

Friends of Lake Williams (FLW)
Annual Meeting at the Acre
10:00 a.m. June 12, 2021

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BOD Attendees: Kim Cavanna, President; Diane Marquis, Vice President; Tony Tyler, Treasurer; Brenda Quesnel, Secretary; Mark Weller, Director; Rich Lesh, Director; Barb Lesh, Director; Paul Cote, Director; Dyan Kozaczka, Director

BOD Not Present: Mike Nastri, Director; Mark Colletta, Director

Additional Attendees (per sign-up sheet): Norman Quesnel, Ryk Nelson, Philip Pitruzello, Amanda & James Pomerleau, Bob & Michele Millham, Emily Swiatek, Andrew LaTour, John Collisson, Dan & Betty Hirth, Kerie Choniere, Paul Dognello, Kenny Serbin, Dawn Jacques, Duff Miller, Tom Sholly Linda York, Lad Bethune; Kevin Cwikla (First Selectman Town of Lebanon)

Call to Order: Kim Cavanna, President, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

President's Report:

- Kim C. shared how happy we are to be able to finally meet in person this year. She provided an update as to the fact that the BOD continued to meet monthly throughout last year and this year via Zoom to keep everything moving forward.
- The test and learn using an Eco-harvester as a potential chemical free solution took place in 2020 did not go as well as hoped, but we did learn a lot. It is not off the table as a solution, but it is recognized we would need to own the equipment and use it throughout the season to make a difference.
- We are now members of the CT Federation of the Lakes, which was formed about 20 years ago to assist with the management of lake health across CT. FLW BOD members have attended a number of their symposiums and conferences, and it has proven to be a great resource for our committees.
- Mark Coletta, Director, has been faithfully monitoring the clarity of our lake water every other week using a Secchi disc and uploading our data to the CT Lake Watch. This allows us to compare our water clarity to that of other lakes in CT.
- We have made enormous strides with the Town of Lebanon in getting them up to date as to what we are dealing with from the invasive weeds and algae.
- Another great stride is the fact that we have hired Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR) as a professional consulting firm that provides personal lake management programs. They will also assist us with the complex process of filing for a grant supported by the Stamp Act funds.

Treasurer's Report 7/1/21-6/12/21

Opening Balance 28,696.37

Revenues

Membership Dues & Donations \$6,594.00
3rd Party Donations \$4,097.44 Amazon Smile, Benevity and other non-member donations Interest Earned \$0.00
Website Ads \$60.00
Calendars \$1,000.00
Tag Sales \$0.00
Game Day \$0.00
Merchandise \$0.00
Total Revenue \$11,751.44

Expenses

Milfoil & Fanwort Treatment \$9,095.00
Water Quality Testing & Treatment \$1,436.00
Banking Fees \$8.00
FLW Merchandise/Calendars \$362.82
Insurance - Bond \$100.00
Insurance - Liability \$1,074.00
Postage/Mailings/Newsletter © \$92.00
State Filing Fees
Dues & Subs \$179.68 Go Daddy, CT Federation of Lakes **Total Expenses \$12,347.50**

Surplus (Deficit) -\$587.55

CD Transfers \$0.00
Checking account balance \$28,100.32
CD balance \$0.00
Cash Balance \$0.00

Submitted by: Tony Tyler Treasurer

Ryk Nelson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Norm Quesnel seconded, and all voted in favor.

Membership Report:

- We have 65 members for the 2021-2022 calendar year. This is just the start of this year's membership drive, and we are approximately ½ way to the membership count of last year. Discussion held that we need to drive up voluntary membership if we are going to keep up with the rising costs associated with maintaining a healthy lake. A minority percentage of the residents are taking the burden of the costs.
- Some suggestions from the group:
 - Provide a supportive sticker/decal/sign for residents who support FLW to display on mailboxes or homes.
 - Consider a thermometer to display fundraising to goals.

- Brenda Quesnel, Secretary, made a motion to accept the membership report, Diane Marquis, Vice President, seconded and all voted in favor.

Lake Treatment:

- Solitude is the company that will perform the herbicide treatment in July of this year. We are already seeing the benefits of working with NEAR as they have helped us pinpoint the ideal time for treatment. Apart from last year, the lake was treated in June. June works for Milfoil but is too early for Fanwort and it is a contact-based treatment and Fanwort has not grown as much as necessary.
- Last year's treatment was delayed due to permitting issues and Covid related complications. It turned out to our advantage as the weeds were well established and the treatment in mid-August had fantastic results.
- This year the treatment will take place on July 28th (weather permitting). NEAR will perform a pre-treatment survey July 16th. NEAR will plot out a detailed grid of aquatic plants. They will also advise Solitude of the ideal treatment mapping.
- We will require a post treatment survey in 2022 to secure the permit for the 2022 treatment. The DEEP requires a survey of the State-owned property, however, will not contribute to the cost.
- There are only 2 companies approved by the State of CT to treat our lake – Solitude and All Habitat.
- Questions came up regarding treatment with Proselicor or by using Carp. Currently Proselicor is cost prohibitive, however, could be considered if we get a grant. Research on the Carp found that they do not like to eat Milfoil or Fanwort and will eat all other vegetation first. With that said, all options remain on the table, and we will work with the experts from NEAR to help determine the ideal approach for our lake.

Water Quality:

- FLW first consulted with NEAR after sending a water sample to an independent lab that indicated the phosphorus levels were elevated. The outcome of the sample was questioned as it was collected shortly after a storm, however, it raised concerns of a need for additional testing.
- NEAR is currently analyzing samples of water collected every other week from two designated locations on the lake. We have also shared samples of algae that tested positive for cyanobacteria.
- Water samples for April came back as mesotrophic – middle of the range for nutrient levels. As the season goes on and the weeds get thicker and bigger the nutrient level will likely elevate.

- Residents should avoid use of lawn fertilizer, soap runoff, and septic runoff into the lake as it will add to the nutrients that encourage growth of the weeds and contribute to the issues.

Community Outreach:

- The last year had been remarkably busy with informal meetings with the State and the Town of Lebanon. Our State Representatives attended the Eco-harvester event and were supportive. It has been difficult to arrange meetings and get things done this past year with Covid, however, progress was made.
- Tony Tyler, Treasurer, Diane Marquis, Vice President, and Brenda Quesnel, Secretary, met with the Town of Lebanon Planner and the Open Space Committee members. They have committed to helping to facilitate and participate in a joint meeting with the DEEP, the Uncasville Health District and our State Representatives to discuss a partnership in maintaining the health of our lake.
- The Town of Lebanon has contributed \$6,375 per year towards our treatment. That amount was originally established as their portion of a 50/50 split between the Town and our non-profit organization. The costs have grown significantly since that time, and they no longer share the costs equally. The Town has been paying us through the monies set aside for the dam fund (funded by the lake residents to maintain the dam) and only \$17k remains.
- Lake Williams is enjoyed by the public and can be accessed via the State of CT owned property and the Town of Lebanon owned property.
- FLW needs to make it clear to the Town and the State that there are downstream impacts to other water bodies. Water flowing over the dam brings the invasive species to Brewster Pond and Bartlett Brook and from there flows into Sabin Lake which is wholly owned by the State. If nothing is done, the problem will continue to spread across the other water bodies.
- The properties associated with Lake Williams represent \$1.2 M of the \$26M in tax revenue for the town. As such, the Town has a vested interest in keeping the lake healthy.
- Members shared that there continues to be a lot of activity with boats (including those with motors) being launched from the Town and State-owned properties.
- There is approximately \$17k left in the dam maintenance fund. This fund was created when the Town of Lebanon purchased the dam. It was the 150 residents on the lake at the time that put the money into the fund. None of the money in the dam fund came from the State or Town of Lebanon.

Fundraising Committee

- NEAR will be helping us apply for the Stamp Act Grant in the coming year. We do monitor the Grant websites regularly and there are currently no other grants available in CT for preserving the health of a lake. We will continue to monitor.
- Brenda Q. has sent letters to many local businesses asking for donations or information on any local grants they may sponsor. Member are encouraged to reach out to Brenda if they have a relationship with a business and would like a similar letter sent out.
- Many employers/corporations will contribute to 501C non-profits supported by their employees or offer matching contributions or contributions in exchange for volunteer hours.
- Suggestions:
 - Place fundraising thermometers at the beaches and by the dam. Place a QR code on the display that will provide a direct link to our membership donation page.
 - Provide those who donate or join FLW a decal to show their support of FLW.
 - Place an ad in Lebanon Life seeking support or donations.
 - Pass the hat when hosting a party at the lake or ask for a donation instead of a gift from anyone who borrows your lake home.
 - Looking for a volunteer to help run the Mile Long Tag Sale
 - Looking for anyone to help volunteer.
- Looking for photos of the lake throughout all the seasons to include in our calendar. These should be taken in the largest size possible These can be sent to Tony Tyler.

Director Nominations and Elections

- Barbara Lesh, Director, was the only member of the BOD whose term is expiring. She chose to submit her resignation rather than continuing on the BOD. As such, there was no need to vote on the current slate of Directors.
- Rich Lesh also resigned from the BOD.

Motion to Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Quesnel – Secretary FLW