

# MOUNTAIN LAKES DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

**August 11, 2007**

(Not approved)

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 AM. Commissioners present were Commissioner Farr, Commissioner Schmid and Commissioner Demers was excused.

Residents in attendance were Mike Bonanno, Sandy Schmid, Bill & Denise Kingsley, Joel & Annemarie Godston, Robert Roudebush, and Donald & Beverly Hasbrouck.

The motion was made by Mike Bonanno and seconded by Joel Godston to accept the minutes with corrections that included having Fishing Derby on August 18 not the 20<sup>th</sup>. Amy Smagula's name was misspelled, and there was a decision to have the pool open at 11 am regardless of attendees and to have the umbrellas out automatically.

The minutes of the July 14, 2007 Commissioners Meeting were accepted.

## **Water Update:**

Commissioner Schmid said there was no water committee meeting in July. We had a couple of taps to the system in the Kinsmere section. We have had to increase our amount of water from Woodsville Water and Light to help with the low water so there is a need to conserve. Our lead and copper tests are ongoing and for anyone on the list to check and take the container with their name. *Thanks to all who help and are involved.* Brush and tree removal along with a general cleanup will be ongoing for the remainder of the summer. We are on average doing about 120 miles per week on the District Truck.

Commissioner Schmid stated that we are considering a water conservation notice to be sent out to the residents of Mountain Lakes, because the water we are now adding from Woodsville Water & Light has added to the temperature increase in our water. We are not in a drought even though riverbeds and at this time have dried up.

In the meantime, we capped the inlet to the lake. So the water in the lake should be rising. The water usage is on the rise. The increase of usage is because we have many more people here in the summer. We are also doing another round of lead and copper testing.

## **Lake Status:**

Commissioner Schmid stated that we had divers come to Mountain Lakes. It took them about 15 minutes to find the pipe in the lake. There was nothing in front of the pipe. It is definitely an 18 inch pipe. We put a homemade cap that includes a piece of plywood in a circle inserted into plastic trash cans. There is no valve and the drawing doesn't show one. It only states that it was close. The lake has begun to rise slowly.

Mr. Kinsley asked if there was any way to keep the fish from going over the dam. Commissioner Schmid replied that there is a top hat on the overflow and it is very unlikely that the fish will go over that. Commissioner Schmid stated that he found a dead trout the other day.

## **Recreation Update:**

Commissioner Farr, informed everyone that the ice cream social on the 22nd of July was a success and served at least 110 people. Kyle Wheeler is directing the fishing derby this year, and he needs many volunteers. Because of the overwhelming success of the last ice cream social another one is planned for August 26, the last day of the summer program. On September 1, Labor Day weekend, we will be having fireworks. We need many volunteers to clean up the next day on September 2. Only if the fireworks are thoroughly cleaned up will we be having them again next year

Commissioner Farr read the waterfront supervisor's report. As of this writing, everything at the beach is in order and the people who frequent the area appear to be enjoying themselves. Attendance however is down from previous seasons with peak attendance between the hours of 1:30 -4:30 p.m. Attendance at the pool remains relatively moderate, and the late swims have between 3 and 7 people attending.

Since my last report there have been some issues concerning behavior in and around the snack bar. However, that problem as well as excessive speed exercised over the causeway appears to have been resolved.

Scheduling the lifeguards continues to be a difficult task especially on weekends. What with dental appointments, baseball & soccer games, early college leaves, fish & game safety classes and any number of other reasons, maintaining full coverage is sometimes impossible. But we're making it through! When here, however the lifeguards tend to their duties and do a fine job and may of them have pitched in on days they weren't scheduled.

On a real positive note the weather has begun to cooperate and, at least for the latter part of July and early August, we have enjoyed some splendid days. The ice cream social held on July 22 was a great success with many people participating. Another one has been scheduled for the closing day Aug. 26. The fishing derby scheduled for Aug. 18 is being anticipated with great excitement. While the sales in the snack bar are down from last year the friendly nature of the staff enhances the atmosphere and service of the facility.

Mr. Bonanno asked if the pool could be open Labor Day weekend. Commissioner Schmid stated that that might be very tough, because three of our lifeguards will have gone back to college. Possibly we might be able to have just one lifeguard and make the pool a priority, where as the lake would not have lifeguards. Commissioner Farr stated that she would talk to her waterfront supervisor to find out if it is possible.

Mr. Bonanno stated that there are people coming to the pool and beach who don't live in the Mountain Lakes District. Mr. Bonanno told them to leave. Commissioner Farr informed the residents that on Tuesday night August 7 we had a break in at the District Office and Snack Bar. Right now there is an ongoing investigation. The door was smashed and we lost between \$50.00 and \$80.00 as well as some snacks. Mr. Roudebush asked if the security was in the area at the time. Commissioner Farr replied yes but they saw nothing. Commissioner Schmid mentioned that Renee's husband who installs security systems for banks has been asked to give us some information and a quote on the subject. Commissioner Farr stated that Officer Hebert told us that after many businesses added cameras they haven't been broken into since. Mrs. Schmid asked if this is the first time this has happened.

Commissioner Farr read the security report:

July was a much busier month for security than June was. More people have been hanging around in the area of the Lodge and many ATV's have been tearing up the lawn. Many dumpsters have been disturbed by Bears as well.

The boats aren't always locked up and the screen has been put up at the Lodge at least twice a week. The beach has been packed and overall everyone cleans up after themselves. However on a few quiet nights I've picked up a couple of cans & potato chip bags. I have noticed more people driving way too fast on French Pond Rd and near the beach and mailboxes. Another Great Month!

### **Planning Board Update:**

Planning Board Chairman Schmid stated that it was a quieter month in July. There were no new building permits issued and building has slowed. We updated the Zoning Officer's job description. It includes a new record keeping process and it is now in effect. Sometimes there is a question about messy yards in Mountain Lakes and we have researched the Zoning Ordinances and found that there is an ordinance against them.

On Thursday we had some one from the state (VLAP) come to test the lakes. She completed and checked for phosphorous, e coli and other things. Our weed growth is down from past years and we have no exotic weeds.

We approved the vinyl siding on a permit from last month. Mrs. Godston asked what is wrong with vinyl siding. Mrs. Schmid replied that some of it is ugly.

The Planning Board put in a request to have the tax map fixed concerning the North Beach. It now has been done.

### **Financial Update:**

Commissioner Schmid commented that we have a new format for the monthly financials. Renee created it so that we can compare last year's expenditures to this year. Renee explained that the biggest noticeable item is in the snack revenue. As a consequence of bad weather and the removal of non residents from the beach, sales have been down.

Commissioner Schmid read the maintenance report. Things are going smoothly, and productively. We have had a diver from M&K Commercial Diving down to plug the upper spillway inlet and we believe it is all set and should be at normal level soon(check the web sight for pictures). On a sour note we have had to replace the door to the office because of a break in of the community center. We are in the process of starting tree and brush cleanup around the area including the Tennis Courts.

### **New Business:**

The Kingsley's have a proposal. They stated that they are part time retired residents and which is the same as the majority of the homeowners in Mountain Lakes. They hoped that the office could work with them as well as others by having a message board on the Mountain Lakes web site to post homes for sale and for rent since they can't put out for sale signs and the people they are looking for to buy or rent are generally out of the area. Mrs. Kinsley stated that the staff here at Mountain Lakes is great particularly Renee and Don. Commissioner Schmid said that we are not in the business of selling property and managing the web site is time consuming. Mr. Godston stated that the district was not designed to do

that. Commissioner Schmid asked the Kingsleys to find an example of a district or town that is doing it. If it is legal it would then require a full time person in the office. Mrs. Kingsley stated that she included a sample rental agreement form Bretton Woods. Mrs. Hasbrouck replied that the problem is that an association is different from a government. Commissioner Farr said that Lyman Realty handles lots of rentals here. Mrs. Kingsley replied that Heidi Lyman does not call her back and that we should rather change a fee to Mountain Lakes residents to cover the cost to advertise their properties. Commissioner Schmid stated that the Kingsleys might want to put an ad in the Boston Globe and that might fill the house full of renters for the year. He then stated that maybe reopening the MLCA may be the legal side that could solve this problem.

Mrs. Godston requested Mountain Lakes make the District office a hot spot for internet use. Commissioner Schmid said we might then expose the computer in the office to outside computers and added he would indeed look into it.

Mr. Bonanno asked if we could put up two signs at either end of the causeway that say one car at a time.

Donald Hasbrouck made a motion to adjourn and Mike Bonanno seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 11:28a.m. The next Commissioners meeting will be on September 8, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee L Cota  
Office Manager