

Fox Hill Lake Association
Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 20, 2021
Location: CVS Main Street-7PM-9:12PM

Members Present: Manuel Silva, Liz Cope, Ellen Burns, Krenare Osmani, Janet Swift (7:26PM)
Also present: Marcie Samartino (7:18PM)

Motion to accept last board meeting's minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

Fairfield County Bank-\$**11,651.18** as of 9/30/21
PayPal-\$**6,453.17** as of October 2021
Total: **\$18,104.35**

Lake Plans:

Reviewed the treatment report from Pond & Lake Connection:

MS- July 30th treatment and second treatment in August-most of the area was retreated because we were unhappy with the first treatment. Second treatment was not as heavy as the first but it was within the treatment perimeters based on the permit issued by the state.

Phragmites Treatment- The chemical treatment should kill mostly all of the plant according to P&L . They will wilt and decay. Manny contacted two companies to physically remove them but were quoted \$5000 plus.

Manny asked P&L to come back the second time because it was a misty/rainy day. The second day, Manny was able to monitor the work being done.

KO-Email report to all members and post on our FHL website.

Bennett's Farm Dam Situation-it has stopped leaking. After the second storm, it seems that the seam repaired itself. The dam was rebuilt a few years ago.

Fox Hill Lake Walk Path Project-MS has created a rough draft description for the petition. The final petition, once created, will be presented to the Board of Selectmen. It will start on Bennett's Farm Beach ending at 466 Bennett's Farm Road with the option of a pedestrian lane crossing to Shady Lane Road. This work is projected for next year but we need to organize the petition.

EB-Will find out the timeline of the allocation of the federal funds in town.

MS-Set up a meeting with Rudy Marconi to talk about the proposal.

KO-Will look into creating an online petition.

Marcie Samartino's Presentation:

- Objective- to create a 501c3 "The Environmental Friends of Fox Hill Lake (EFFHL)"
- FHLA would be the controlling entity of the lake
- EFFHL's purpose is to raise funds for the upkeep of the lake
- EFFHL's Board of Directors
- Reviewed the mission statement
- Board meetings to be held monthly that include the president of FHLA
- Presented outline of meetings and reports
- By-laws-size of board has increased in order to have oversight over funds
- FHLA president would share this with members of FHLA

- Reviewed avenues of fundraisers appropriate to seasons/holidays
- Fundraisers will not start unless able to create a 501c3
- Has experience fundraising-VP of Breast Cancer Coalition- Long Island

MSamartino- Money would be stored in EFFHL's bank account and released to FHLA. Not sure if a check can be made out to FHLA or if EFFHL would pay the bills.

EB-Asked to speak to Jerry (Marcie Samartino's accountant). Since we do have public access on the lake then it seems that we might be able to convert the 501c7 to a 501c3.

MSamartino- Has looked into this but was told that it could not be done. Accountant said that it is doable but cumbersome.

EB-501c3 has the advantage of applying for grants for lake projects.

MSamartino- All fundraisers would have a specific objective.

EB-asked about public interest in the fundraiser.

MSamartino- Has thought about that. Can contact a reporter from Ridgefield Press for some publicity around this.

LC- What is the likelihood that other people out of the FHLA community would participate?

MSamartino- Depends on what the fundraiser is and we need to try. Not sure how much money can be taken in through raffles, etc.

MSamartino- Will look more into this and be happy to help out with fundraising.

JS-Are there more enthusiastic people willing to serve on the board?

MSamartino- Is open to suggestions.

*Motion to amend this year's members' voting- dues were paid by October 30, 2021 and after this year, then they revert back to the date that is written in the by-laws.

All in favor

Plan for Board Election- Alice Simon will check-in people and hand each person the ballot.

Anonymous voting-one per position, one per address.

Will send out a reminder email to FHLA.

Candidate biographies still needed.

PayPal-

MS-has contacted the bank in order to link the two accounts. PayPal has blocked the ability to link the account to the Fairfield County Bank. Will ask Marcie Samartino to contact PayPal since her name is on the account.

Felicia Clem's Request-FC has asked the board to sign a letter stating the approval of her dock on the FHL.

Discussed at the table but we need more information to make a decision.

Next board meeting- Wednesday, November 17 @7PM-CVS

