

LCIA Board Meeting Minutes – APPROVED– October 9, 2024

Date of Meeting: October 9, 2024 - This meeting was held at Pirzl Hall.

Board Members:

Marty Connors (P)	Tom Martin (VP)	Linda Roy (S)	
Gerald Dufresne (R)	Carol Natitus (R)	Lynn Fontaine (R)	Mike Panek (R)
Mary Griffin (R)	Seth Kaufman (R)		
Kay Warren (Alt)			

Board Members Absent: Chris Fyler (T), Bill Cameron (Alt), Michael Paine (Alt)

Public in Attendance: Ralph Sherman, Liz Provencher

1. **Call to Order/Seating of Alternates:** 6:35p.m. by Marty Connors. No alternates were needed.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Time was allowed for reading of the minutes. One error was noted that the sentence on line 58-59 was duplicated in line 62.

Motion to accept the minutes with correction was made by Mike, seconded by Jerry, unanimous voice vote with two abstentions.

3. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

4. **Approval of Treasurer's Report:** Mike made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Jerry, followed by unanimous voice vote.

5. **Remarks by the President:** Marty updated everyone on the lowering of the lake. Measurement was at 34.5 inches. We will attempt to maintain approximately that level through the end of October for work to be done by residents.

6. **Correspondence:** Residents reached out once again about drainage issues on properties at 267 Ference Drive and 7 Armitage Court. After additional review, it has been determined that this is not the responsibility of the LCIA. Marty will contact residents via letter of the Board conclusion.

In regards to a concern about a dead tree on Short Front Drive, only a survey can determine who owns the property where it is growing. The LCIA Board will inform the resident that they are free to have the tree removed , with request that the stump be ground and not removed to avoid damage to the road.

Marty received correspondence from an Amidon Drive resident who is concerned about his well running dry if the lake is lowered too far. The Board was made aware that there are approximately 5 homes with shallow wells. These residents will need to monitor their situation with regards to their wells. The plan is to keep the lake at approximately 36" as voted on by the membership at the August meeting to facilitate shorefront repair. This is especially critical for

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those properties that are along the dam and experiencing severe erosion, which can affect the safety of the dam itself.

Marty made members aware of the Community Forum for Ashford's Future on October 16th beginning at 7PM at Knowlton Hall.

7. Chairperson's Reports:

- a. **Boat Launch and Boat Dock:** (Jerry Dufresne) – The boat launch has been mowed and weeds removed. Jerry will move the sign to make it more visible and avoid confusion about the boat launch being private and that it is in fact open to residents of Lake Chaffee for boat launching and fishing.
- b. **Constable:** (Jerry Dufresne) – No new concerns by Jerry other than the continued driving of dirt bikes and ATV's on lake and town roads. There is little recourse to this matter other than to encourage people to contact State Police. We remind residents that it is illegal and dangerous to drive unregistered vehicles such as ATV's and dirt bikes on public roads.
- c. **Beaches – Main & Mothers:** (Liz Provencher, Mary Griffin) – Liz has been raking out weeds and removing cattails at Mother's Beach as needed. Kathleen and Chas Bean removed cattails from Mother's Beach. Mary will do more work to remove additional growth to allow an area for boats to land there for beach use. Thank you to all who help improve our beaches. The new drainage pipe at Mother's Beach is expected to be done within the next week per Tom.
- d. **Dam:** (no Chairperson) – An anonymous resident has kindly removed the plant growth from the dam and kept the grass mowed. The Board is greatly appreciative. The water level appears to be holding fairly steady as planned. Marty will develop a protective screening of some kind for future use to avoid entrapment of wildlife in the siphon.
- e. **Environmental Chairperson:** (Ralph Sherman) – Ralph has nothing new to report except that it appears geese are moving through as they migrate but not staying on the lake in large numbers.
- f. **Roads:** (no Chairperson) – Tom will stay in communication with Greg Peck to remove the silt pile by Ashford and do any necessary repairs to roads as needed.
- g. **Fund Raising:** (Mary Griffin) – Mary will work on doing a Paint Party November 20th as some residents have shown an interest in participating.
- h. **Tax Collection:** (Mike Panek & Tom Martin) – Mike informed everyone that the tax bills went out on October 1st as planned. There has only been one question so far. Tom has been in touch with the lawyer and a Tax Auction of severely delinquent tax properties will be held on January 23rd at 1PM in Chaffee Hall. All owners of said properties are aware of the situation.

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i. **Hall:** (Lynn Fontaine) – Due to the need to replace the septic system at Chaffee Hall, no rentals can be booked at this time. Mike plans on doing repairs to the doors and will check out the kitchen sink faucet leak. He believes the toilet issue was related to the holding tank being full, which has been addressed by having it emptied on October 1st.

j. **Website:** (Linda Roy) – Linda will work with our Webmaster to resolve issues of missing meeting minutes. In addition, she will have the Treasurer’s Report included on the link for the minutes as several residents have expressed wanting to know how the funds are being used. This appears to have been an oversight in the past.

8. **Old Business:** Tom informed the Board that the Squirrel Hill property is one that he has been discussing with the town and so far there has been no progress on the matter. Jerry has spoken to Dad and Sons about tree removal on Swing Island. This will be handled in the spring. In addition, he has gotten an estimate of \$1,200 to remove three trees at the boat launch. Mary made a motion to approve spending this money for the removal, Lynn seconded the motion, which passed with one abstention. Mike has agreed to take over the Septic System matter and will continue the process where Marty has left off. He is hoping to have everything in place, including all necessary permit approvals so we can vote on a contractor and move forward early next spring.

9. **New Business:** The tree removal will be handled in the spring as per Jerry at the cost of around \$1,200.

10. **Adjournment:** Lynn moved for adjournment at 8:25 p.m., seconded by Jerry, unanimous voice vote.