

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” ~~FaceBook~~[Facebook](#) 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 summer~~ for summer 2022. Samples are taken to ~~a lab~~ NEAR who has them analyzed in the UConn lab. ~~for testing.~~ Water reports are posted on the website ~~and test results are available for review~~ which 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 report~~ Elizabeth's analysis).

- DEEP buoy update: The Committee also uploads temperature data from the buoy ~~each~~ ~~month~~ twice 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.

- 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 \(Treasurer\) know email crystalpondassociation@gmail.com](mailto:letDebOftedal(Treasurer)know@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 Charfette 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 Christeian has decided to step down from the Board. Andy Groher and Mike Charfette's terms are both up, and both were willing to serve another term.

Bev Lindemann nominated Andy Groher and Mike Charfette 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.