

March 1, 2021 Witches Woods Tax District

Board of Directors Minutes

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, John Barber, Phyllis Bonneau, Ray Bonneau, Bill Breslau, and Maggie Houlihan

Members Absent: Glenn Humes, Tom Pandolfi, and Sandy Pandolfi

President Mike Moran opened the meeting at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

A Motion was Made (Breslau), Seconded (Barber) and Approved to Accept February 2021 Minutes. The vote was unanimous.

Reports of Committee Chairs:

Lake, Dam and Beaches - John Barber

- Valve Inspection

Our sluice gate/valve is scheduled to be inspected by the Rodney Hunt Company on Friday (2/26) at 1:30. Their full report will be issued within five business days of the receipt of our payment, but it was indicated that everything was fine. Eric and I attended the evaluation.

I have been in touch with Karl Acimovic regarding the dam inspection. Karl prefers to have the valve inspection included with the dam inspection. The dam inspection is due by March 15. I believe Mike will need to sign off on the dam inspection.

- Cyanobacteria (Algae) Blooms

Last year, we experienced an algae bloom, also known as a cyanobacteria bloom. Jean Pillow, who is the Project Manager of the Eastern Connecticut Watershed Conservation District, let me know about kits she is ordering that will detect if lakes have cyanobacteria blooms and whether they are the toxic type or not. Not all cyanobacteria blooms are toxic. I have asked Jean to order a kit for us.

The kit and testing are sponsored by the Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative and are cost free, including the mailing of the samples. I will gather the samples, probably with the help of Cindy and Grant Jones, two local volunteers who helped me gather samples last year. The only drawback is results may not have a quick turnaround. Solitude Lake would be charging us \$400 per sample for similar testing.

- Secchi Disk

Last year, Jean Pillo let me know about something called a Secchi Disk, so I bought one. The Secchi Disk is a circular, black and white disk that is used to measure water clarity by lowering it in the water and tracking the depth where it is no longer visible. Water clarity can be impacted by boat traffic, winds, soil erosion or algae productivity. It can alert us to potential water issues. If possible, Jean recommends doing readings every 2 week from mid-April through mid-September. I will try to do readings at least every month.

- Beach Sub-Committee

A discussion took place about forming a beach committee to address restorative work, especially on Indian Springs Rd. Beach. Mike Moran proposed this with suggestions of who might be interested, especially those neighbors who use it frequently. John Barber will form this committee by invitation.

Building, Zoning & Appeals - Ray Bonneau

- Permits for February 2021 (2 issued)

- Rachel Kulick 96 Indian Spring Rd
#21-25B 2/9/21 Remove old windows and replace with Marvin windows
- Rachel Kulick 96 Indian Spring Rd
#26B 2/9/21 Remove old siding and replace with Certainteed Board Vinyl siding

Communications - Phyllis Bonneau

- The web site is functioning fine. Nothing new to report

Safety, Rules, and Regulations - Bill Breslau

- A discussion took place regarding signs people post on their properties. Bill stated that the town of Woodstock is addressing their sign ordinance. Bill will review our language in the Covenant- Article 2 Paragraph D.

Roads - Tom Pandolfi

- No report

Woodstock Town Property Tax Assessment Appeal

- A discussion and update on our appeal concerning taxable lake properties ensued. Fred and Randi Chmura, Bill Breslau and Mike Moran are addressing this.

Treasurer - Maggie Houlihan

- The District is in excellent fiscal health with (4) deposits from Tax Collection and (7) bill payments to:
 - ✓ (2) payments to Full Myle Grounds (February snow plowing payment & resubmission of October snow plowing payment)
 - ✓ (2) payments to Bungay Fire Brigade (Reimbursement for

standpipe fittings from Capital and Operating)

- ✓ Solitude Lake Management (DEEP permit application)
 - ✓ Stonebridge Press (Taxes due notice in Woodstock Villager)
 - ✓ Borner Smith Aleman Herzog & Cerrone (Legal retainer – 1/2 annual fee)
-
- An additional payment was submitted to Full Myle Grounds for the October snowplowing payment to replace the check that was never cashed. Bungay Fire Brigade was issued (2) checks to cover the cost of standpipe fittings with (1) check from Capital and (1) check from Operating since the project did not receive cost sharing as originally planned and all Capital funds have been appropriated.

 - The Reserve Fund Certificate of Deposit is nearing maturity and earned \$27.37 in interest in February. The 13 month Reserve Fund CD was opened on February 28, 2020 with \$23,606.19 at an interest rate of 1.49% and will mature on March 30, 2021; the CD has currently earned \$353.54 in interest for a total value of \$23,958.77. The total Reserve fund is \$66,279.89 (\$23,958.77 in a CD + \$42,321.12 in Reserve Checking) and I recommend investing one half of the Reserve fund (\$33,140) in either:
 1. Putnam Bank a Division of Centreville Bank - 3 month CD at 0.35% (no additional paperwork and the short term may allow us to get a better rate in a few months)
 2. Hometown Bank - 7 month CD at 0.35% (additional paperwork)
-
- A motion was made (Breslau), seconded (Barber) and approved to reinvest one half of the reserve fund. The vote was unanimous.**
-
- Eversource requested a recertification of our tax exempt status and I submitted the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services Cert-115 for Exempt Purchases of Gas, Electricity, and

Heating Fuel. The exemption from sales and use taxes is based on WWTD being a governmental entity.

- Maggie will begin working on the FY 2021-22 budget and will be looking for input from the Board and Committee Chairs.

The Next Zoom Board Meeting will be held on April 5, 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 (Breslau), Seconded (Barber) and Approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Submitted by Phyllis Bonneau, substituting in Sandy Pandolfi's absence,
3/2/21