

**MOUNTAIN LAKES DISTRICT  
COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**August 9, 2014**

**\*UNAPPROVED\***

**Call to Order:** Chris Demers called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

**Roll Call:** Bob Long, Chris Demers, Jessica Brusseau

**Residents in Attendance:** Fred Garofalo, Tom Eighmy, Grete D'Hondt, Jon Brusseau, Mike Bonanno, Polly Bonanno, Darlene Simboli, Barbara Keating, Don Keating, Dottie Long, Ken King, Laraine King and David Martella.

**Special Guest: Andrew Timmins, NH Fish & Game Wildlife Biologist,** gave an informational presentation regarding cohabitating with bears. He stated bears are eating machines who prefer to eat in the wild, but if quality food is available, they will find it. He noted Fish & Game regulations prohibit intentional or unintentional feeding of bears and Haverhill has a town ordinance requiring attractants be made inaccessible to wildlife. His main suggestions were:

- Bird feeders should be out from December 1 to April 1 only.
- Secure attractants such as trash receptacles - use bear-proof metal top containers with locks or electrify fences around trash collection boxes to deter bears. Food scraps can be kept in the freezer until trash pickup day. If trash is stored inside a garage or shed, manage the trash odors with ammonia. Don't put trash receptacles out the night before pickup day; put them out in the morning instead.
- If you discover a bear getting into your garbage, scare it off by turning on your car alarm or throwing sticks and stones. If a bear becomes a nuisance, call NH Fish & Game.

Regarding the geese issue at Mountain Lakes, Andrew Timmins said the best solution is to make geese not want to stay in the area by constantly hazing them prior to nesting (late April/May). This includes chasing them, setting off pyrotechnics, and letting dogs bark at them. He also said barrier fences at the water's edge will deter them because geese like to walk in from the water, not fly up and over a barrier.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**July 12 Meeting:** Chris Demers moved to approve the minutes. Bob Long seconded and motion passed.

**District Business:**

**Manifests:** Chris Demers moved to approve the manifests for July 8, 2014 to August 4, 2014. Bob Long seconded and motion passed.

**Financials:** Financial reports for Water Dept. and District accounts for the period ending July 31, 2014 were reviewed and approved.

**Water Bill Report:** The commissioners reviewed a report from Kristi Garofalo, Administrative Assistant, showing outstanding water bills totaling over \$41,000 with approximately \$13,900 owed on payment plans.

**Maintenance/Water Update:** The commissioners reviewed the report from Don Drew, Water and Maintenance Supervisor. Maintenance highlights: New electric range and new egress window have been installed at the Lodge; thanks to head lifeguard Kirsten Bielarski for overseeing pool and grounds while Don Drew was on vacation for a few days. Water highlights: Water usage is around 27,000 to 33,000 gallons per day; the Bedrock Well Pump issue is ongoing; very basic repair has been done to the chamber hatch riser to plug the holes; replaced a concrete top to an air release valve containment on Hill Top Drive; met with Jim Vernon from Nobis Engineering to start the process for gravel type water source development; incidents included a water service line on Hanover that was repaired by the homeowner's contractor and a report of low pressure in a home on White Mountain Drive was internal in the home. Mike Bonanno commented the picnic tables have rotten boards that need to be replaced. **Bob Long said Don Drew is planning repairs for the tables and will follow up with him.**

Ken King reported the water committee is working on the water source issue and repair projects. Mike Bonanno asked about negotiation of water rates with Woodsville Water & Light and Bob Long said the District is working with WW & L on our rate, but an increase from the current rate of \$5.51 per 1,000 gallons is anticipated.

**Planning Board Update:** Chris Demers reported the Board gave conditional approval for a home to be built on Swiftwater Drive and is working on map standardization and swimming pool regulations. The Board is also looking at the Killer Hill lot where work is being done. There is a question whether the road is town-maintained or private. Mike Bonanno suggested Haverhill Planning Board, MLD Planning Board and the Haverhill road agent set up a meeting to discuss the issue. *Chris Demers said he would bring the idea of a joint meeting to the Board.* Tom Eighmy reported the preliminary results of the VLAP assessment are in and show major increases in chlorophyll levels of both lakes. More information will be made available when the full report is released. Polly Bonanno suggested a District-wide mailing with zoning changes and other updates. Discussion was held about ways to communicate the District's rules and ordinances to residents. *Chris Demers will work with the Board about setting up mailings to inform residents of zoning changes. Kristi Garofalo will work on informational welcome packets for new residents.* Mike Bonanno suggested holding Planning Board meetings on Saturday so residents could attend; *Jessica Brusseau will talk to the Board about Saturday meetings.*

**Forestry Update:** Chris Demers reported surveyor and forester Harry Burgess is currently doing a preliminary survey of the power line lots in preparation for cutting.

**Recreation Update:** Grete D'Hondt reported the Moonlight Kayak activity will be this evening and is held in conjunction with the Haverhill Area Recreation Department. August 31 is the date for the Block Party with DJ, potluck dinner, and fireworks display planned. Newly designed Mountain Lakes t-shirts are available for sale in the snack bar. Mike Bonanno reported people having fires on the beach without permits and that they are also using District firewood for their fires. *Bob Long will send out an email reminder about fire permits for beach campfires.*

**Action Items Review:** Bob Long reported there were no changes to the Action Item list.

#### **Old Business:**

**District roads:** Bob Long reported that after correspondence with Haverhill regarding the condition of Mountain Lakes roads, he was directed to take the matter to the selectboard. He shared the letter and information package he is sending to the board asking for a long-range plan to bring the District's roads up to par; and he will appear at an upcoming selectboard meeting (date to be determined) to present the information in person.

#### **New Business:**

**Beach Condition/Maintenance:** Barbara Keating gave a list of residents' concerns about the beach: picnic tables need to be repaired, rope is missing from the life preserver on the south beach, two dead trees on the peninsula need to be taken down, grass is growing through the beach sand, trimming needs to be done around boat racks, signage needs to be updated and consolidated to attract attention, and better enforcement of parking passes/beach rules is needed. She also asked that next year's budget include new tables, better umbrellas, more boat racks and more boats. Discussion followed about beach regulations regarding dogs – whether they are allowed on the grass, but not on the beach sand OR whether dogs are not allowed anywhere in the beach areas. *Bob Long will research the question.* Mike Bonanno asked if it would be possible to sell bait at the snack bar; *Jessica Brusseau will check out the possibility.*

**Community Garden:** Polly Bonanno suggested using the old camping area as a place for a community garden where residents could sign up for a plot to grow vegetables and share the extras with other garden members. After discussion, it was decided that *Polly Bonanno will put together a letter to be mailed out to District residents to gauge interest in starting a community garden.*

Bob Long made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(e). Jessica Brusseau seconded and a roll call vote was held on the motion. Chris Demers – Aye, Bob Long – Aye, Jessica Brusseau – Aye.

Entered non-public session at 11:44 am. Public session reconvened at 12:06 pm.

Chris Demers moved to adjourn and Jessica Brusseau seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristi Garofalo