

## HOLLAND LAKE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held on November 2, 2015

Called to Order: 7:04

**Attendance:** John Stevens, Lynn Arnold, Chad Brigham, Suzanne Wilbur, Eli Gillen, Dennis Allard

**Absent:** Chris McCooe

### Old Business:

- J. Stevens made a motion to accept the minutes as electronically distributed from the meeting held on October 5, 2015. C. Brigham seconded. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- L. Arnold made a motion to accept the minutes as electronically distributed from the meeting held on October 19, 2015. C. Brigham seconded. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Discussed RFP for the weed treatment. This will need to be written in the spring of 2016. Typically the town asks for a one-year price, a three-year price and to separate out the costs for treating in CT and MA. The RFP also requests the cost to be broken down by weed type (milfoil and other weeds). The RFP calls for surveys in the spring and fall. **L. Arnold** will look for the electronic copy of the last RFP.
- E. Gillen brought information about the Town's procurement policy, relating to the weed treatment RFP. Based on the estimated cost, the town will need three quotes. The challenge will be finding three companies to respond to the RFP.
- L. Arnold reported on the dates the Financial Committee will be meeting with various boards and a discussion of lake related items for those budgets followed.
  - January 20, 2016: Board of Selectman – RFP for weed treatment won't be out yet, but should prepare BOS for anticipated costs and recommended changes to the weed treatment. Request separate line items for dam and ramps.
  - January 27, 2016: Highway Department – Should clarify ramp maintenance costs, include cost for cleaning catch basin and retention basins, include costs for safety signs and buoys and new "no parking" signs. LOC will recommend to include cost for additional catch basins. Further discussion will happen at the next LOC meeting in order to meet with Brian Johnson sometime in December.
  - February 3, 2016: Police Department – Relevant items are lake patrol and a new boat.
  - February 24, 2016: Board of Health – Potential recommended changes to duration and locations of water testing.
- L. Arnold reported that the Dam and Ramp Maintenance budget line items has \$56,089. If the Dam Inspection is performed before June 30, 2016, it will come out of these funds. If it is performed after, it can be budgeted for in its own line item.
- The dam RFP was discussed. The next RFP needs to include a requirement for assessing the dam's operating mechanism.
- E. Gillen reported that Brian Johnson thought the state would not inspect a bridge or culvert that was not there. S. Wilbur disagreed on the basis of information she has received from MassDOT. **E. Gillen** will again ask Brian to submit a letter to MassDOT requesting an inspection.
- E. Gillen reported that the title search for the south boat launch is still in progress.

- **J. Stevens** will attend the next BOH meeting.
- **C. Brigham** is still looking into the deeded rights along Hamilton Reservoir and what other lakes charge for a parking or launching fee.
- The LOC revisited the discussion on revenue sources including a betterment or excise tax. It was decided that the LOC would go to the BOS in March, after budget talks were complete. Further discussion on this topic will occur at a future LOC meeting where Holland's tax collector, Steve Anderstrom, can attend. **D. Allard** will look into the lake related taxes in Sturbridge and Charlton.

**New Business:**

- Drawdown of Hamilton Reservoir began as planned. The First Selectman of Union, Andy Goodall, contacted Holland to inform of the upcoming start of the Mashapaug Lake drawdown. He had heard it would start November 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>. However, based on Hamilton Reservoir levels, it must have started earlier.
- L. Arnold suggested that we talk to the Army Corps of Engineers, specifically Keith Beecher who lives in Holland, to see if they can assist in the communication between Mashapaug Lake and Hamilton Reservoir care takers to better prepare for the increased flow of water in future years.
- L. Arnold brought up a potential grant opportunity through the state to raise money to work on the Dam. In the past, the state has allocated money to fix water related things, but the money has primarily been spent on the coastline. More recently, they have said they will split the money with some going inland. Rams Horn Pond in Milbury recently received \$1 million. **C. Brigham** will find out if this grant opportunity is happening again this year and what the process and timeline is.
- S. Wilbur posted meeting minutes and pictures into the online group and will continue to do so.
- **S. Wilbur** will find out how to get the meeting minutes posted on the Town's website.

Adjourned: 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Suzanne Wilbur, Secretary

C: Select Board, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Highway Department, File