CRYSTAL POND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING 2022 – MINUTES

Unofficial (to be approved at the next Annual meeting)

AUGUST 6, 2022

Meeting called to order by Board President Scott Hernberg at 10:04 AM. Scott established there is a quorum and that all Board members are present.

Tribute to members who passed since the last Annual meeting:

David Teed

Tom Ward

Secretary's report: Minutes from the 2021 Annual meeting were provided to all attendees. There were no corrections or additions requested. Motion to approve – Elizabeth Murphy, seconded by Scott Hernberg. Approved by unanimous voice vote. A brief update was given by Bruce Lindemann on how we communicate with members through the year – via email, the "Neighbors of Crystal Pond" FaceBookFacebook page, and on the Association website (http://crystalpondct.org/).

Treasurer report: As of the meeting, there are 66 Association members. A summary of the Association's Checking and Savings accounts, as of 7/30/2022, was provided to all attendees. In reviewing the numbers, Treasurer Deb Oftedal shared the following comments:

- Savings were achieved from the switch last year to performing most of the water testing ourselves (i.e. through the Water Quality team their report follows).
- A monthly list of financial transactions (incoming and outgoing) was shared each month with all Board members.
- President Scott Hernberg approves all bill payments made by the Treasurer.
- 2022 and 2021 statements are available for any Association member to review on request.

Bev Lindemann moved to accept the Treasurer's report; Sue Roberson seconded. Approve by unanimous voice vote.

Water Quality Committee report: Elizabeth Murphy (Board member spokesperson/member of_for_the committee) and Carriel Cataldi (member of the Committee) shared information on the water testing program. This information is detailed in handouts that were given to those in attendance. Nine volunteers sampled the data weekly (during the summer) 30 times in 2021 (the Committee's first year of operation) and a projected 28 times so far this summerfor summer 2022. Samples are taken to a labNEAR who has them analyzed in the UConn lab. for testing. Water reports are posted on the website and test results are available for reviewwhich is inclusive of nutrient sample results. Testing by the Committee has saved the Association an estimated \$14,000 since in 2021 (as referenced by the Treasurer's reportElizabeth's analysis).

• DEEP buoy update: The Committee also uploads temperature data from the buoy each monthtwice per year (this buoy measures temperature at specific depths all the way to the bottom, at the buoy every hour, storing the data until uploaded). Temperature levels drive the plant and aquatic activities in the lake – nutrients, algae, weeds, fish, etc.

- Weed control: The Committee will send a survey to members as to what they want to do about weeds.
- Geese control: A handout was given to all attendees with some facts about controlling the
 geese population. Please refer to this handout as it contains some useful suggestions (especially
 regarding vegetative buffer zones at the shoreline to discourage geese from coming ashore on
 yourproperty. AlotofotherlakesinCTarehavingthesameissueshavehandsimilarissueswithgeese, and DEEPhashave found that
 plant buffers ARE effective. There are also visual deterrents that can be used (lights, fences,
 even lawn chairs). The Association Board takes no position on lethal means of eradication.
- Water test showing high indicator bacteriapoor quality at Crystal Pond Park: The CPA Board received notice that a recent test of lake water at Crystal Pond Park by Northe East District Department of Health (NDDH) measured a high coliform level. This testing is part of a regular testing program of a bining food at the still of the CPA was received word that the confirmation a second test came back showing safe coliform levels in the water. Some discussion ensued as to whether the Association should be performing supplemental doing such testing. The State Department of Public Health and the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection have published guidelines for monitoring swimming waters that recommends local health departments perform such testing of public swimming waters with the guidelines providing details on frequency, sampling and testing. CPA could consider the initiation of a program of testing following these guidelines if the regular testing currently being provided the latest and the program of testing following these guidelines if the regular testing currently being provided the latest and the program of testing following these guidelines if the regular testing currently being provided the latest and the program of testing following these guidelines is the regular testing currently being provided the latest and the program of testing following these guidelines is the regular testing currently being provided the latest and the provided the latest and the program of testing following these guidelines is the regular testing currently being provided the latest and the program of testing t
- Inlet testing: The Water Committee has started testing the water at various inlets around the lake. This coincides with the Crystal Pond Watershed Inspection, done last year (see notes which are part of the Water Committee handout (attached). One inlet in particular is of concern due to nutrient levels higher than EPA recommendations. This is in the Eastford Lake Drive area inlet 9 which runs from Crystal Pond Recod, Eeastford, to the Somero property. The Town of Eastford has several culverts in that area on Lake Drive which feed water directly (or nearly directly) into the lake. Scott Hernberg will be present when the lake Directly because the started area doubt the will share our results with the Town and work with them to plan solutions. Scott emphasized what Carriel had also mentioned that all property owners should make an effort to prevent unwanted nutrients from getting into the lake:
 - Don't fertilize lawns, especially with nitrogen and potassium (this includes not using organic nutrients – the plants like them as well!);
 - DO pump septic systems as recommended (see your manufacturer's instructions or health department recommendations);
 - DO plant buffers (see attachment with recommendations). These buffers can also help discourage geese.

501C3 non-Profit status update: Elizabeth Murphy reported that the IRS has accepted the Association's application for 501c3, non-Profit status. This may be helpful for Association members, as your dues are considered a tax deductible / charitable contribution. In addition, by having non-profit status:

- The Federal government recognizes we provide a public benefit,
- This status could help us as we apply for grants for dam maintenance,

• It makes us eligible for corporate matching contributions. Please check with your employer to see if they match charitable donations that you make. If they do, please let Deb Oftedal (Treasurer) knowemail crystalpondassociation@gmail.com so they can assist with the corporate matching process.

Dam Committee: Scott Hernberg shared some updates of things going on with the dam:

- There is a larger than expected amount of water on the back side of the dam (i.e. away from the lake side). Upon investigation by Rick Bray and others, it was found that this was partly caused by a blocked culvert under route 171, just north of Crystal Pond Road-Woodstock. There is also a beaver dam blocking part of the stream where it passes through a stone wall, on Yale Forest property. (These blockages were found by drone survey, by kayak, and by physically inspecting the culvert.) Mike Charrette reached out to the State Highway department which __after several weeks of contact, cleared out the culvert (about a week or so before the Annual meeting). The water level has since gone down, but there is still some behind the dam. The Committee has reached out to the Yale forest manager and will be inspecting the area with him in the near future. It was noted that the higher than normal water level on the back side of the dam makes it more difficult to inspect and maintain the dam, but does not directly impact the water level of the pond.
- There was some discussion about the dam report done by Fuss & O'Neill (emailed to all members prior to the Annual meeting). Some of the suggested items have already been addressed (such as routine mowing, and filling of rodent holes). Past President Carroll Stern suggested that, if costly repairs are needed, it is likely the property owners will respond as they did in 2008 (\$10k raised in one week). He also suggested we work with the State proactively to make the process easier. Scott has been in touch with the State several times this year.
- Jon Bowen moved to add non-Board members to the Dam Committee (Elizabeth Murphy seconded). Three CPA members who are not on the Board were nominated: Tim Brooks, Alex Howe and Andy Hustus. This motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Other Business:

A concern was raised about the timing of the fall water draw down. A request was made to
please start the draw down early enough so it's down before the start of the winter freeze.
 Scott Hernberg shared that the timing of the draw down is the result of numerous factors,
including ongoing precipitation in the December through January time frame, which could bring
water levels back up. He agreed the Dam Committee will try to have the water down before the
freeze.

Election of Board Members

Nord Christeiansen has decided to step down from the Board. Andy Groher and Mike Charrette's terms are both up, and both were willing to serve another term.

Bev Lindemann nominated Andy Groher and Mike Charrette to be re-elected, seconded by Deb Oftedal.

Elizabeth Murphy nominated Michelle Bibeault seconded by Keri Tedford.

Gary Cameron nominated Tim Brooks, seconded by John Zavisza.

Due to having four nominations for three openings, we decided to take a paper ballot. Ballots were passed out by Board members, and all CPA members were asked to write down their three (3) selections, their name, and the property address they were voting for (to ensure there was only one vote per property).

Due to the lateness of the meeting, we voted to adjourn immediately after the vote was taken (approximately noon). The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Several Board members stayed after the meeting adjourned to tally the vote. These were Deb Oftedal, Elizabeth Murphy, Scott Hernberg and Bruce Lindemann. Non_Board member Bev Lindemann observed the entire process. The Board members first checked each ballot against the list of member properties to ensure that no property had inadvertently voted twice, they also checked to ensure the person voting was authorized to represent the property. Two ballots had to be rejected – one because it was not signed, the other because it had no signature and no property listed. They then tallied the votes. The votes tallied as follows:

Mike Charrette - 36

Andy Groher – 31

Michelle Bibeault – 29

Tim Brooks - 18

Mike, Andy and Michelle are elected. Please note that the two rejected ballots would not have changed the outcome. We thank Tim for being willing to be nominated!

The nominees and Board members were notified of the results by email later that day. The CPA members were notified by email within a day or two of the meeting.