

MOUNTAIN LAKES DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

June 14, 2007

(Not approved)

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 AM. Commissioners present were Commissioner Demers, Commissioner Schmid and Commissioner Farr was excused.

Residents in attendance were June Soule, Beverly Jacobs, Peter Olander, Karen Rajsteter, Charlie Herdman, Mike Bonanno, JoAnne Crafts, Laurie & Joe Dirienzo, Sandy Schmid, Joan Emerson, Tom Eighmy, Suzanne Doherty, Erin Chasse and Ramona Nee.

The motion was made by Mr. Herdman and seconded by Mike Bonanno to accept the minutes with corrections that include Sandy Schmid in attendance.

The minutes of the June 9, 2007 Commissioners Meeting were accepted.

ZBA:

Commissioner Demers stated that we have new members for the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) to add today. They include Karen Rajsteter for a 3 year term, Erin Chasse for a 3 year term, and Joel Godston for a 2 year term, and changing William Schmitt from a regular member to an alternate with 2 years left.

Water Update:

Commissioner Schmid stated that we didn't have a water committee meeting in June. The water usage is still on track and we are using less water from Woodsville Water & Light. The gravel well is keeping up nicely.

Don Drew our Water Operator has been doing additional testing required by DES and he has been working with Scott Clang from GSRW. We are doing this more stringent testing because we failed the initial screening last year and we also feel that the initial testing was not done properly, which is quite common. Scott Clang stated that he wished his water was as good as ours. Scott has formulated a report to DES and hopefully when they receive it they will see that the initial testing was a sampling error.

Lake Status:

Commissioner Schmid stated that last week Horne Excavating was doing clean up at the Dam. It has been graded and seeded now. It is looking great. He also repositioned the culvert for the gravel road. It was truly an extensive amount of work. Next we will be putting fencing up around the pump house and well area to keep everyone from using the road. Mrs. Schmid stated that only 2/3 of the \$16,400 cost will come from a grant and the rest will have to be financed through Mountain Lakes.

Mr. Herdman asked about the foam on the lake. Commissioner Schmid stated that Aimee Smigula stated it is natural and good. It is not detergent.

Commissioner Schmid stated that yes indeed the upper lake is lower than in the past. The reason for that is that the end of the drain pipe is with out a valve. The 1968 drawing states that it was closed but does not say how and is obviously it is not blocked now. When the lower lake was empty it must have dislodged what ever was blocking it. This past week Steve Robbins dived to find the pipe but by 10 feet down he could not see his hand in front of his face. After that Commissioner Schmid and Don Drew dropped a sheet of plywood where they thought the end of the pipe might be and held it down by sand bags. It was

evidently unsuccessful because the lake is now down again. We have had discussions with Dubois & King about what it would take to fix this problem and they said that it would be very expensive to repair. The estimate would be \$350,000 because we will have to drain both lakes. Their recommendation is to have the lakes at the same level. You can't do it with a gate because we do not have a strong enough structure. Mr. Eighmy asked if they are at the same level does that mean the lake is 1 ½ feet down from normal. Commissioner Schmid said that our best option is to find the end of the pipe because anything else that we do would be a significant expense.

Recreation Update:

Beverly Jacobs said that the Recreation Committee would like to apologize for opening day because of the cancellation of the pot luck. In the future we will have the lodge as a back up.

Upcoming events have been posted on the office door and emailed to our distribution list. If you want to be on the list please email Renee at mtnlakes@chaterinternet.com. Some of the events include the ice cream social on July 22 at 2pm, the fishing derby will be on August 20, 2007 from 8am until 11am and awards will be handed out at 1pm, the labor day fireworks will be on Sept 1, 2007 at 9pm with a pot luck at 5pm on the beach with a rain location at the Lodge. The rain date for the fireworks is Sept 2, 2007 at 9pm. The last upcoming event at this time is the Oktoberfest on October 6, 2007 at the Lodge.

We have had sign up sheets for a walking club, volleyball and exercise on the beach and the turn out has been minimal. We are hoping for more interest so we can start these activities. We also need people to sign up for Labor Day Firework clean up. If the area is not cleaned up completely this year we will not be having them next year so please stop by the snack bar and sign up to clean up after the fireworks.

Mrs. Schmid stated that we have been trying to have some kind of activity for the teens of Mountain Lakes and our first idea was a movie night at the Lodge. We were hoping to begin small and then alternate between basketball and movie before venturing into bigger things like a dance. We really need to start small. Unfortunately there isn't much interest in movies, where there is for dances.

Commissioner Schmid stated that the Office Manager asked Melvin when he would deliver the fish and it will be late Monday or early Tuesday is the estimated time of delivery. Mr. Eighmy asked if we should have catfish and Commissioner Schmid said that we need them because you have to have bottom feeders. We did decide not to buy trout though because these are not trout lakes. We are purchasing adult fish and have declared the lakes catch & release until further notice. However if someone catch's a fish and it swallow's the hook please keep the fish and do not through it back.

Our Waterfront Supervisor, Peter Olander, read the following report. The beach and pool opened without incident on June 23. Because of inclement weather and cool temperatures the attendance over July 4 holiday week was down. Monitoring the parking has been a full-time job, but I believe the word is out that careful checks are being taken and, as a result, the infractions are becoming fewer.

The beach lifeguards are wonderful. I have no issues with them at all.

The only negative issues brought to my attention so far have been E-mails from Mike Bonanno concerning the evening swims at the pool. Evidently he has come down on occasion to find the pool closed. I have instructed the guards to exercise greater discretion in deciding to close the pool early as some people may elect to come down for a quick dip after an early supper. This, of course, would be weather permitting.

Mrs. Crafts asked what the procedure for the pool was when we have a thunder storm. Mr. Olander replied that if there is a rumble of thunder then everyone must get out of the pool area and get out of the lake for 20 min after the last time the lifeguards here thunder. Commissioner Schmid stated that there isn't a real safe

place except your basement in a thunder storm and that's why everyone must leave the pool enclosure. A resident asked if there could be a sign at the pool posting the hours. Commissioners Schmid said yes Renee will make one next week.

Commissioner Demers read the following Security Report. Overall, June was a great month for security at Mountain Lakes. There were a couple days that I found a door unlocked at the Lodge, a broken window that I put back in and several times that there were vehicles parked (hanging out) at the Lodge.

Unlike last year, the boats have been continuously locked up and have remained undisturbed. I did have a gentleman try to take a boat, claiming that it was his friend's boat; however he did not have the lock key and was obviously unable to take it.

There were a lot of fireworks towards the end of the month and I was quite pleased to see that people were respectful of the beach and cleaned up after them. Very nice to see!

A couple people diving too fast or the wrong way up "Killer Hill" but nothing major. Also the lodge parking lot seems to be a nighttime hangout for a few people. They don't cause trouble, more just a place to smoke cigarettes in their vehicle and hang out, from what I've observed.

There seem to be many more bears out so far this year than last. I've noticed them on Windsor Lane (almost every night in my yard) as well as Kinsman Rd and Valley Rd. I believe they have a den area in between Windsor Lane and Valley Rd, as I've seen 3 of them at one time come out of the area across from my house and they always return to the same path. They pulled my (large) dumpster into the road and tipped it completely over to eat the garbage, so if anyone has any ideas on keeping them out of the dumpsters I'd be very interested.

June was a great month! I was able to meet a lot of the residents as well as many people vacationing here while sitting in the parking lot of the beach. It's been a pleasure doing security again this year and I look forward to July being another great month.

Planning Board Update:

Mrs. Schmid stated that the Planning Board is very busy. We had four new zoning permits. One was approved completely, two were approved conditionally, and the fourth was denied. We understand that one will be going to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) to ask for a variance.

The planning board is also working on a new job description for the Zoning Officer. We are sending out letters for violation as well and the process is getting tighter.

Haverhill, Monroe and Bath have a grant to access the wetlands and Mountain Lakes could have additional time to find our wetlands at an additional cost. The proposal is \$3,000. The group is called watershed to Wildlife. Commissioner Schmid stated that the wet lands are under the Haverhill Conservation Commission.

The Planning Board is putting together Article 10 of our Zoning Ordinance specifically to protect our lakes.

Financial Update:

Commissioner Schmid stated that the minutes for the Bath residents meeting have been handed out and are posted on the web. The meeting was June 26, 2007. The meeting went well and the Bath Selectmen were here and participated. We will be putting a petition together for a District to be created in the town of Bath in Mountain Lakes. The two Bath residents agreed being part of the District is the best option.

Mr. & Mrs. Direnzo came to the meeting hoping to swap land with the district in order to build a garage next to their house. When they had a survey done they found out that their well and solar panels are on the Mountain Lakes property that is between both of their lots. They hope to swap land with Mountain Lakes and then join their lots together in order to build the garage and have their utilities on their property. This would ensure that Mountain Lakes still has access to the 21 acres of green belt behind their property. Commissioner Schmid stated that we could have a special meeting this year or wait until the annual meeting in March to have the voters decide. The Direnzo's decided that they would like to start the process for the annual meeting for 2008.

New Business:

Mrs. Doherty asked if it would be possible to have the foundation on the District Office painted. Commissioner Schmid replied that it is already on the maintenance list as well as the painting of the porch and the timbers by the snack bar to be replaced.

Mrs. Doherty asked if the umbrellas could be out on the tables every morning by 11am.

Sandy Schmid made a motion to adjourn and Susan Doherty seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 11:28a.m. The next Commissioners meeting will be on August 11, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee L Cota
Office Manager