

**May 5th, 2020 Witches Woods Tax District**

**Board of Directors Minutes - Draft**

**Due to the State of Connecticut social distancing recommendations for Caronavirus 19, the Board held a Zoom virtual meeting.**

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

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

**Reports of Committee Chairs:**

**Lake, Dam and Beaches – John Barber**

- **On May 4<sup>th</sup> several members of the Board and homeowner Tom Gotta of 115 Crooked Trail Extension joined a virtual meeting of the Town of Woodstock Inlands Wetlands Committee to talk about the status of the copper sulfata issue resulting from the homeowner of 119 Crooked Trail Extension using unknown amounts of copper sulfata to kill all of the grass on her property.**

**The Committee has agreed to send a letter to the State of Connecticut Deep asking for the status of their activities and their intentions.**

**Tom Gotta also addressed the erosion that is occurring at 119 Crooked Trail Extension and how it is affecting the two homes that border the property. Tina Lajoie agreed meet with Tom and John at the location and she will be joined by an additional member if the Inland Wetland committee. Tentative date is May**

**11th. Tom Gotta requested that the Inlands Wetlands committee petition the DEEP to conduct a water solubility test to determine the level of copper sulfate in the soil.**

- A homeowner notified the Board of his concern of vegetation growth on his properties water's edge and asked that it be removed. The vegetation appears to be Cattail Typha Latifolia commonly known as cattails and can be found in several locations around the lake. They provide cover for wildlife, notably birds that nest and mate in the rushes, offer protection for young fish and are important to a lakes ecosystem. Their roots remove pollutants from the water and aid in the decomposition of organic materials that wash ashore. The Board agreed that it is up to individual homeowners to remove the cattails on their property if that is their choice but we as a Board feel that they are very beneficial to the lake. The plant is tuberous and can easily be pulled out of the water. The Board will give the homeowner permission to remove the cattails without using any chemicals and a few members volunteered to help him as good neighbors if needed.**
- John spoke with Full-Myle Grounds, LLC about our mowing budget. We have \$800 left for the remainder of this fiscal year so we need to be mindful not to overspend it. Miles mentioned that there are some birch trees near the spillway that are bending over and are in his way when he is mowing. Glen volunteered to cut them down.**
- John will speak to Solitude Lake Management to get a better understanding of a \$700 line item that appears in our contract for treatment of emergent species near the spillway.**

## **Building, Zoning & Appeals – Ray Bonneau**

Permit # 20-70B was issued to Wilson and Tricia Burgos for a new deck.

## **Safety, Rules, and Regulations – Bill Breslau**

- A homeowner expressed a concern over an incident when they were walking around the lake. A dog ran off its' property and lunged out them. A confrontation occurred with the dog's owner and the homeowner who notified by Glen. The dog's owner was told that he must ensure that the dog must stay in the yard and he must not act in a threatening manner.
- A reminder to contact Mike Moran if you need a new Witches Woods Lake sticker for your boats or watercraft.
- 2020-2021 Boat Registrations are due and should be sent to Sandy Pandolfi @ [woodstock1229@aol.com](mailto:woodstock1229@aol.com) or [secretary@wwlake.com](mailto:secretary@wwlake.com).
- Open Burning – The Board received some concerns over open burning so we contacted the State of Connecticut and the Town of Woodstock for some clarification. Per the State of Connecticut regulations for Open Burning on Residential Property: *Residents looking to burn must have a valid and signed permit from their local Open Burning Official. Open burning is not allowed to clear land prior to construction activities or as a means to dispose of construction debris, household trash or leaves.*

*The DEEP and your local municipality limit open burning for public health and safety reasons. Open burning is defined as the burning of any matter in such a manner that the products of combustion resulting from the burning are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or flue. Open*

*burning pollutes the air and can make it difficult for people with respiratory problems to breathe, particularly for those in densely populated areas. Open burning can create nuisance odors and smoke that may adversely affect your neighbors and create a dangerous condition. Loss of control in the midst of open burning can result in forest fire and destruction of property. When conducting any type of burning, the utmost caution must be exercised to prevent injury to yourself or family members, and to prevent damage to your home or any neighboring properties.*

The Town of Woodstock requires that the Fire Marshall must be contacted prior to any open burning for determination of issuing a permit.

Roads – Tom Pandolfi:

- Tom is working with John Albrecht to start our spring road maintenance as soon as the spring rains allow.
- Two trees fell on Crooked Trail Extension during recent wind storms and Glen volunteered to remove any part of the trees that were in the road.

Communications – Phyllis Bonneau:

- Phyllis will post the draft budget information on our website [www.wwl.com](http://www.wwl.com) for homeowners review and information to join our June monthly meeting which will replace the 2020 Witches Woods Tax District Annual Meeting.

Treasurer- Maggie Houlihan:

- *By executive order, Governor Lamont has prohibited Town Hall Meetings for municipalities and has given the authority to*

*approve municipal budgets for fiscal 2020/2021 to elected municipal officials. Therefore, we will not have an annual meeting this year.*

- Maggie reviewed the proposed 2020-2021 Operating and Capital Spending budgets and the Five Year Capital Plan budgets and finalized the Draft budgets.

A Motion was Made, Seconded and Approved to Accept a Draft Budget for FY 2020/2021 with NO INCREASE in the mil rate from 2019/2020.

A Motion was made, Seconded and Approved to Accept a Draft Operating Budget for FY 2020-2021.

A Motion was made, Seconded and Approved to Accept a Draft Capital Expenditure Budget for FY 2020-2021.

A Motion was made, Seconded and Approved to Accept a Draft Five Year Capital Improvement Plan thru 2025.

- On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 6:30 PM the Board will meet via Zoom. Again, this meeting will replace the 2020 Witches Woods Tax District Annual Meeting. Homeowners are encouraged to attend however their participation will be limited to comments and questions but will not have voting rights per Governor Lamont's mandate. Draft budgets and information on the Zoom Board meeting are here: <https://www.wwlake.com/notices-announcements>

Included on the agenda will be:

- Approve final 2020/2021 Operating Budget
  - Approve final 2020-2025 Five Year Capital Plan.
  - Approve final 2020/2021 Capital Spending.
  - Interim Appointment of Officers and Directors (as per WWTD Bylaws) to continue to serve until the next general meeting.
- Maggie reviewed the April 2020 Financial Report. The District continues to be in good financial standing with the following recent activity:
    - (3) bill payments: Full-Myle Grounds, LLC (April snowplowing payment), Eversource (street lighting), and USPS (stamps for the Tax Collector, Communications Chairperson, and Treasurer).
    - deposit into Operating Checking (tax collection).
    - Reserve Fund Certificate of Deposit earned \$28.89 in interest.
    - All WWTD financial accounts are with Putnam Bank which was recently acquired by Centreville Bank on May 1. The official notification states all current branches of Putnam Bank will conduct business under the name “Putnam Bank, a division of Centreville Bank.” Centreville Bank is headquartered in West Warwick, Rhode Island and is a mutual bank, which means they are owned by depositors, not shareholders. There are no changes to our accounts at this time.

**New Business: Mike Moran:**

**Nothing additional to report.**

**The Next Board Meeting will be conducted via Zoom on June 1st @ 6:30PM.**

**A Motion was Made, Seconded and Approved to adjourn the meeting.**