

**LAKE CARMEL PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – November 14, 2016
Town of Kent Town Hall**

VISUAL ROLL CALL: 7:03 p.m.

Present:

Pat Madigan
Brett Harrison
Cathy Wargas
Rachael Paradise
Paul Denbaum – Town Board Liaison

Absent:

Kathy Wiede
Dale Cusack
William Morris

Approval of Minutes - October 16, 2016, were amended to add that Dale Cusack was present and then unanimously approved.

New Business:

1. Meeting Procedures

- The Committee will follow the agenda to completion and then address comments and suggestions from the public.

2. Association of Lake Associations

- A new association has been formed and will be headed by Bruce Barber, who has been a consultant for environmental concerns on Lake Carmel. Under the new contract with the town, Bruce will now address lake issues town wide. According to Paul Denbaum, the association doesn't, as of yet, have set goals or expected outcomes, but once the plans are in place, Bruce will be the go-to person for concerns/issues. According to Paul, Bruce's position will cut out the back and forth between lake associations, their liaisons and the Town Board. From now on the lake associations and public will deal directly with Bruce. This will get information to lake stakeholders more efficiently.

3. Holiday Tree Lighting

- Brett will build a "snow ball" toss game. Cathy will get candy canes and cookies. Rachael will create a new flyer. Kathy will provide the hot chocolate and paper goods. Bill will order the tent. Pat will notify the police, Bob Bradley (Santa) and Frank Smith who prepares the 'barrel fire'.

4. House Decorating Contest

- Contest will have a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Pat, Brett and Rachael will be the judges. Winners will receive restaurant gift certificates: 1st Place \$100 Cutillo's, 2nd Place \$75 Healy's, 3rd Place \$50 McCarthy's.

5. Lake Drawdown

- It was drawn down about 30 inches but mud and sediment is more than in the past so it looks lower than normal. It could be drained another 6 inches per town regulation.

6. Massachusetts Conference Report

- Brett Harrison attended the conference and shared the following: 86 people were present. An interesting topic of discussion was the impact of drawdowns. One of the top cited reasons for doing so is weed control. Weeds help oxygenate and filter the water. (Over the summer at a TB meeting, the Cutrine expert said it appears that Lake Carmel actually has a shortage of weeds, which could cause algae growth.) Massachusetts is currently doing a study of 19 lakes and the effects of drawdowns with hopes they will learn whether it should be done every year, every other year or not at all. Brett said the symposium was great and it was important to learn that other lakes are having similar issues as Lake Carmel.

7. Retention Ponds Update

- 1st pond is complete. Vegetation was taken out, but beneficial plants were left. The park district employees weren't told about the work until that morning.
- Terry Hill and Lake Shore pond belonged to the county but was transferred to the town, which means the town should have been maintaining it over the years.
- The retention pond at Cottage Road now looks the way it is supposed to other than some cattails that were left. However, now that the vegetation has been cleared, it's easy to see the pond is in terrible condition. Perhaps maintenance of the pond itself will be included in the next phase. Brett had asked to be present for the clean-up of the pond, but was not informed it was taking place.
- The committee is still trying to find out what level of inspections have been done on the ponds in the past. Brett explained that there are three levels. The first can be done by anyone, but the second and third require more expertise. It is Brett's opinion that the pond at Cottage Road needs a level 2 inspection. Brett asked two weeks ago about the inspection process, but at the time of the meeting he was still awaiting a response from Bruce. He has asked three times for inspection reports from Bruce and Maureen Fleming to no avail. Paul will follow up.
- Pat discussed the other ponds in neighboring towns including the ponds by Ace Endico and the Southeast ball fields, which are beautifully maintained.
- Brett discussed the retention ponds at Patterson Crossing reiterating that ultimately the town is responsible for retention ponds and maintenance.

8. Spillway Update

- It took 5 weeks to get the TB resolution to Insite Engineering. Paul said the permits and compliance should be getting done now in order to be ready by spring. There are preliminary reports but not a complete estimate on cost. Brett asked if they needed to drain the lake to do the work. Paul said the town wouldn't know until the extent of the work is finalized.

9. Volleyball Courts

- A former resident wants to fund volleyball courts on the lake. Pat asked for more information from the former resident.

10. Public Comments

- Wally asked why seemingly healthy trees were slated to be cut down especially the willows on Lake Shore Drive East. Paul reassured him (and the committee) that the willow trees will not be cut down.

Motion to Adjourn: Agreed by all