

**UPPER GREENWOOD LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2020**

Attendance

Abbruzzese, Michael	P	Grayson, Doug	P	Sarnowski, Shelby	P
Becker, Heather	P	Jones, Jim	P	Surman, Dave	P
Ballan, Linda	P	Manzo, Rene	E	Zemsky, Eric	P
Culhane, Margie	P	Marino, Joseph	P	Zielinski, Gary	P
Decina, Dennis	P	Morrison, Debra	E	Open seat	-
Donoghue, Paul	P	Quirk, Andrew	P	Open seat	-
Gerace, Nicole	P	Sarnowski, Karen	P		

P = Present E = Excused A = Absent R* = Remote – non-voting/quorum

Attorney Present – Chris Miller Y/N

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:24pm by Dennis Decina. This Board of Trustees meeting was scheduled for remote participation due to the state of emergency ordered by the Governor of New Jersey. The meeting commenced with a discussion of the procedures for conducting the meeting with all members who are present participating remotely. The following procedures were adopted. Attendance will be taken by roll call. The meeting will proceed in the same manner as if the members were meeting in person. President Dennis Decina will specifically recognize any Board member wishing to speak. Voting will be conducted by the President first calling for votes Opposed, then calling for Abstentions, then calling for votes In Favor.

Correspondence:

No correspondence this month as the Clubhouse and Office have been inaccessible. Discussion of a received email asking about dues paid for 2020.

Membership Secretary Report:

No report this month as the Clubhouse and Office have been inaccessible.

Committee Reports:

A) Activities:

All activities are on hold. Comedy night has been moved to November 14, 2020.

B) Beach:

- No Public Recreational Bathing License Applications are being accepted by the West Milford Health Department until further notice.

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- Discussion about swim lessons in light of social distancing.
- Sand recovery was performed during the drawdown.

C) Boathouse: Doug Grayson was appointed Chair of this committee.

D) Clubhouse:

Temporary repairs were made to the roof after the severe weather on Monday.

E) Dam:

- Explanation of the issue with the standpipe near the dam.
- Diving Services, Inc. was not able to perform any work this month due to the pandemic.
- The drawdown has been completed and Wildlife and Fishery was notified. The water level on April 13th was -33 inches from crest. The Committee would very much like to thank Randy Reagan who assisted in removing a large heavy piece of plastic from a dog kennel that was stuck in the box and limiting water flow at the Mount Laurel Dam.
- There may be potential funding for future major repairs to the Dam through the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act).

F) Bylaws, Rules & Regs: no report

G) Docks:

Discussion of nonconforming dock requests:

1. 37 Racetrack – request for an oversize deck on parklands denied, standard size 4'x18' dock will be approved pending removal of the illegal construction plus receipt and approval of a dock application (never submitted). Noted upon inspection that there are also illegal footings in the lakebed but no request for removal is made at this time.
2. Schmitke Lane at Warwick Turnpike – Discussion of the shallowness of this location that had a prior extended dock. The Board approved a replacement dock of the same extended size as was there before.
3. The need for more dock spaces requires a larger budget for the committee to pull decrepit docks and to develop new dock areas around the lake. There are currently 34 people on the waiting list for dock space.
4. Discussion of a dock deposit fee to pay for removing old docks left behind by property owners who abandon them. (New assignees do not want the expense of removing an old dock on top of the expense of a new dock.)

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H) Dredging:

- Total dredged out of Witte Cove 12,384 CY; Boat Launch 4,193 CY.
- The landscaping for the home owners who allowed access through their properties is still being finalized. The compaction test will be completed this month.
- Options for financing future dredging were discussed. Other options for preventing lake loss must be explored. A multi-committee task force was suggested to gain a more robust understanding of infill, and to explore creative solutions to complement dredging.

I) Easement: Paul Donoghue volunteered to chair this committee.

J) Entertainment: no report

K) Environmental:

- Lake Lookover shared the effects of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline work in 2012/13. Three inches of sediment were added to their lake bottom, and tests for phosphorus showed that the levels increased from 385 to 636 mg/kg.
- Egg addling has commenced on the islands.
- As the Township Office is closed, it was not possible to meet with Ed Steines regarding the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan or the Municipal Stormwater Management Plan. Emails were sent asking for clarification of what is posted on the Township website.
- Tests were performed by the Township on a suspected septic leak at a residence but were reported as negative. Further investigation of increased algae in the area (Audubon Cove) is pending.
- The Township canceled the annual clean-up, so Committee and Community volunteers performed a mini version along Warwick Turnpike. The culverts at the swamp area were cleaned and an immediate increase in flow rate was observed. A trash guard was re-attached to the pipe.
- Dave Surman summarized his written report to the Board on the Watershed Implementation Plan and his meetings with the Township, the Mayor, the WMLC, and the NJ Highlands Commission (attached).

L) Insurance: no report

M) Legal: Linda Ballan was appointed Chair of this committee.

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A motion to move to Executive Session was made at 9:05pm by Paul Donoghue, seconded by Karen Sarnowski. 14 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

A motion to leave Executive Session was made at 9:31pm by Paul Donoghue, seconded by Dave Surman. 14 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

N) Master Plan: no report

O) Parklands: no report

P) Publicity & Public Relations: no report

Q) Security:

The Clubhouse security upgrade will take place this month and will take 4-5 days.

R) Stumps:

Floater removal and stump surveys are ongoing.

S) Weeds:

A lake survey is planned for next week. Sonar treatment is usually done in April. Alternating Secchi Disc depth readings will be performed.

Meeting declared adjourned at 9:40pm by Dennis Decina.

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Update on Watershed Implementation Plan / West Milford Lakes Association

Background:

Original Watershed Management Plan was developed for UGL back in 2008. Some of the work proposed in that plan has been undertaken. In order to qualify for State (particularly) funding to do additional watershed work, the existing WMP has to be converted into a new Watershed Implementation Plan. Funding for this conversion is available through the existing NJ Highlands Commission. Discussions were held with the Highlands Council who indicated that funding up to \$50K in the form of grants were available for this process. A proposal was obtained from Princeton Hydro (2 other potential vendors were approached but did not respond) to do this conversion with an estimated cost of \$59,300. The downside to these grants is that they must be administered by either the local County (Passaic) or Municipality (West Milford). They cannot be provided directly to the local lake community for example.

Current situation/update:

In order for UGL to obtain funds and therefore have the work done to convert the existing Management Plan to an Implementation Plan, it would be necessary to work directly with either West Milford Township or the County. Inquiries to the County proved difficult to move forward and therefore it was going to be necessary to work directly with West Milford. Inquiries were made to determine the path forward, which were going to require a full proposal be drafted including what resources would be required from the Township. This would be presented to the Council and approved/or not.

Simultaneous with these last steps, West Milford Lakes Committee (WMLC) began to move forward on a separate proposal for other lakes within the community, again to be funded via the NJ Highlands Council. In discussions between Andrew Quirk and me regarding the UGL position, we quickly realized we would be producing (a) a competing proposal and (b) working within WMLC would be a lot easier than trying to work directly with the Township. We therefore took the decision to begin working within the WMLC proposal.

A meeting was held (1/20/2020) between the WMLC and West Milford Mayor to discuss this proposal and how to move it forward through the township. This meeting ultimately proved very beneficial, although the Mayor was initially reluctant to have the Township involved. Finally, however she was convinced that this would be a good

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thing for the Township. This resulted in a meeting being set up between WMLC, Highlands Council representatives, and West Milford Township (including the Mayor). This was held on 2/5/2020 and was extremely successful and resulted in complete backing from the Mayor and Township officials. The Highlands Council indicated that they had adequate funds remaining in their budget however those funds needed to be committed to projects by the end of June (2020). The total timeline within the Highlands Council funding approval process is ~2 months so ideally the WMLC proposal needed to be submitted in April to ensure the entire approval process could be completed – which requires final signature by the Governor. A follow up meeting was held between Princeton Hydro, WM Township and Highlands Council that resulted in an agreement on the proposal. This included an expansion of the original proposal to cover all lakes within the Township that are 10 acres or larger (a total of 20 – list available if required). Lakes such as Greenwood Lake, or reservoirs were not included. The final value of the proposal is \$286,250, within the funds available so won't be an issue. The Highlands Council meeting is scheduled for April 16th and 'our' proposal is on the agenda to be discussed and approved (presumably). As members of the Highlands Council were very active in the preparation/review of the proposal the probability of approval is high.

The work is proposed to take place in 2 phases, phase 1 in 2020 and phase 2 in 2021, and has 4 objectives:

1. Identify, quantify and prioritize the watershed-based factors which may cause eutrophication,
2. Identify the watershed management measures needed to address general causes of water quality impairments,
3. Identify the relative cost of the recommended general watershed management measures,
4. Generate a general schedule, based on priority, for the implementation of the recommended watershed management measures.

Summary:

It became abundantly clear that the decision to work within the WMLC proposal was the correct decision. Given that the final proposal integrated a series of lakes that do not work within the WMLC, it is almost certain that even if UGL had initially attempted to put through our own proposal, it would have become integrated into the broader proposal from West Milford.

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Once this work has been completed it will enable West Milford to apply for NJ State funds to implement the recommendations contained within the Watershed Implementation Plan, which will benefit the UGL community and enable the lake to be continually improved.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Surman
Environmental Committee
Cc: Andrew Quirk