

44th MLCA&WAG Membership Meeting

Minutes from Friday July 29, 2011

Mt. Lake Firehouse

Meeting was called to order by Eileen Greason, President at 7:03 pm with members in attendance. Thanks were extended to all of the volunteers over the past year, including the Liberty Township Girl Scouts for the enhancement of the Mt. Lake sign.

Minutes: Terry Leonard made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the 43rd Annual Membership meeting on July 30 2010, seconded by Liz Rossi with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Eileen Greason presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Carolyn Pullman, Treasurer. Terry Leonard made a motion to approve the report as presented, seconded by Frank Joseph with all in favor. Members noted the great effort on Carolyn's part as Treasurer.

Goals 2012: Eileen Greason discussed reducing our goals list for 2012, focusing in on 1-3 goals over the next year. The floor was opened for suggestions:

- Eileen Greason mentioned organizing a boat parade, finding solutions to fund improvements to beach area; boat paddle/picnic; goal for education through brochures/seminars.
- Alice Bechok would be on a committee to find solutions to beach area
- Rob Bechok discussed increasing promotional materials
- Liz Rossi would like to see a 10% increase in membership
- Discussed replacing the bulletin board by Jenny Jump State Forest Entrance - Alice Bechok called NJ Park Service and they informed her they would replace the sign since it was damaged from vandalism
- Amy Davis mentioned concerns about casino and how can we tear it down – Eileen responded with information provided from town committee meeting; if this is a goal then MLCA & WAG will work cooperatively with town committee open space and rec committee
- Rob Bechok reported to the membership the outcome of the July 28th auction and town committee meeting
- Frank Joseph discussed goal of interpretive signs to id history of lake, environment, talk about bog/wildlife, this should be an ecotourism destination – bike racks; casino side – canoe rack to rent for personal craft – maybe this could be something discussed with town recreation or environmental commission; Eileen responded this has been brought up at other town meetings
- Shannon Schaaf mentioned the new ecotourism major at Warren County Community College and possible partnership opportunities. S. Schaaf will contact college. F. Joseph suggested the program might be a good presentation at next year's meeting.
- Mr. Ed Davis mentioned turning the newsletter into a greater form of communication within the membership. Suggested adding an area to post for sale/wanted lake related items and also post on website.
- Liza Thomas recommended looking into Mt. Lake facebook page and creating our own; Shannon Schaaf will investigate
- Beth Williams suggested advertising about fishing success here at Mt. Lake – check out local publications mentioning big catches, variety, etc. to boost ecotourism
- Discussion held on model airplanes program. Learned that since town bought property, the group needed to produce certificate of insurance. The group did not have insurance, so they are no longer able to use property.
- Shannon Schaaf suggested hosting a Community Plant Swap in fall of 2012. Alice Bechok recommended reaching out to Liberty Township Girl Scouts.

Summary of 2011 Goals:

1. Support Liberty Township in the Removal and rebuild of the casino property.
2. Increase membership and participation.
3. Enhance communication and increase visibility of Association online.
4. Maintain existing memberships and affiliations.
5. Offer the MLCA & WAG newsletter via email and website.
6. Organize two community events for 2012: Boat Parade and Plant Swap

Summer Update: Presented by Eileen Greason

- Membership 2012 drive begins (6 Lifetime) Currently 103 members; Same number as July 30, 2010
- Committees: Committees have been set aside to create focus committees for new goals. The committees will be reviewed again in the future. Eileen Greason asked who would work on goals through committees:
 - o Membership Committee: Liz Rossi
 - o Communications Committee: Shannon Schaaf
 - o Solutions for the Casino Committee: Alice Bechok, support of Liza Thomas
- Website was updated in June 2011; Visit it at <http://libertytownship.org/community/mountainlake/index.html>
- Community Day will be held Saturday, July 30th. Postponed originally due to weather.
- The Association is maintaining memberships in NJ Coalition of Lakes Association (NJCOLA), North American Lake Management Society (NALMS), Ridge & Valley Conservancy, Foodshed Alliance, & Paulinskill-Pequest Watershed Association.
- Clean Communities Grant: This is 13th year! We received \$300 for our litter clean-up efforts. In 13 years, over 18,000 gallons of garbage has been removed from our environment. Thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers!
- Herbicide Treatments 2011: Allied Biological is the applicator and consultant. In early May, Reward was used to treat milfoil. On May 31st, the Beach/Boat Launch area was treated with Aquathol, Super K, and Renovate. In July, AquaPro was used to treat the waterlillies. The time to hand harvest is NOW – cutters are available for loan.
 - o Weed control in the future: Water Chestnut
- Conditions of Lake/Water Monitoring Program 2011
 - o Frank Joseph has not yet sampled, but has noted that algae blooms have been small and short lived.
 - o Eileen Greason recommended contacting a local college student who is looking for eco projects. She has a biology focus. Eileen Greason will contact her and suggested maybe this will open our scholarship up to well suited applicants.
- Municipal beach update:
 - o Water quality at the beach quality has been very good, ranging from 10-30ppm; there was one week the count was 320ppm. Eileen Greason was contacted by the lab. Health Dept requires two consecutive high readings in order to close the beach. The second reading was 10ppm. Noted that there were lots of kids swimming and the water was tested at the end of the day. Just an anomaly.
 - o Beach has been very active; weekends are up over 100 people a day; 40/day during the week. The lifeguards are doing a great job maintaining the beach and keeping everyone safe. The beach is open until 7pm this summer, 1 hour later than last year.
- Joan Knechel Memorial Walk 10/16/11 – Liza Thomas provided information about registration, history of the walk, and details for 2011 event. If interested in learning more, registering to walk, or donating, visit the website at http://www.hch.org/cal_detail.asp?ItemID=2188 or www.hrmcnj.org under Foundation.
- 5th MLCA & WAG Scholarship: There were 3 applicants. After reviewing the applications none qualified.
- Article I of Bylaws revision Update: Change of Association addresses have been completed and are official.
- West Nile Virus has been discovered 2 pools that tested positive. The Warren County Mosquito Commission have been spraying. Membership was reminded to wear repellent in the early morning and near dusk and dump out any containers holding water to prevent mosquito population growth.
- MLCA & WAG and Environmental Commission produced a Non-Point Source Pollution brochure to increase awareness. Please take a brochure and be conscience of not feeding wildlife and reducing non-point source pollution.

Fifth Ruth Ballou Environmental Activism Award was presented to Marge & Frank Joseph for their dedication to the Association and years of service. Marge Joseph was an officer of the association until 1999. Frank Joseph was the President until 2010. Thank you for being true leaders.

Election of Officers 2012 Motion to accept by acclamation the following slate:

- Frank Joseph moves that officers as listed be approved by acclimation; seconded by Terry Leonard with all in favor. Eileen Greason abstained.

President: Eileen Greason

Vice President: Liz Rossi

Secretary: Shannon Schaaf

Treasurer: Carolyn Pullman

Trustees: Liza Thomas, Dave Schaaf, Alice Bechok

General Discussion/questions for the good of the order:

- Helen Danitz suggested a fall leaf pick-up. Ms. Danitz had mentioned this to town committee. Proposal is to borrow a leaf truck for fee from Belvidere and have residents sign up and pay for collection.

Adjournment: Eileen Greason adjourned the meeting at 8:08pm.