

CRYSTAL LAKE ASSOCIATION

Report of Meeting for
July 24, 2008

Recording Secretary, Monique Burns
Meeting Started at 7:06pm

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Monique Burns read the Secretary's report for April 29, 2008. A motion was made to accept the report as read and seconded.

TREASURE'S REPORT: Vic Laptic read the Treasure's report covering the period 4/29/08 through 7/24/08. A motion was made to accept the report as read and seconded.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Vic Laptic reported that the current 2008 Crystal Lake Association membership for 2008 stands at 55.

COORESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT: A May news letter was sent to residents in the water shed area and members of CLA. A fall news letter will be sent before the end of the year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water Testing Committee: Bill Merson stated that one water test sample was performed at the end of May and that there will be one performed each month until October. Crystal lake is very clear.

Fund Raising Committee: Cheryl Mickiewicz stated that we are still planning to hold our first annual Crystal Lake Picnic. It is scheduled for August 16, 2008 at Aborn Beach with a rain date of August 17, 2008. Subsequent to this meeting, the annual picnic was cancelled due to member issues with liability. Cheryl is still in need of more people who want to help with the fund raising committee. Anyone interested should contact her.

Web Site Committee: Bill Merson stated that 18 people have registered on the web site Anyone interested in adding items to the CLA web should contact Bill.

Milfoil Committee: Monique Burns stated that a meeting was held on 6/10/08 with Jack Turner present as the Liaison from the Town. The following update of tasks assigned to members of the committee was presented:

Jeanne Burns sent a letter to Mike Stupinski and Ted Graziani including the milfoil report and asked for support to obtain a grant or other funding options that might be available. Jeanne has received three quotes for herbicide treatment of the pond across from Crystal Lake beach and is in the process of comparing them to put together a report to submit to the Town as requested.

Bill Merson prepared a cost estimate for approximately \$12,000 required to purchase or build a harvesting barge. It is the CLA's intention to obtain a barge and equipment to harvest the milfoil in the future as a maintenance operation after the initial harvesting program is complete. It may also be used in the very near future if a grant cannot be obtained this coming fiscal year. The growth of the milfoil will continue unless measures are taken to slow it down.

Roger Hosig did some research to obtain grants and found the Fish and Wild Life Organization may be able to provide CLA with a \$25,000.00 grant to fight the milfoil. He is in contact with them and will report the out come at our next meeting.

Dave Artz and Monique Burns put together the cost estimates for suction harvesting the milfoil in the entire lake based on the George Knoeklein report. This information will be submitted to the town for their review and use in producing a grant proposal to the State DEP and legislatures at the next general assembly in February 2009.

Monique Burns reported that two property owners allegedly took matters into their own hands and bought herbicides and put them in the lake in front of their properties. This information was given to Monique at a party by a property owner whose name was not given. A big discussion ensued. Many members feel that nothing is being done about the milfoil problem and that the DEP and/or the Town should step up and rectify this issue. Subsequent to this meeting, Linda Chojinicki a member of CLA, wrote an e-mail to the DEP Pesticide Control Unit and complained about the property owners who allegedly put herbicides into the lake without a permit or license to do so. The DEP investigated the complaint. Both the Town and Ted Graziani were informed of this issue. Let it be known to all, that the CLA in no way was involved with the persons who administered the herbicides illegally. To the contrary, CLA has been working with the DEP, the Town of Ellington, North Aquatic Research, and Ted Graziani over the last 4 years to survey the plant species, develop a report and produce the required costs and present it to the Town and DEP who then can hopefully provide the necessary funds to develop a program for removal of the Milfoil. Those members who wish to help with this serious issue are encouraged to inform their neighbors about the milfoil so that spreading of the milfoil by props and cutting of the weeds will be kept to a minimum, to write letters to the Town, DEP or Legislators encouraging them to develop a program and provide the funds, and to give donations to the CLA to help maintain the quality of the lake in the future.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Dam: No news.

Molly West Scholarship Memorial Fund: Kathy Green stated that Jim Connelly, who coordinates scholarships given to graduating students in the town of Ellington, could not find a student who met the criteria for our \$500.00 scholarship. The criteria would be a graduating student who attended Crystal Lake School and who intends on studying the environment. Some discussion ensued regarding the criteria and if it should be changed to make it easier to find a candidate to receive it. Given that Molly west loved Crystal Lake and the environment, it was expressed by Kathy Green that it would be nice to award the money with the aforementioned criteria and not change it. Therefore, it was agreed that the money would stay with Jim Connelly till next year in the hopes that someone could be found in the next graduating class who meets the criteria.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mark Mickiewicz discussed CLA signing off on a community service being performed by a youth in the area. The community service involved cleaning the bottom of the lake near the boat launch. Mark reported that there has been an increase of trash accumulation in the water at the boat launch. Apparently, boaters do not want to be caught with trash or fined for drinking so they sink their bottles before getting to the boat launch. It was agreed to call the Town and request a trash can that CLA would pay for and place at the boat launch.
- Fall clean up is scheduled for 8:30am Saturday September 13.
- Bill Merson presented his invention called "Crystal". It is a motorized underwater robot with a mechanical arm and camera. Bill intends on using it to identify areas of milfoil for maintenance operations in the future.
- The next meeting is scheduled for September 24, 7:00pm at the Crystal Lake School.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.