

**CEDAR LAKE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CLAC)**  
**MINUTES**  
**April 2017**

Call to order at 7:13pm 24 April 2017

In attendance were Tom Brelsford, Christine Darnell, Denise Learned, Nancy Byrne and Chris Hayward.

Reading of the minutes by Tom Brelsford from the 30 January 2017 meeting of the CLAC.

Motion to accept minutes made by Tom, seconded by Denise and followed by unanimous yeas.

No audience of citizens.

Old business:

Mission statement – Christine presented preliminary mission statement(s) to the Committee. Christine will work with committee member Ted Taigen on further development of the mission statement. Tom announced the topic will be tabled until next meeting.

Legislative update-Chris Fryxell told Tom the Lake Authority Funding Bill was still alive. Tom told the committee (Tom) sent a letter to the State of Connecticut with a request to change the language of the Bill to include all Lakes and not just 'Lake Authorities'. Still pending.

Public education mailing – Christine shared sample mailings from Conn River Coastal Conservation District. A lengthy discussion followed yielding the following plan:

CLAC will send a series of four (4) post card mailings at one month intervals beginning in June.

The cards will be 8 ½” by 5 ½”, color and two sided.

Estimated cost for printing 1,500 cards is \$207 plus shipping and postage.

The first mailing topic is 'watershed' and this card will also be an introduction to the committee, the second mailing topic is 'septic pumping', the third is fertilizing practices and the fourth is vegetation buffers.

The 'septic pumping' mailing will contain the town septic ordinance and act as a 'friendly reminder' for resident to keep the required pump out schedule. Tom remarked that the town sanitarian should be contacted/informed before the 'septic pumping' cards are sent. Tom will look into placing a septic pumping notice in next Chester Event publication. Denise noted the due date was June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Tom suggested someone from the UCONN extension center should be invited to speak at a CLAC meeting and the event may be advertised on the 'vegetation buffer' mailing card.

Denise offered to generate / design the digital versions of the mailings and submit the files to the printer. It was suggested each draft be ready for review at each monthly CLAC meeting. The draft of the first mailing should be ready by May 5<sup>th</sup> and sent to printer on May 8th(?)ish.

Nancy and Denise will work on the first mailing. The first mailing will show a map of the Cedar Lake watershed. Chris Hayward will work on the second mailing (septic topic).

Tom suggested the committee decide on a possible name change before the mailings go out. After a discussion, the committee agreed that the name "Cedar Lake Advisory Committee" should be changed to "Cedar Lake Watershed Commission".

The committee discussed possible future mailings / topics such as animal waste, dogs and fisherman (items not associated).

Christine suggested using social media such as FaceBook.

Denise asked 'what our annual priorities are' which was followed by a discussion of past priorities. Chris Hayward addressed the milfoil problem and described the 'draw down' (lower lake level) method to eliminate milfoil. Tom talked about lake levels, beaver dams and the weir boards formally located at the RT 148 culvert. A discussion on weeds followed. The highlights are as follows:

There was a discussion of weather we want to spend town money to keep the boat launch clear of weeds. The committee members are interested keeping the swimming areas clear of weeds. The committee discussed Hydro-Raking and 'hand' raking methods for weed control. Weed control projects should include the town fire hydrant (pipe extending into the lake is often covered/clogged by weeds).

Past Hydro-Raking cost \$12k/yr. An area 900' x 100' cost approximately \$10k. A weed control contractor may offer services to lake side private property owners. Tom noted if future Hydro-Raking is performed at Cedar Lake the CLAC would need an annual budget of \$15k. This includes \$12k for Hydro-Raking and \$3k for educational mailings. This proposed budget will be submitted to the town.

Water quality testing-Tom suggested lake water be tested for nitrates/nitrites, phosphorus, algae and bacteria in conjunction with the town summer Coliform bacteria testing program. Samples are taken by the town at the two town beaches and Tom suggested another water sample be taken at the lake inflow. Denise said Camp Hazen tests lake water at the Camp Hazen beach once per week.

Christine noted we need a person from Parks and Recreation to be on the CLAC.

New business

Review of town ordinances. Discussed possible new ordinance of new septic systems being >300' from waters edge.

No other new business.

Next meeting will be at 7pm on Monday 22 May 2017 at Camp Hazen.

Members thanked Denise and Camp Hazen for hosting the CLAC meeting(s).

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Submitted by: Nancy Byrne