

**MOUNTAIN LAKES DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

June 8, 2009

District Office 6:00 PM

Call to Order – Commissioner Chris Demers called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call – Chris Demers (Commissioner), Rosalie Farr (Commissioner), and Beverly Jacobs (Commissioner).

Residents in Attendance – Edward Rajsteter, Fred Harris, Pauline Bonanno, Mike Bonanno, Beverly Hasbrouck, Donald Hasbrouck, Brian Gaffney, Charles Herdman, June Soule, Florence Hartmann, and Peter Olander.

Guest – Donald Hammond, North Haverhill Fire Chief.

Minutes of Previous Meeting (05.11.09) – Rosalie Farr made a motion to review the minutes. Mike Bonanno moved to approve the minutes with the following changes: page 2 under Building Permits (a) line 2 remove “a” after , deck; page 4 Maintenance Report first line insert “u” between o and r; line 5 insert “s” after table. Chris Demers moved to accept the minutes as written as corrected. Rosalie Farr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1) **Person of the Year Award** – The Commissioners, Rosalie, Beverly, and Chris presented this plaque to Donald and Beverly Hasbrouck to thank them for their years of assistance to the Mountain Lakes District as Treasurer, Planning Board Member as well as a wealth of information. They were one of the first to build their home and have volunteered for many committees. **Thank You**, Don and Beverly.

2) **North Haverhill Fire Chief, Don Hammond** requested that several changes be made to the existing Dry Fire Hydrants in the District. a) The Dry Fire Hydrant near the mail boxes should be lowered closer to the water as it is a 25 ft lift to pump, and a drive put in to reach it; the Fire Hydrant in the Community Building parking lot should be removed and relocated near the lagoon below the dam; c) cover the remaining Fire Hydrants with plastic; d) the pond at the lodge can be used for that area as a water supply, but requests that it be made more accessible for tankers. Fire Chief Hammond also said that there could be grants available to cover some of the cost.

Charles Herdman said that since the hydrant to be placed near the lagoon was also in the Bath District, would the Town of Bath assist financially?

Edward Rajstater said that the Water Committee would investigate the matter and Don Hammond said that he would be willing to talk to the Water Committee. Rosalie Farr

said that the Water Committee would be meeting Wednesday evening, June 10. Chief Hammond said that he could not attend that evening but possibly the next meeting.

Mike Bonanno asked if the remaining fire hydrants should be removed? Don Hammond said that just covering them would be sufficient.

3) District Report –

District Report Submitted by Renee Cota:

To keep you up to date on the benefit that we are enjoying from the detection and subsequent repair of the Carr Road water line leak; we have dropped from a high of \$3,400 to \$320 in water purchase. With a few more months like this, the water budget will be back to where we budgeted.

The snack bar is currently being stocked with all kinds of goodies for the summer but we are in the process of changing vendors; as a result of the economy, our vendor has gone out of business. Don't worry, we'll still have plenty of hot dogs to go around.

Payment for the water bills has not yet picked up, there is still \$29,444 to collect.

I have received much verification from homeowners for pumping their septic tanks. Thank you for being so diligent; it is important to the health of our lakes that each and every homeowner take good care of their septic systems.

The annual audit will be next week. The office will be closed for the audit from June 16 through June 18.

Comment: Florence Hartmann said that she had received another letter regarding her septic tank and she had had Boudreault pump her system. Chris Demers said to call Boudreault and have him fax a copy of invoice to the office.

Comment: Charlie Herdman asked what could be done in order to collect the water bills that are in arrears. Chris Demers said that the water is shut off and if the bill still remains unpaid, a lien is placed on the property. Mike Bonanno asked if this was legal, Rosalie Farr replied that the District has followed the instructions of the District Lawyer and when a property is sold, the lien must be paid off during the closing if the bill has not been paid before.

Maintenance Report Submitted by Don Drew

We have been in the process of getting the beach area ready for summer by putting docks and rafts in place. The raft and buoys will be in place with the help of the summer staff on the 18th. The snack area in the c/c is ready and Bev has been busy cleaning and organizing. The lodge roof is still being worked on and some rake trim boards need to be repaired. We have been working with DES (Tim Wilson) and Allen

Pools (Brad Southworth) on getting our pool in compliance for the new DES regulations. It turns out that it is a little more complicated than originally thought. The pool area is ready and we will keep going forward with getting the pool ready as well.

Water Department

Water usage has been staying around 22,000 gpd with the exception of weekends when it goes to around 30,000 gpd. We had a 2" water main break on Dartmouth that was reported by a home owner at around 11:00 am and the repair was done and the water back in service by 5:30 pm, (est. 6,000 gal. lost). We had four different water tests go out and all have come back in compliance with the state.

The Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) is scheduled later this week, the 11th. With this in mind, make sure to double check any and all fertilizers that you use around the home, they can have a negative effect on the lake weeds and different algae growth.

Note: Peter Olander stated that he was impressed with the knowledge shown by Harold Clough during the water main repair on Dartmouth.

4. Recreation –

a. Pancake Breakfast – Beverly Jacobs reported that the Pancake Breakfast was a success raising \$63.00. Thank you everyone who volunteered.

b. Beach – Mike Bonanno asked why the raft was flowing freely around the lake. Beverly Jacobs replied that the raft would be in place by the 18th of June.

c. Pool Compliance - Chris Demers said that DES has issued a new regulation requiring public pools to install a release valve in the pool drain to prevent accidental drowning. By installing a drain release valve this can be prevented. The cost of the valve is \$1500. The question is are we a public pool or not. Rosalie Farr stated that Tim Wilson told Don Drew that if we do not comply, when our pool is inspected it will be shut down.

Charlie Herdman asked why would this be necessary as their are lifeguards present? Pauline Bonanno brought up the fact that a life guard is not always present as last year the pool was open for evening swims as long as a responsible adult was present.

Chris Demers said that Don Drew originally set aside \$75 for a cover over the drain, but since the visit by Tim Wilson, it was found that it was not acceptable and to be in compliance, a \$1500 cover is required. Don Hasbrouck said that if we do not comply, there is a chance that not only will the pool be closed, there is a \$5000 fine. If we are not in compliance within 60 days, there will be an additional fine. Rosalie Farr said that the Commissioners will continue to look into the regulation before acting on it.

d. Summer Program – Beverly Jacobs reported that John Ciccone has donated whistles, pouches, 3 first aid kits, and 1 set of radios. Pauline Bonanno asked how many radios were left from last year. Beverly replied that they would require new radios for this year, due to the fact that the lifeguards are rough with them. A solution could be to provide them with a set at the start of the season and if they are lost or mishandled, be responsible for the cost of a second set. Strict rules will be set for the lifeguards this year including they must sit in the lifeguard chairs when on duty. The budget is for 5 lifeguards and 2 helpers for the snack bar.

Line Item 5017-2 - Beverly Jacobs said that she wanted to make it clear that 1. she is not creating an additional position for herself. Her pay is from item 5019-2 (snack bar) not 5017-2 (head lifeguard). We will not have a head lifeguard this year, but Beverly will act as supervisor of the lifeguards and appoint one to supervise when she is absent.

Mike Bonanno asked when would the summer program begin? Beverly Jacobs said June 20, 2009. Mike said that he had a problem with that as when the recreation committee made their calendar up, we talked about opening the beach July 4th and the rec committee recommended opening the beach July 4th, so my question is- who decided to open the beach on June 20th?. Rosalie Farr said schools in this area close on the 16th. Beverly Jacobs said that the beach has opened soon after local schools finished every year. Mike said that the rec committee gave Renee Cota a copy of the calendar for the year which recommended the beach open July 4th. Beverly Jacobs said that if we wait until the 4th of July, the snack bar will be unable to provide everyone with parking tickets as well as service. Opening the 20th will allow everyone to get everything in order. Mike Bonanno asked who made the decision to open on the 20th when the rec committee recommended July 4th. Rosalie Farr said that it is probably in the January commissioners meeting minutes and that when the Budget Committee plans out the budget it is decided at that time. Peter Olander said that he thought it was too early also.

Mike Bonanno said that he had asked Renee Cota to blanket E-mail residents a request from the recreation committee for responsible adults to supervise the pool for evening swims. Renee Cota said that she would have to get permission from the Commissioners. Rosalie Farr said it was probably a communications problem and she would look into it. Mike Bonanno said that he would supervise one evening and Pauline Bonanno another evening.

Please Note – Rosalie Farr said that in the future, matters requiring specific answers from budget hearings, legal matters, committee meetings etc. must be presented to the Commissioners in **writing not less than 5 business days prior** to the next meeting in order to be considered to be on the Agenda. The Commissioners do not want to avoid answering questions or requests, but to do so, they need to research the material in order to provide answers.

Fishing Licenses - It is still unclear regarding fishing licenses – but Mike Bonanno suggested that a sign be posted restricting fishing for residents and guests only. Chris Demers said that it will remain catch and release for two more years. (note: Chris Demers said that he had caught a 14” 3 lb small mouth bass so there are **big** ones in the lake.)

5. Planning Board Report –

Chris Demers reported that the Planning Board had received no new requests for Building Permits. The Planning Board consists of mainly new members, therefore the meeting mainly was a discussion of the different Zoning Ordinances and if they should be made more specific and clearer.

However, Chris reported that the office had received a response to a letter sent to the owner of the property located on Map 204, Lot 057, Wildcat Drive. As the community is aware, this property is not in compliance with Mountain Lakes Zoning Ordinances. In order to proceed there are several steps before a fine can be levied. The next letter will contain a fine.

Chris said that this is exactly why the Planning Board also discussed whether or not building permits for garages should be declined and would like to get a legal opinion on this. Our zoning ordinances say that a garage or shed should be sided in the same material as the home, therefore should a permit for a house be submitted at the same time as a garage or shed? It is understandable that while building a home, someone may want a shed or garage to house tools etc., but we should not issue a permit for a shed or garage alone.

Peter Olander and Charles Herdman both voiced complaints regarding properties that are not maintained and reduce the property values of everyone in Mountain Lakes. Chris Demers said that the Commissioners, the Planning Board, and the Zoning Officer are enforcing the rules as much as the laws permit, there are steps that must be followed so that everything is done legally.

6. Zoning Officer Report – None.

7. Other –

a. Brian Gaffney suggested planting pumpkins on the ski hill so that when the October Fest was held, the District could have their home-grown pumpkins. He suggested that since the growing season is short, that seedlings be planted rather than seeds. Brian also suggested that in the future the District could plan a Community Garden.

b. Charlie Herdman asked how many homes were in the District at present. Chris Demers said that there are 310 with 2 in progress.

c. Charlie Herdman asked if the brush on the sides of Killer Hill could be removed as it has become overgrown with new growth. There is a light on the hill but it has become next to invisible because of new growth. Rosalie Farr said that she would discuss the matter with Don Drew.

d. Mike Bonanno said if since there is not a head lifeguard, he would like to make a suggestion that the District of Mountain Lakes purchase a defibulator (**spelling**). We can get a decent defibulator for \$1500.

Chris Demers said that Mountain Lakes has not needed one for 20 years and he does not see a need for one at this time. All the lifeguards are certified in CPR.

Mike Bonanno said that he would like to poll the Commissioners for the record.

Beverly Jacobs said that she votes no – the District has to spend \$1500 for a release valve for the pool.

Rosalie Farr said no, just because there is money in the budget, we may need it elsewhere at this time.

Chris Demers said no, but he would like additional information.

Chris Demers made a motion to close the meeting.

Rosalie Farr seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Harris