



"On The Agenda"

This newsletter was prepared and written by Jay Cassella, the President of Hidden Lake Association and may not necessarily express the opinions of the other Board members.

June 16, 2019

Newsletter

Issue 01

This months meeting is scheduled for:

June 24th at 6:30pm

The location: **The Annex Hall on Jail Hill Rd.**

Happy New Year!!

June marks a New Year here on Hidden Lake. For me it marks my 35th year as a Hidden Lake Association Member and my third year as President.

The elections held at the Annual meeting in May has allowed me to act as your President for another year. I am willing to take on the task and finish what I have started.

All of the other officers and Board members were also re-elected to their positions and I am looking forward to continuing the good work we have been doing to restore and preserve our most Lake Community.

Fallen on Deaf Ears

During the course of last year, the Board of Governors had many projects in which I had announced the need for volunteers. These requests seem to have "fallen on deaf ears". It is always the same folks that join together and give their time and energy for the betterment of our community. I appreciate the members that do join in the effort. You all work very hard and we seem to have a lot of fun working together. My problem is the discouragement shown by the ones that do volunteer whenever no one new shows up to help. I kind of feel the same discouragement for the same reason.

The reason behind our volunteer system here at Hidden Lake is to save money by not having to contract professionals to perform these duties. The more we can do ourselves, the less our taxes need to be.

Please consider joining the already dedicated members who volunteer for you.

Weed Report

As we all can see, there is an abundance of submersible weeds which is being investigated by The Pond and Lake Connection and will be taken care of as soon as possible. There is a delay in getting the proper permits for chemicals through the state of Connecticut DEEP.

One good thing is that we now know that the winter drawdowns do work for the lily pads as long as we get a good hard freeze while the lake is down. This past winter was not as good of a freeze as the Winter prior, but still there are many less lily pads then in the past.

Unfortunately, we now have to deal with the other species of weeds.

As soon as we know when or what we can do, I will let you all know. Please be patient. We are at the mercy of the DEEP.

Boat Registration

Now that the boating and fishing season has started, there are more and more boats out on the lake. It is evident as well, that many of us are taking advantage of the usage of electric motors.

Just a quick reminder; a Connecticut boat registration is required along side our own Lake member permit and both need to be displayed on the boat.

The requirement for a CT boat registration has been challenged by an association member. I have asked this member to provide proof that we are considered a private lake and do not need to register our boat for use on Hidden Lake.

Until this is proven, our By-Law stands as needing to be registered with the State of Connecticut DMV.

The local authorities have been notified of our new By-Law regarding electric motors and can enforce the laws of the State. This means you will be operating your boat "at your own risk"



"On The Agenda"

This newsletter was prepared and written by Jay Cassella, the President of Hidden Lake Association and may not necessarily express the opinions of the other Board members.

2019 April

Newsletter

Issue 04

This months meeting is scheduled for:

April 29th at 6:30pm

The location: **The Annex Hall on Jail Hill Rd.**

This Board meeting's agenda will include:

BUDGET

BY-Law amendments

Lake improvements

Spring is Here

FINALLY..... Spring is Here. Let's hope that all these "Spring showers bring May flowers." If it ever stops raining!

With May fast arriving, we must all turn our attention to the improvements needed to our lake and the our surrounding property and roads.

This meeting is going to focus on budgeting our money wisely. The Lake committee has been working hard to prepare their recommendations for the coming season's projects. The theory is to try different methods of weed control without the use of chemicals. Last season, being the second consecutive year of no chemicals and two winter draw-downs, it is evident that the choices so far have been wise. Hydro-raking and York raking have been two other aspects of weed control that have and continue to be investigated.

The road committee too have been working on their list of projects to tackle this season. East Shore drainage and the continuing efforts on Fairview are two of the items the Road Committee is reviewing. Catch basin cleaning is a priority this spring due to the high volume of debris captured in the basins from the chip-sealing process this past fall.

The By-Law committee is also preparing a list of long needed amendments to our By-Laws. It is the committee's recommendation that it is time we move Hidden Lake into the 21st century. There are many sections that are in need of rewording to better understand and act on these laws that govern our community.

Eye Candy

Sandy Kiehm, our Beautiful Beautification and Entertainment Committee chair person is in the planning stages of improving the appearance around lake and planning some fun events.

Sandy is asking for volunteers for both the Beautification and entertainment committees. Please feel free to contact her at: sik085@aol.com or call her at: 860-391-3653. Any little bit of help, helps.

Hydro-raking

This process is nothing new to the list of options offered for the purpose of controlling weeds. In fact, the Hidden Lake Association had attempted this process years ago but found that there were too many stumps in the way of a proper raking.

Today this process has been improved and is capable of removing stumps as it goes along. With the hard freeze we had last year and the semi hard freeze we had this past year, there have been many stumps that have been loosened by the freeze which actually makes it easier to remove some of these stumps. Hydro raking coupled with the in going stump removal by the SS Hidden Lake (the barge) could be a viable option for us.

Some people will argue the safety factor regarding a machine that operate in other lakes potentially transferring invasive weeds to Hidden Lake. To this I say. As a aquatic company qualified to operate such equipment, one would think that the company itself would take every precaution to avoid this. My responsibility as President, along with all the other Board Members is to assure that if indeed invasive weeds were to be imported via contracted equipment, the operator would be held accountable.

View the link below for more info.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/viewRecording/7752442475433937154/2735945963312924680/jaycassella59@gmail.com?>



"On The Agenda"

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February 2019

Newsletter

Issue 02

This months meeting is scheduled for:

February 25th at 6:30pm

The location: **The Annex Hall on Jail Hill Rd.**

This Board meeting's agenda will include:

Discussions on readying for the 2019-20 Budget
Results of the CAES aquatic survey
2019 DEEP dam inspection and the repairs needed

Back on Track

Now that the holidays are behind us and spring is right around the corner It's time for all of us to come out of hibernation and get back on track with the issues surrounding are lake community.

In an effort to continue to improve and maintain are little slice of lake living, we need to solicit more volunteers and create a workforce that is willing to help in our efforts.

There are some very good volunteers now that are willing to come out and help when there is a project to be completed and for that I am grateful. Our Board of Governor's are made up of volunteers, as well as the committee members that spend their time researching and advising the BOG of the issues that are needing attention and their recommendations. These volunteers are essential as part of the management tasks.

Without these volunteers, the Association would need to look elsewhere for management and for laborers to carry out the work needed. Tax revenue is our main source of income. Although there is a surplus of money now, which can be eaten up in a matter of just a couple of projects, volunteering is the only way of keeping costs down, otherwise the expense would be felt across the community by way of higher taxes. Simply put, **from our pockets.**

These improvements are not just for their esthetic value but for the increased value of each and everyone of our properties. This is the **reward** for our hard work as volunteers.

The next generation of "Hidden Lakers" are starting to move in. There our younger people joining our Lake community by way of purchasing or inheriting property. The torch must be past and carried by those individuals willing to put a little bit of sweat into our little private lake community. Together with the existing volunteers, board members and committee members, we can keep costs down and improvements up.

Budget Time

It's that time of year again! The budget must be set for the upcoming fiscal year prior to May's annual meeting which kicks off the new year on Hidden Lake.

There is much more to be done by way of improvements to the lake and the surrounding areas.

Budgeting is a key component to meeting the needs of the community. If there is any issue or issues you would like to see addressed that would require expenses, please come to the meeting to assure your concerns are heard.

Survey Says

The long awaited survey has been completed!

The DEEP has published the 2018 mapping of the weeds and condition of Hidden Lake. The information compiled by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) is now posted on their website. Please follow the link below to review their findings.

This survey contains valuable information which enables the Board of Governors to move in the right direction with the care and maintenance of our most precious resource, the Lake.

There is even a section that states that our weed population has been reduced and quite possibly is due to the lake draw down of last winter.

As professionals in their field and with their good standing record in helping other bodies of water here in Connecticut, the CAES is a great source of information for us to use in combatting and improving Hidden Lake.

<https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Invasive-Aquatic-Plant-Program/Hidden-Lake/Hidden-Lake-2018>



"On The Agenda"

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November 2018

Newsletter

Issue 11

This months meeting is scheduled for:

November 26 at 6:30pm

The location: **The Annex Hall on Jail Hill Rd.**

This Board meeting's agenda will include a continued discussion regarding the By-Laws in need of amending. The matter of certain road signs needed will conclude with a vote on what areas are a concern. The road committee will be continuing the discussion on the repairs needed to Fairview caused by the large flooding. The lake committee will have an agenda for the pulling of stumps.

Huge Success

Congratulation to all who participated in the voting to allow for electric trolling motors. The results of the voting on Sunday, November 11th was a huge success, not because the vote was 53 in favor and 14 not, but because 77 out of 128 Association Members voted. That is more than two-third of our members. Now I know that some of those were Proxy votes. However, the amount of Members who came out to vote and to socialize still out weigh the attendance at any other "Special Meeting" or "Annual Meeting" in my 35 year membership.

This also proves there are many members who **do** care what happens here and are willing to get involved as long as there is a line of communication and they can have their say.

Thank you to all who participated and to the members who volunteered their time to organize and carry out this meeting.

Right to Vote

I want to apologized for any misunderstanding or confusion the notice to allow for members not in good standing, the right to vote. Some eleventh-hour information was relayed to me, by Sheri, our Tax Collector, regarding the rights of these members to vote. Sheri's information was received by our attorney as a legal opinion regarding the rights of all Association members to vote. Once I received this information, it was then concurred by another Attorney. The decision to allow these votes was also met by other board members, including Alan Stokke who's opinion is valued by many members.

This amendment was brought to the board which created much conversation as to the reason why we had to call a Special Meeting for something that could wait until the annual meeting.

As I see it, the meeting is what Robert's Rule of Order labels, a "Special General Meeting called for by Petition" which means it was called by Association Members gathering signatures from members who wish to have this meeting which will allow for the Association Members to decide, not the Board of Governors. Myself, as well as other members felt this to be a very important matter that it should have a stand alone meeting, especially now that we have a By-Law Committee who is preparing to propose changes to many by-laws in need of revision, which will be voted on at the next annual meeting.

Happy Thanksgiving to all



"On The Agenda"

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July 2018

Newsletter

Issue 10

This months meeting is scheduled for:

October 29th at 6:30 pm

The location: **The Annex Hall on Jail Hill Rd.**

Row Your Boat

By now you should have gotten the mailed letter announcing a Special Meeting for the Association members to vote on the use of electric motors on Hidden Lake.

Over the years there has much debate regarding the use of electric motors. Finally, it is coming down to a vote, allowing all Association Members to express their opinion by way of Ballot.

For those who have never seen an electric motor operational, I will be bringing one to the October meeting for demonstration.

The announcement you received in the mail has a ballot to be detached and filled out. Don't worry, we will have some on hand at the meeting. There will be a drop box for the completed ballots.

This is a simple process that should not take up a lot of your time. I do encourage you to be there at the start. I will be saying a few words to explain some of the details. For anyone who has not been to a Special Meeting, Please understand, there is no other subject allowed for discussion or debate. A Special Meeting just that. Only for the purpose it was called for. I am going to strongly urge you **not** to miss this one. It your lake and your decision.

What's Up

At this meeting, the Board will be discussing the re-surfacing of Fairview Ave.

Another subject regarding roads will be traffic signs in certain areas.

A continuing conversation regarding the interest expressed last month from an association member to purchase a parcel of land own by the Association.

Dam repairs while the lake level is down will be determined.

The vice president will give a report on the findings of a meeting with the Middlesex Community Foundation.

Mail Call

I'm calling on all Association members to express your gratitude to Tiger Carlson for the fine job he did on the mailbox stands. Just so everyone knows, Tiger did all that work as a Hidden Lake Volunteer. He charged nothing for labor. The cost of the material used will be reimbursed to Tiger. Thank you Tiger.

I'm also calling on all Hidden Lakers to express their gratitude to the Beautification Committee and Chairperson Sandy Kiehm.

Most of us probably don't know Sandy and her Husband Bob. They are brand new Hidden Lakers and already have volunteered their time for many projects including the Fall decoration and plants at some of the Mailboxes. Great job to all and thank you.

Season of Leaves

Tis the season for raking leaves. This season, I would like to ask all Association Members to be mindful of all the work that that some dedicated volunteers did to clear and clean vacant properties. Please do not throw your leaves and branches unto other Association members property or Association owned Property.

If you have no place of your own to put this debris or no way to transport them to the transfer station, feel free to get in touch with me and I am sure I can find some volunteers who wouldn't mind lending a hand.



"On The Agenda"

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Sept 2018

Newsletter

Issue 9

This months meeting is scheduled for:

Sept 24th at 6:30 pm

The location: **The Annex Hall on Jail Hill Rd.**

"WOW"

Well... The **W**ine **O**n the **W**ater event was a great success and a lot of fun. Those who attended, I'm sure can attest to the enjoyable time it was.

I would like to thank Sandy and Bob Kiehm for hosting this fundraiser at their home. Sandy is the chairman of the Hidden Lake Beautification Committee and all the proceeds are going to fund the plantings that will be installed at the mailbox huts and other esthetically pleasing improvements around our community.

If you would like to volunteer to help in the beautification of Hidden Lake, feel free to contact Sandy at: sik085@aol.com

"SPECIAL MEETING"

If you were not at last months meeting then you missed a rather large debate regarding the rights of the Association Members to call for a "Special Meeting" which is a meeting to allow for the entire membership of Hidden Lake, the ability to be heard by way of voting on a particular matter, such as a By-Law addition, change or amendment.

As interpreted, a "Special Meeting" that is set in motion by an Association member along with 9 other members, by way of petition, can be

called If, after multiple requests by the members, the matter is not resolved by the Board of Governors. This type of meeting is not meant to undermine the Board of Governor's, it is meant to allow for a fair assessment by the entire membership.

The Board of Governors is put in place to manage the day to day workings of the Association which, I believe is doing a great job, but when it comes to matters that may have an impact on the long term future of the Hidden Lake Association, I believe the entire membership has the right to determine the future course such a decision can create.

"WATER WOES"

The road committee has been diligently working on different areas of the roads to resolve any water drainage problems.

The West Shore/Ledge Road drainage project is completed and seems to be a success. There should be no more water collecting there to freeze and create a hazard for the winter.

The replacement of a rotted pipe on West Shore and Hilltop has also been completed. That was a close call.....The road was about to collapse in that area!

A continued effort to channel the water coming from Fairview to West shore is being worked on as well.

Next on the agenda will be the scheduling of having riprap stone disbursed in the necessary areas such as the large ditch along side of Lake point where the road is being eroded and at some of the areas where culverts clog.

Finally, Chip-sealing should be completed at the end of the month. Ready for winter....UGH !!



"On The Agenda"

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July 2018

Newsletter

Issue 8

This months meeting is scheduled for:

July 30th at 6:30 pm

The location: **The Annex Hall on Jail Hill Rd.**

"Good News"

Well....the news is good. The DEEP's Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) has completed the data collection for the new study and mapping of the weeds in the lake.

Gregg Bugbee of the CAES sent a narrative with some preliminary findings along with his opinion regarding the comparison to the similar study performed in 2005. His first comment to me was the "surprisingly vast improvement" when they compared 2005 data to the present collected data.

He further stated that, although not at the point of being a nuisance, there is an abundance of submersible weeds. These "simple Pondweeds" are a healthy part of the ecology of the lake.

Our long standing record of not having any invasive weeds has **not** been tarnished. Bugbee goes on to say "This is very unusual for a Connecticut lake". I explained our implementation of the boat registration. His comment was, that such plan can only help in our pursuit of keeping invasive weeds out of our lake.

The CAES has in the past reported to the board, the benefits of winter drawdowns. Mr. Bugbee remarked that the reduction of lilies is evidence that (although not true with all lakes) Hidden Lake has indeed reaped the benefits of a lower and longer drawdown.

The absence of chemical treatments the past 2 years is evident by the clarity of the water and it is the recommendation of the CAES not to treat this year as well.

Along with the recommendation of future winter drawdowns, Mr. Bugbee also recommends to continue with mechanical harvesting.

Now that we are moving in a positive direction with the management of the lake, let's keep the momentum going.

"Tag Sale"

There is Benefit Tag Sale on Saturday July 28th at 109 East Shore Dr from 8 to 4

All the proceeds are to benefit the HLA Beautification Committee to purchase items for improving the esthetics of our community.

Donations of items for this sale can be dropped off at the above address on the Friday prior.

Please call Sandy Kiehm for additional info at 860 391-3653 or sik085@aol.com

"Save the Date"

Friday September 14th

WOW

"Wine on the Water"

A wine tasting hosted by the Beautification Committee

Look for more details



"On The Agenda"

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June 2018

Newsletter

Issue 7

This months meeting is scheduled for:

June 25th at 6:30 pm

The location: **The Annex Hall on Jail Hill Rd.**

Please note the **New** location.

While school is in recess, we are not allow to use the school library.

"Volunteerism"

The response for volunteers to help in the clean up efforts at the beaches, and at other association owned properties has been great and for that, I am grateful to all.

In continuing these clean up efforts and to better organize the tasks, I would like to introduce a sign up sheet for volunteers of specific areas. The beaches would be a good place to start. I am looking for any association members willing to maintain the beaches by way of mowing and cleaning.

At the upcoming meeting, the Lake Committee plans to propose, the purchase of sand or pea stone as well as the removal and replacement of the rotted telephone poles. This will produce another task for volunteers to help rake and spread the sand.

You may contact me at:

jaycassella59@gmail.com

and let me know what area interests you enough to volunteer your time.

"Boat Patrol"

During the forth of July holiday, we will be looking at the boats stored on the beaches for the new boat registration stickers that have been issued to all boats that are the property of the Association Members. We will also be monitoring the boats that are actually being use in the water to assure they too are registered with the Association.

If any boats are left on a beach without a sticker, the owner has 10 days to affix the sticker or the boat will be assumed abandoned and therefore removed from the beach and disposed.

This monitoring is a means to control the cleanliness of our beaches and to assure us of any uninvited boats or fishermen that are using our lake uninvited and may be carrying with them, invasive plants or species into our lake.

The transport of these invasive and quit harmful vegetation or species are transported from other bodies of water (hitchhikers) through transient boating, is of epic proportion. Research by the CTDEEP shows this to be one of the most important task every lake owners and custodian should consider.

"Let Us Know"

With a new year and new challenges ahead, your input matters.

The members of the Board of Governors can only do our job if we know what are job is. Any input from association members will steer the board in the direction that represents everyone.

You may contact me at:

jaycassella59@gmail.com

Or you can leave a message at:

hiddenlakect@gmail.com



“On The Agenda”

May 2018

Newsletter

Issue 5

2018 - 2019 Annual Hidden Lake Association Meeting

To be held, May 20th at 1 pm

Location: Haddam Annex Hall. 11 Jail Hill Rd Haddam

“Its Your Money”

The big issue at the annual meeting.....

The Budget. Remember this is **our** money.

The annual meeting is the place where you can express to the Board of Governors, where **our** money is to be spent.

There is much to be done this fiscal year and without the funds properly allocated, it is difficult to move forward.

This year's larger projects include, tackling chip-sealing of the roads and the drainage issues that are compromising the lake, the land and roads.

Although the above mentioned are issues of importance, they are not the only items in need of funding. We still have to be concerned with upkeep of our land

“Chipping Away”

The wood chipping this past weekend was the “icing on the cake” for the Earth Day Cleanup.

I hope everyone who had to the opportunity to free their yards of branches and debris appreciate the efforts of the members that were out there chipping away with the machine, I know I do.

My goal is to make this an annual “Extravaganza”. Let's hope next year is just as successful.

“Vote Vote Vote”

Who should we trust with **our** most precious resource? The Members that make up the Board of Governors are appointed by the association members for the maintenance and care of our lake and it's surrounding property. In other words our investment. The members we elect as our representatives need to have the ability to make the proper decisions to manage and fulfill the duties that will make our small community prosper.

It would be a derelict of duty as an association member not to come out and vote.

“The Dam”

The valve at the dam is **CLOSED**. The weather has finally given way to the repairs needed. The repairs were quite extensive in comparison to the initial report. There were fairly large chunks of the retaining wall that needed attention as well. The required repairs to the cracks are now sealed and the portions of wall replaced with concrete. We, the fish, the birds and the turtles can all now enjoy a full lake.

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"On The Agenda"

March 2018

Newsletter

Issue 3

Monthly Meeting

This months meeting is scheduled for:

March 26th at 6:30 pm

The location: **The Burr Elementary School in the library.** It will be posted on the webpage and Facebook as well.

Note: if for any reason the meeting location is changed a sign will be posted on the school doors.

"In the Know.."

First, let me say, I apologize for the delay in getting the newsletter out this month. It's been a busy month.

At this meeting of the Board of Governors, the topics will include the introduction of a long term Lake Management Plan presented by the members of the Lake Committee. The plan includes a project guideline for what the committee deems necessary for the restoration and improvements to the lake as well as the beaches.

The Lake committee is committed to these projects for the well being of Hidden Lake and for the value our lake brings to our homes.

Recently, I have spoken to new home buyers who are excited to finally be able to own a home on a lake. This is a privilege not many people can say they have. Their enthusiasm is one that I remember back in

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1984 when I was first introduced to Hidden Lake. The thoughts of a quiet and peaceful place to live with views of a lake right at your back door. The birds fishing, the fish jumping and those wonderful summer frog sounds that at first keep you up all night. Then, after a couple of years of yelling from your bed for them to "SHUT UP" only to finally give in and let their wonderful croaking, sing you to sleep.

I would like to welcome our newcomers to their lake front living and to invite them to come join us at the monthly meeting where your voice will be heard.

"On the Waterfront"

As I am sure you have noticed and for those who don't live here year round, the water level is rapidly rising. The valve at the dam was closed on March 17th to allow the lake to come back to it's normal level.

We anticipate a lower volume of weeds this season by way of the hard freezes we have had over this past winter. These freezes have the potential to kill off the roots of some of the weeds, but only time will tell.

"Help Wanted"

There are openings for varied committee leaders. At this time we are looking for anyone willing to head up the following committees:

By-Laws Committee and Audit Committee

If you don't want to head up a committee, there is always room for assisting the heads of these and other committees.



“On The Agenda”

February 2018

Newsletter

Vol. 2

Issue 2

Monthly Meeting

This months meeting is scheduled for:

February 26th at 7pm

The location: **The Burr Elementary School in the library.** It will be posted on the webpage and Facebook as well.

Note: if for any reason the meeting location is changed a sign will be posted on the school doors.

“In the Know..”

At this months meeting, the discussion of next Budget will begin. Believe it or not, we only have three more meetings before the annual meeting in May.

Below are examples of a few things in need of our attention and funding in order to accomplish any of the tasks for improvement and enjoyment of our lake and the property within our association.

Within the next three months, each committee will present there recommendations as well as the funding necessary to carry out their duties. As an example, now that the roads have been repaired, the funding for chip-sealing is needed. The funding approved in the budget must be enough to cover the costs.

The lake committee may need to cover the cost of surveying and possibly chemical treatment or other services.

The lake committee may need to cover the cost of surveying and possibly chemical treatment or other services.

There are matters with regards to drainage, both property and road. Determining the amount of funds that will be required to carry out some of these issues.

All of the above mentioned are just a few examples of the importance of a balanced budget. If you feel strongly about these or any other issues, you may want to voice your opinion at the meeting.

“On the Waterfront”

The Lake committee has purchased all of the equipment approved by the board for removal of the stump. Of course, as always, now that they finally obtained permission to purchase these items.....the weather isn't cooperating.

In order for the volunteers to go out on the lake, the water either needs to be frozen or not frozen. All that can be done now is wait until the temperature either drops or get warmer.

“Wanted”

A few good members to fill the position of Financial Secretary. This officers position involves the collection of taxes and other financial obligation regarding property.

As a member of the Board of Governors, you are entitled to vote on all matter pertaining to the Lake Association. Feel free to step up and let your voice be heard.

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"On The Agenda"

January 1, 2018

Newsletter

Vol. 2

Issue 1



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Monthly Meeting

This month's meeting is scheduled for:

JANUARY 29th at 7pm

The location: **The Burr Elementary School in the library.** It will be posted on the webpage and facebook as well.

Note: if for any reason the meeting location is changed a sign will be posted on the school doors

"On the Waterfront"

The deep freeze is on !!

Despite the discomfort it causes us and the cost of our fuel bills, it's great for the lake. So far we are in our second deep freeze and it's only beginning of January.

There appears to be another five to seven days of this frigid weather. Hopefully we can say goodbye to the weeds.

Please keep in mind, this freezing of the weeds is not a cure-all for the management of the weeds. It takes time and a lot of effort to manage lake weeds. Just think of it as a big lawn or garden under the water. It needs to be cut, trimmed and managed with the same care as you would the property around your house. This is just one small step to reviving Hidden Lake.

"In the know.."

Your voice matters

The monthly Board of Governors meeting is an important time to express your concerns. The winter meetings are a time where most issues are discussed in anticipation of the annual meeting in May. Your input matters.

According to the section on "Discipline at meetings" is described as follows:

Section 9. The presiding officer shall have control of the meeting room; preserve decorum therein; prevent personal reflections in debate; confine members to the question under discussion; name the member entitled to the floor; decide all questions of order subject to appeal; enforce the provisions of the corporate charter and the by-laws.

As the meeting progresses, the Board of Governors along with the committee leaders present their reports, there will be no interruptions from any attending Association members. Please allow this to be the time when you can listen and gather information regarding the subject so that at the end of each discussion any association member who wishes to speak will be acknowledged by me, or in my absence, by the presiding officer, and before any motion is made or vote is casted.

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“On The Agenda”

November 13, 2017

Newsletter

Vol. 1

Issue 4

Monthly Meeting

This month's meeting is scheduled for:

November 27, 2017 at 7pm

The location: **The Burr Elementary School in the library.** It will be posted on the webpage and facebook as well. Our discussion on lake drawdown will continue. Landscaping around Hidden lake property will be discussed.

Note: if for any reason the meeting location is changed a sign will be posted on the school doors

“In the know..”

As the questionnaires enclosed with our tax bills continue to come in, the communications list is growing and soon we can convey to all association members, any pertinent information that the Board of Governors may have regarding upcoming projects. The more information the board can gather from all association members, the greater the chance of making sound and acceptable decisions for all.

Classifieds

Help wanted: Volunteers to help clean the edges of the water at South Cove and West cove where the lake meets Hidden Lake Road. Weather permitted, we could set a time for the weekend of December 2nd and 3rd.

“On the Waterfront”

I would like to thank the Lake Committee members on their tireless efforts for the information regarding the need and the safety of winter drawdowns of the lake.

There was also discussion regarding a five year plan to restore Hidden Lake. This plan is in the works and will be presented at the March 2018 Board of Governors meeting.

You may have noticed the lake has been lowered once again. This is to accommodate the Town of Haddam for a safe paving project on the southern section Hidden Lake Road. I have been told by Chris Corsa, the Assistant Director of the Haddam Public Works department, the paving will be this week. As I sit here on Monday and see no progress, I guess all we can do is cross our fingers.

You may have also notice some stumps removed and sitting at South Cove, which means the stump puller is working. After winters hold, we will be back out there to pull more.

The lake will be lowered to a level that exposes approximately twenty five feet along the majority of shoreline and will remain that level until March 1, 2018. This will allow for freezing of weeds. Please take advantage of this time, to clean the shoreline in your area.

This newsletter was prepared and written by Jay Cassella, the President of Hidden Lake Association and may not necessarily express the opinions of the other Board members.



“On The Agenda”

October 13, 2017

Newsletter

Vol. 1

Issue 3

Monthly Meeting

This months meeting is scheduled for:

October 30, 2017 at 7:00 pm

The location: **The Burr Elementary School in the library.** It will be posted on the webpage and facebook. The future schedule for monthly meetings has been set and will be held on the last Monday of every month until the Annual meeting in May 2018, unless otherwise posted. There will be no meeting in December.

Boat Stickers

In the envelope with your tax bills was a information request sheet. I want to thank the members who have already graciously participated by filling out the questionnaire. This is going to benefit all of us in the future. We continue to get returns and once we receive a majority of them back we can begin to distribute the stickers.

In the Know...

The second reason for these questionnaires is for communication. With this information we can finally convey any information from **your** Board of Governors. There are important topics that involve all of us. Even though you may not be able to attend the monthly meetings to learn about these topics being discussed and decided on in **your** behalf, doesn't mean you don't have a voice. It is important for all of us to be involved in the decisions being made.

On the waterfront

At the September Board of Governors meeting, the subject of lowering the lake was brought to the board by the lake committee. Further information had to be gathered before voting.

October 5th the proposal went to the board for an online vote. The motion included lowering of the lake to accommodate the request from the Town of Haddam for the paving project on Hidden Lake Road. Secondly, the motion was to keep the lake down for purpose of the lake committee's planned weed and stump removal, plus to allow for a long overdue freeze of the roots of the weeds.

Despite the fact that the lake committee had evidence of the benefits of a winter drawdown, the Board of Governor's, by majority vote was "no" to the motion in it's entirety. The vote ended up to be split by a "yes" to lowering the lake for the sake of the road crew and "no" to lowering for stump removal and weed freeze. It appears, some board members are apposed to cleaning the lake.

Classifieds

We are looking for a fully insured professional trees service to cut and trim some trees in the community.

There is also a need for a landscaping company to clean the brush and debris from the spillway of the damn.

If anyone knows of a professional who can provide us these services, please feel free to them call me at 860-388-7521. Jay Cassella

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"On The Agenda"

September 13, 2017

Newsletter

Vol. 1

Issue 2

Monthly Meeting

This month's meeting is scheduled for:

September 25, 2017

The location will be announced at a later date. It will be posted on the webpage and facebook.

The topics for this meeting will be a continuance of the discussions regarding road repairs and lake improvements. These two subjects are the most important for the future of Hidden Lake and the value they create to our community.

Lake Report

On Sept 8th, seven of the lake committee volunteers had a meeting to discuss the plan of action for this fall and winter. After hashing over all the information gathered between them and myself, the decision was unanimous. The committee will be recommending to the board to lower the lake so cleanup can begin. This lowering will be for a much longer period of time to allow for a potentially longer freeze and create a larger kill off of weeds than we have had in the past.

The lake committee members will be submitting evidence from the state of CT as well as past surveys and reports received verifying their position, so the board will be aware of the benefits.

These members of the lake committee will also be sharing the findings regarding other aspects of mechanical weed harvesting and much removal.

As we have not yet gotten a lake committee chairman, I will be acting as that chairman for the time being.

Weed Workout

We are initiating a new workout program. If you see the new work barge out on the lake, please come join us for a weed pulling workout. The program is designed for all ages and all boat owners. Simply row out to where the barge is. That's the first part of the exercise program. Now, follow the barge as it cuts the weeds. As you see the cut weeds simply bend to the left and grab a handful. Next, bend to the right and grab a handful.

It's simple. It's easy. It's affordable.

See you at the ~~Gym~~ Lake !

Communications

I hope everyone received a copy of the first issue of the "On the Agenda" newsletter and that the information boxes were helpful in getting the word out.

I will make every attempt to create a new issue every month in order for all of us to be in the know.

Tax bills

Well unfortunately, by now you probably received your tax bill. So sorry for the delay. I know we have all been waiting anxiously !!

Rest assured that in the months to come, your tax dollars will be spent wisely.

Come to the meeting on the 25th to hear what we are proposing for our most valuable resource, The Lake.

Please don't forget to send the questionnaire back with your payment.

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“On The Agenda”

August 18, 2017

Newsletter

Vol. 1

Issue 1

Communications

Welcome, to what I hope to be the best way to get the “word out”. My intention is to keep as many members as I can informed as to what our Board of Governors is up to. Remember, the board is here to carry out your requests.

As we move forward, I am hoping we can get more members interested in the happenings around the lake.

If you are reading this newsletter, you obviously saw the new Information Box. These boxes are attached to each mailbox hut. The information in these boxes will change periodically, so check it often and please attend the monthly meetings so your voice can be heard.

Monthly Meeting

This month's meeting will be on August 28, 2017 at the home of Phil and Cindy Porriello, 420 Hidden Lake Rd. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

Please allow me to formally invite you to the August meeting and to any other meeting the board may have. I promise, I will try to make your participation as inviting as possible and still carry out the board's Agenda.

At all Board of Governor meetings, there is a period, after each board member has delivered their report and the report has been accepted, where New business, old business and special projects are discussed. This is when your voices will be heard. I will welcome any comments or suggestion you may have.

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Tax Bills

I'm sure you have all noticed by now, the tax bills did not go out as scheduled. The bills are typically out by July 1st. The reason they have not gone out, is due to a delay in obtaining the extraction for our district, from the master list at the town tax collector in Haddam.

Charlene, the Hidden Lake tax collector has now received the list and can now mail out the 2017 Hidden Lake tax bills. Isn't everyone excited ??

The plan is to have your tax bill to you by September 1, 2017. The new due date will be October 2, 2017.

Volunteer Cheer

I am happy to announce, we have quite a few additional volunteers for the different committees needed to run our association. Three **cheers** for those of you who have decided to dedicate their time for a better community and we will always welcome and need more.

Clear the Roads

You may have noticed some clearing of brush on the sides of the roads. This has all been carried out by association member volunteers. I want to thank everyone that came out to help me.

For those residents that benefited by this clean-up effort, feel free to “keep it that way”. We as volunteers will try our hardest to keep things as clean as we can.