposit earned \$30.15 in interest and the (4) Amazon payments billed in error for a total of \$25.96 was reimbursed.
- I also responded to the US Census Bureau – 2020 Annual Survey of Local Government Finances on December 13. This is an 11 page survey for last fiscal year (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) which primarily focused on debt (we had none) and Capital expenditures (we had none); a fairly easy survey compared to last year.

The Next Zoom Board Meeting will be held on February 1st, 2021 @ 6:30PM.

The Board would like to remind homeowners that they are welcome to attend this and any Monthly Board Meeting to

observe the proceedings. Should they wish to bring something to the Board for review, they are asked to submit a notice prior to the meeting so it may be added to the agenda for an allotted time.

A Motion was Made, Seconded and Approved to adjourn the meeting.
The vote was unanimous.