

**MOUNTAIN LAKES DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, August 9, 2008
District Office 9:30 A.M.**

Call To Order – Karl Schmid called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M.

Roll Call – Karl Schmid (Commissioner), Chris Demers (Commissioner), and Beverly Jacobs (Commissioner).

Visitors – Ken King, Sandy Schmid, Mike and Pauline Bonanno, Joel and Annemarie Godston, Donna Leeima, and Darlene Simbal.

Minutes of Previous Meeting (07.12.08 regular meeting & 07.29.08 special pool meeting) – After review and a brief discussion minutes from both meetings were amended. Sandy Schmid moved to accept the July 12th and July 29th minutes as amended, seconded by Joel Godston. Motion passed.

Old Business

1) **Planning Board Update**

- a) **Zoning Applications** - Sandy Schmid reported that we have had two applications, one for a dock and one for a deck. There are also ongoing applications with concerns about the footing and foundation that the Planning Board is looking into. The Town of Haverhill Zoning Board of Adjustment met on July 24th regarding a request for variance by Stephen Eramo to build a house closer to the wetlands than allowed. The ZBA voted 5-1 against granting the variance.
- b) **Zoning Officer Report** - A Zoning Officer report was not submitted.
- c) **Master Plan** - The Master Plan Sub-committee is finishing Section II. The committee is working hard and is on schedule. Master Plans are a requirement any time you have a Planning Board and should be updated no less than every five years.
- d) **Meeting With Zoning Officer** - We are still working on improving the process of dealing with zoning applications, verification, and follow-up once they have been approved or disapproved. The Commissioners met with the Zoning Officer and came up with several improvement plans. They are now waiting for the updated process to happen. It continues to be a source of concern that we need better enforcement and record keeping. We are making many improvements in the record keeping process. Joel Godston said since we don't have a Zoning Officer report he would make a strong plea to follow up with the Planning Board to try to get him to do his job. He also questioned if there a time frame. Sandy Schmid would prefer a two-week time frame. Karl Schmid state that they had a meeting with the Zoning Officer, four items were identified, and since that time, the Zoning Officer has been on vacation. There hasn't been time to asses if he is willing to comply. Sandy Schmid stated that Don Drew has been communicating effectively and having him in the loop will make a tremendous improvement. Annemarie Godston said that by the next Commissioners, meeting all of these issues should be cleared up and followed by our

Zoning Officer and if that's not the case we should get another one. Joel Godston said he would second it. The Commissioners agreed. Motion passed. It was unanimous with the visitors. Sandy Schmid requested that the Planning Board be involved in the process of following up on this process, including meeting with the Zoning Officer. Commissioner Demers responded that that is another discussion. Commissioner Jacobs asked who picks the Zoning Officer. Commissioner Demers replied that it is the Commissioners. Pauline Bonanno expressed concern about Don Drew assisting with Zoning Officer duties and is it taking away from Don Drew's maintenance duties. Commissioner Schmid responded that Don Drew doesn't mind being involved with things that deal with the water lines, the setbacks for the septic tank and leach field. Secondly, how they are running the water line into the house. Those are already his duties. As far as the legalities of the zoning, Steve Robbins has been doing that. Commissioner Demers asked Pauline Bonanno if she was thinking Mountain Lakes is paying Don Drew to do what Steve Robbins should be doing. Commissioner Schmid said Steve Robbins is paid for each Zoning Compliance Checklist that he submits.

- e) **Pump House Fence** - Mountain Lakes got a DES grant to put a fence around the pump house to protect the land that ultimately protects the water. Mountain Lakes is paying for part of the expense and the DES grant is paying for the rest. Hopefully this will keep out vandals. Commissioner Demers stated that it would also keep out unauthorized motor vehicles.
- f) **VLAP** – Tom Eighthmy and Don Drew attended the lake testing. There is some concern that the amount of rain will have some affect on the test results, which will take a while to get back to us.

Mike Bonanno asked if the Planning Board should submit their minutes like the other minutes that the Commissioners receive. Sandy Schmid said that all Planning Board minutes are published on the web with a copy available at the office. Commissioner Schmid said that the purpose of reading all of those minutes into this meeting is because all of those committees report to the commissioners, whereas, the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment does not.

2) Water Committee Update

- a) Water Usage – Commissioner Schmid stated that our water usage in July is up by 5,000 gallons. A brief discussion followed regarding the Mountain Lakes Water Department Pump Data form.
- b) Water Report - A 4" pipe on Kearsarge Dr cracked and was leaking. A quick response by Kevin Horne's staff and Harold Clough kept repair/outage time to just a couple of hours. We have come to a two-year contract agreement with Kevin Horne and a one-year contract agreement with Harold Clough. Clough will have a 3 hour a week retainer and an hourly rate for emergency calls and additionally for any other work, we need. The Twin Mountain fencing is done.
- c) Meeting With Engineer - We had a meeting with Mike Metcalf of Underwood Engineering to see what he would recommend for expanding our water supply. He will be looking at our

original design and come up with a plan. At some point, we would like to come up with an infiltration system. We are now waiting for a response from Metcalf.

- d) PUC Ruling – Commissioner Schmid reported that the PUC ruled that Mountain Lakes could recover the capital expenses paid by Haverhill residents in their tax bills by including these costs in the Bath residents' water bills. The Bath Mountain Lakes Water bills will include \$375 to recover the capital expenses, which represents \$6000/yr of revenue to the Water System budget. Commissioner Demers summarized an email received from a Bath water customer that accuses Commissioner Schmid and Renee Cota of inappropriate actions relating to the Bath Water issue. The email was reviewed by the lawyer and several options are available, one of which is to send a letter to the residents of Haverhill explaining the steps that Mountain Lakes took to resolve the Bath Water issue. Commissioner Demers pointed out that any action Mountain Lakes took was promoted by the lawyer or PUC and that a clear paper trail exists. A brief discussion followed.

3) Recreation Update

a) Beach

- i) Report - Commissioner Jacobs stated that we have a great bunch of lifeguards and snack bar people and pointed out that Travis is quite a worker and a gentleman. Mike Bonanno acknowledged John Guay as doing a tremendous job. There were three incidents on the beach and Guay responded well. The 4-5 added night swims beyond the scheduled lifeguard hours are going well, with 12-15 people participating. Bonanno reported that he asked Don Drew to get a price to fix the light on the inside of the pool. Commissioner Schmid stated that Renee Cota said the price was high but didn't have an exact figure. The pool will not have to be drained to repair the light. Commissioner Demers stated that the cost of the repair should come out of the maintenance budget, not out of the recreation budget. Bonanno reported that two timers are missing pins which causes the pump and the lights to be either on or off instead of being able to go on and off as set by the timer. Commissioner Schmid confirmed that the heater has been fixed in the pool; however, the cost of fuel is an issue. The solar blanket will make a difference. Bonanno reported that a 17 inch perch was caught on the upper lake and a 14 inch largemouth bass was caught on the other lake during the Fishing Derby last Sunday. Bonanno also stated that some money might need to be put in the budget for sand next year. One of the concerns is the way the water comes off Killer Hill, through the parking lot and onto the beach. Annemarie Godston asked if solar panels for the lodge or the pool have been considered. Commissioner Schmid stated that the current payback for solar panels is about 15 years, although water heater solar panels are good for heating pools. Bonanno reported that some volunteers have been coming down and helping the kids with crafts and activities. Commissioner Schmid stated that unless people come out and volunteer we might have to cut back on activities. We have 111 full time homes and 220 part time homes. Pauline Bonanno asked if we should look into having a full time recreation person again. Commissioner Schmid stated that it would have to be looked at as a budget issue. There was some discussion to try to get more time from the Town of Haverhill Recreation Director but he is busy with baseball.

b) Pool Hours – There was a brief discussion regarding the posted 9:00 P.M. of the pool and it was decided that we will change the posted closing of the pool from 9:00 P.M. to Sunset

4) District

a) Financials - Commissioner Schmid reported that in general things are on track. One of the issues tracked this time of year are lifeguard hours. The rain has kept them low. Legal expenses were budgeted at \$8,000 but are \$10,000 now. There have been 5 water breaks this year not including the Kearsarge break. We will be watching the water budget very closely.

New Business

Joel Godston recommended the North Country Council in response to Mike Bonanno asking if anyone knew who could help with grant writing for an AED and solar panels.

Mike Bonanno asked if any permits have been received by the Planning Board for a lot on Windsor Lane that has been cleared. Sandy Schmid stated that none has been received.

Commissioner Schmid stated that we must post NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY when there is no lifeguard on duty, both at the beach and at the pool. Mike Bonanno stated that a new one was being made but that they would make a temporary one for now.

Sandy Schmid moved to adjourn, seconded by Pauline Bonanno. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle G. Chamberlain