

## HOLLAND LAKE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held on September 21, 2015

Called to Order: 7:06

**Attendance:** John Stevens, Eli Gillen, Lynn Arnold, Chad Brigham, Suzanne Wilbur, Val Lundin  
(Representing Conservation Committee in C. McCooe's absence)

**Absent:** Chris McCooe, Dennis Allard

### Old Business:

- C. Brigham made a motion to accept the minutes as electronically distributed. L. Arnold seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Reviewed the action items from the previous meeting:
  1. South basin boat launch repairs – Since our last meeting, it was discovered that the town might not own the lot where the boat launch is. Repairs are postponed until ownership can be confirmed. Task lies with the Board of Selectmen.
  2. Ensure safety of lake users – E. Gillen contacted Brian Johnson about the issue, but there has been no further discussion.
  3. Catch basin clean-up and retention basin clean up – E. Gillen reported that the highway department has been taking pictures with a date and time stamp to confirm that they are cleaning the retention basins. **E. Gillen** will follow-up to confirm that the highway department is doing this at least twice a year and to what the set schedule is.
  4. RFP for state required dam inspection – Dam inspection needs to be performed in 2016, but will likely need to happen in FY2017 (after June 30, 2016) based on availability of funding. This RFP can be based on an older version, but should be amended to include a clause about inspection of the operating mechanisms of the dam. **E. Gillen** will follow up with the BOS to determine who should be completing this RFP. **L. Arnold** found two of the last three Phase I Dam Safety Inspections. She will look for the third and make copies for discussion at a future meeting.
  5. Prepare RFP for next weed treatment. V. Lundin reported on C. McCooe's research. The contract with ACT ends on December 31, 2016 (according to ACT). However, the town's fiscal year ends on June 30, 2016. This poses a problem because the town will be billed for June's weed treatment in July 2016 (FY 2017). C. McCooe is also researching other contractors to perform this work. **E. Gillen** will ask Andy about the procurement rules and **L. Arnold** will look for the old RFP.
  6. Inspect both causeway culverts – S. Wilbur looked at the culvert at Mashapaug Road over Hamilton Reservoir (catalogued by the state as H-19-007, 67X). A small section of the corrugated steel structure was missing on the southwest corner. This section is not under the roadway, however a small asphalt repair has been made on Mashapaug Road near this location. It is recommended that Brian Johnson contact the MassDOT District 2 Bridge Inspection Engineer, Daniel Sund, to request an inspection. Contact information for the Inspection Engineer was provided to E. Gillen. **E. Gillen** will ask Brian Johnson to request an inspection.

7. Prevent January fishing derby water level adjustments – Clarification was requested and provided about why the water level adjustments were a problem. It was explained at the DEP permit allowing a drawdown allows a 24-inch drawdown. The water then must freeze and be in a hard freeze for 30 days before water is allowed back into the reservoir. A 30-consecutive-day hard freeze is usually not achieved by January. Additionally, the purpose of the drawdown is to allow the weeds to be encapsulated in ice. The theory is that once water is added back to the reservoir, the ice floats and pulls the roots from the ground. Eventually the weeds then float off.
  8. Combat illegal parking at Fisherman’s Launch and the small causeway – C. Brigham reported that the signs need to be replaced. **C. Brigham** will talk to B. Haughey about this.
  9. Address homeowner’s gating off access to public right-of-ways – The first step is to identify the right of ways in town and then compile a list of ones that re being restricted. **C. Brigham** reported that this effort will take about a month of work.
- **C. Brigham** continued his research into parking rates at other lakes and found that other lakes charge between \$8 and \$15 for vehicle parking (previous rates were \$30). He will tabulate his results for future discussion.

#### **New Business:**

- L. Arnold reported that she attended an All Boards meeting. They are held quarterly and are open to the public.
- The Board of Selectman are keeping a list of action items and some items from the LOC have made it onto the list.
- The town has a permit for cleaning trash out of the lake. Trash becomes visible after the drawdown. It was reported that Brian Johnson has said he would help with collecting debris from select locations.
- The Committee discussed inviting relevant parties to future meetings, including the Board of Health (BOH). The Committee feels that there are lots of overlap with the lake and the BOH including potable water, water testing, septic testing and more.
- John Stevens volunteered to be our BOH liaison and will attend BOH meetings to relay information and concerns when needed.
- Water testing performed under the BOH occurs Mondays from Memorial Day to Labor Day in five set locations. The LOC would like to discuss this testing further at a future meeting and provide recommendations to the BOH. Preliminary discussions included alternating locations, testing more than five locations, testing until Columbus Day and appropriate follow-up actions in areas where the test results are high.
- Discussion of long-term goals resulted in some prioritizing and grouping of items that are inter-dependent.
  - Long Term Goals:
    - Shorter Term:
      - Enforce by-law requiring address signs on docks – Discussed possible activity at the Community Center to paint your own sign.

#### Dam and Dredging:

1. Grants – Grants are required to get funding for dam repairs, permits, engineering and studies for the dredging and the dredging.
2. Dam Repair – Likely required before dredging can begin.
3. Dredging

Board of Health Related Issues:

- Testing wells as needed
- Testing septic systems as needed

BOS/Highway Department Related:

- Explore revenue sources – Parking, dock fees, excise tax on boats, taxing deeded rights, betterment tax. Group will discuss further at next meeting for presentation to BOS.
- Additional catch basins – May require an assessment to determine where additional catch basins are needed. Ideal outcome would be the Highway Department incorporating two new catch basins per year into their budget.
- Maintenance and repair of causeway culverts – Wait to schedule and receive inspection report to determine what is needed.
- The Committee agreed to not pursue a Notice of Intent to draw lake down by 36” (current NOI is for 24”)
- **C. Brigham** will contact Al Collins from the Congress of Lakes and Ponds (COLAP) and see if he is available to attend the meeting on November 2, 2015 to discuss his experience with dredging.
- It was discussed that maintenance of Fisherman’s Landing is the town’s responsibility.
- There is a budget line item for Boat Ramp Maintenance/Dam and Boat Ramp Maintenance. Money in this fund is supposed to roll over into the next year if it goes unspent. **L. Arnold** will look into the total amount in this account. Additionally, the engineer is paid out of it for the Phase I Safety Inspection. It was suggested that this every-other-year inspection have its own line item.
- The next meeting will be Monday, October 5, 2015 at 7pm.

Adjourned: 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Suzanne Wilbur, Secretary

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