

LAKE ASHUELOT ASSOCIATION
603-495-6151 - laeinc.org
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Camp Morgan Lodge
July 11, 2009

President Don Damm called the meeting to order at 9:12am. Don introduced LAE officers and Directors. He explained the procedures that would be followed during the meeting, reminding members that when a ballot or voice vote is called for, only one member of the household is allowed to vote. He explained if an oral vote was to close to call, he would ask the members to use the LAE vote card given out at check-in. Ballots for the election of officers and directors will be collected until 10am when the balloting will be closed. Election results will be announced at the end of the business meeting. The agenda will be followed with the exception of Security, which would be moved to accommodate the arrival of Chief Marshall. Don thanked all the volunteers for their many efforts during the year and asked them to stand and be recognized. He welcomed new LAE members and asked them to stand and identify themselves. Don asked members who wish to comment during the meeting to stand and state their name when speaking and if they make a motion or amendment to a motion to please put the motion in writing so it could be read before the vote is taken.

Joe Gentile made a **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the July 12, 2008 as written. Jim Russell seconded the motion. All approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

NOMINATIONS & ELECTION: Carolyn Russell reported that during the past year the Nominating Committee researched and reviewed how the committee has functioned historically. Reviewing Minutes of the Annual Meetings from the very earliest days, we found that the committee was formed informally during the early years of the Association. How nominations were made was not clear, but it was evident that the nominations from the floor and write-in nominations were unsuccessful except in one instance when a candidate on the ballot had to withdraw unexpectedly at the last moment. After last year's meeting, the committee was aware that many people no longer attend the meetings nor submit their ballots because they are happy with the status quo. In order to encourage a broader participation in the election process, the committee suggested to the BOD that we try a different process for handling the ballots this year. Thus, for the first time the committee provided the ballot on a prepaid postcard that was sent to all members before the meeting. So far the responses have been positive, and members were pleased to have the chance to vote, especially members who typically neither attend nor vote at the Annual Meeting. As usual, in the winter newsletter the committee included a plea for candidates for the BOD to contact the nominating committee with their interest. The committee received 3 responses-one is on the ballot, the other 2 withdrew before the ballot was assembled. Strangely, we heard comments that new BOD members are neither sought nor welcome. Quite the contrary, we have never rejected a person who expressed an interest in serving if they agreed to fully participate in BOD meetings and committees. We do ask a candidate to commit to attend at least 3 of the 4 BOD meetings and to serve on at least one committee and be active in the affairs of the Association. The Nominating Committee then creates a ballot, listing those nominees and recommends them to the BOD. Write-ins are always accepted, but there is no assurance that the nominee wishes to serve or will be available to be an active participant, so the BOD ascertains if that is the case before listing them on the ballot. The LAE BOD is a volunteer effort and depends on the participation of all its members to attend to the management and functioning of the association, which attempts to reflect the wishes of the majority of LAE members.

BUDGET & FINANCE: Pat Liotta reviewed the budget vs. actual expenses report saying that annual bills are calculated to cover the approved budget each year. This year many more LAE members are making monthly payments, some not paying until the end of the fiscal year, or not at all. In mid May a letter was sent to the members who still owed for this year, stating that the association realized times were difficult and that if they paid their bill June 30, they could subtract the interest. This produced a few end of year payments, but we still have 18 outstanding dues from current year members, many more than usual. Due to 5 foreclosures and a few property sales, \$1,100 dollars was collected in penalties and \$200 in beach house rental. Minus the BOD approved cash discount, our total income as of June 30th is \$129,119.91. Expenses this year have either held to or are below the budgeted amount except for Equipment Repair and Winter Assistance, which Don Damm will explain below as related to winter storm damage and repairs. The department chairs mid year were asked only to spend money from their budgets that was necessary. In looking at the total expenses we are still below the approved budget, but have fallen short on collecting dues owed. With foreclosures and an increasing number of members not paying their dues we fell about \$5,000 behind – then add the interest income realized from investing our reserve money with ingDirect, we netted \$2,700 in interest income, subtracted from the \$5,000 and we are minus \$2,326.11. According to our By-Laws (Article VI, par 6.3) we borrowed from the Revolving Fund, which authorizes me to borrow from this fund to pay outstanding bills for this fiscal year totaling the \$2,326.11. Further explanation of what happens to replace the Revolving Fund money will take place with the proposed 09-10 Budget (see below). Property sales continue to be slower than usual with four properties foreclosed, one was left in a will to the Society for Preservation of Forests and one foreclosed property sold to date. A summary of members, lots, acres, houses and residents was presented. In the past several years' full time residents have gone from 24 to 98. Due to the economy and with many more unpaid dues, I will place liens on all properties that have an outstanding balance as of July 15 to make sure that properties can't be sold or foreclosed without LAE releasing the lien, which will ensure overdue payment.

MAIN GATE: Marcellus Liotta reported that the plants survived well over the winter, but unfortunately so did the pesky ants. Due to the ice storm in December and the heavy amounts of sand put down on the roads this year, clean up was very difficult. Decorations for the 4th of July are up. More perennials will be added to the flowerbeds to fill in the empty spaces and add more color throughout the three seasons.

MARINA: Jim MacDougall was happy to report that as of now he doesn't have a waiting list for boat slips, but asked new members to contact him quickly if they are in need of a dock space.

TENNIS: Steve Boucher said he replaced the net with a new one and the new combination for the lock is 0-1-5. The tennis clinic is scheduled for July 18th. Steve will get estimates for repairing/resurfacing the tennis court, which is cracking more each year.

LAE/AWG ACTIVITIES: Nancy Damm reported that last summer's activities were very well attended. However, the flea market will be skipped due to low participation last year, but maybe added in the future based on member's interest. Fun and Games Day is July 25th, starting at 10:00 am. Volunteers are always needed to help with games, serving of food and of course, cleanup. Remember this is a volunteer association, so please sign up at the social later this afternoon or call Karen Hunihan 495-3448 or me at 495-3785. The Ashuelot Women's Group (AWG) is starting its 10th year. The list of events will be mailed along with the dues statement in July. Just a reminder, all LAE women are invited to attend. A token gift is given to the hostess and there is a drawing for a door prize. Food items are collected for the Washington Food Pantry.

INSURANCE: Dave Dickman reported that all LAE insurance policies were paid up to date and that an increase for the upcoming year was not expected.

BEACH AREA/HOUSE: Joe Gentile said workday went well, and thanked all who participated. He said that a lot of work was completed in a short time because of the many volunteers who helped. New picnic tables were built and will be painted soon. In July the two large end windows at the Beach House will be replaced as they have bullet holes in them. Joe announced that at the last BOD meeting a new policy for beach house rental was approved. The cost to rent the Beach House is reduced from \$50 to \$0. The inspection deposit shall be \$100 and be returned to the member upon satisfactory cleanup and inspection after use of the Beach House. A separate deposit fee of \$10 will be charged for the key and returned upon return of the key to the association. Also noted the event should be limited to 40 people or less. Contact Don Damm for an application to rent the beach house.

CHIEF STEVE MARSHALL: Chief Marshall said he is surprised that with the economic pressures domestic calls are not up, but that drug/burglary in town is. He complimented LAE members with watching out for their neighbors and that LAE seemed untouched by this trouble. The department is on a new system and it divides the town into neighborhoods. LAE had 28 calls for service, but most of them are for house checks when residents leave for the winter months. He encouraged that members continue to take advantage of this service. Don Damm asked about getting fire permits. Steve said any Fire Warden or any of the deputies could issue a permit. Forest Fire Warden- John Pasioka (495-1089). Deputies- Steven Marshall (495-3294), Brian Moser (495-3720 or 3294), Rob Ostertag (495-0438), Ed Thayer (495-3554), John Eccard (495-3985), Jed Schwartz (495-3125), Shawn Atkins (495-6170), Herb Killam (495-6190), Scott Dumeny (495-0899), George Marvin (478-1516), Robert Crane (478-0530), Aaron Smith (495-3294), John Corrigan (495-5365). OHRV questions were asked of Chief Marshall, who commended LAE members for following the rules and having stickers on their OHRV vehicles. He briefly went over the State regulations for OHRVs, which also apply here in LAE.

SECURITY: Jim Russell referred to his committee as the old man's committee because all he does is hand out sticker for OHRVs. In four years he has issued 104 stickers. He mentioned the increase in walkers, runners and bikers using LAE roads and asked everyone to please keep the 20 MPH speed limit.

LEGAL: To be discussed below.

ROADS & GROUNDS: ROADS and GROUNDS: Don Damm reported that we applied 56 loads of material to the roads (26 loads in the fall and 30 in the spring). That is, approximately 20 loads less than normal, primarily due to conserve costs to cover the additional expense of the grader repair. Forty loads of sand were ordered and delivered with approximately 40 loads applied. The Association purchased a new one-ton truck (Chevy 3500) with dump body; Hy-Way sander and Fisher plow for \$49,000. The used equipment consisting of the 1989 Dodge one-ton truck with old plow and sander, 1979 back-hoe and 1961 tractor were sold under competitive bids for a total of \$7,810 with the funds placed into the Equipment Reserve Account. The Dec 2008 Ice Storm caused countless trees and limbs to fall or encroach onto the roads. Volunteers and contractors who helped for over three days removed them. Power was restored in four days. Members helped in the clean up by placing trees and limbs from their property on the designated pile at the Marina Site. The Marina pile was removed in late May with seven large logging truck trips to the Town Recycling Center. Additionally, the initial partial road clean up was done in early June and the rest of the road clean up hopefully funded for latter July 2009. The grader needed more extensive repairs than expected for a cost of just under \$15,000 at the John Deer dealer near Concord. All major equipment is working well and the Road Manager did a good overall job this year. Dorothy Thompson expressed concern that the road to her house wasn't graded; Don said that the main roads were graded eight times this year due to the severity of the weather. Tom Burt asked if we qualified for FEMA money because of the ice storm, but private roads don't qualify.

Tom Burt wanted to make a motion concerning the roads, but Don Damm suggested he wait until “other business”.

WATER RESOURCES: Don Damm reported on the water testing results, which was summarized on the handout available to members at check-in. DES denied the deep draw request for weed control for the fall of 2008, even though weeds were heavy during the summer of 2008. DES has not issued the final report for the lake level determination from its 5yr study. There is increasing canoe, kayak, and sailboat traffic on the lake from the Retreat /Camp...Brother Anthony of the Retreat /Camp indicated that they would attempt to minimize their boat activity on weekends and holidays for safety considerations. In short, be extra careful in operating your watercraft. To help save the lake, only operate the motorboats at high speed in the middle of the lake. When launching your boat, check and remove any weeds from the boat and trailer and dispose of them far from the lake. This is to eliminate the introduction of exotic plants into Ashuelot Pond. Doug Sullivan asked if LAE tested the water for mercury. Don said no, but over the year’s the large fish have been tested and always contain high levels of mercury that render the fish not recommended for eating. Don said if members want the fish tested, then catch, freeze and give them to Don and he would bring the fish to DES for testing.

SCHOLARSHIP: Nancy Damm said this is the 6th year a \$500 scholarship has been given to a Washington High School senior. Karen Hunihan and Nancy attended the Hillsboro Deering Senior Awards ceremony and presented Deschenes Graham with the award. The \$500 is for tuition and sent directly to the school.

LAE WEB SITE: KC Hayes invited members to check out the web site at laeinc.org. He thanked Sherri MacDougall for her keeping the information up to date.

Ingeborg Haug thanked the LAE Board for all their good work.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lake Level DES Decision/Process: Steve Boucher discussed his ongoing phone conversations regarding the final Lake Level Determination Report with Jim Gallagher of DES. Steve was assured the results would be out by the end of July, even though DES had extended its comment period. Don Damm made a **MOTION** that the President of LAE contact the State of New Hampshire (DES) to obtain permission for a deep draw down of Ashuelot Pond for 2009. The primary reason, but not the only reason, for this request is for weed control. At the same time, the President shall notify the APDVD and the Town of Washington Selectmen of this request. Ingeborg Haug seconded the motion. Mary Lou Evans asked if this was the same motion we voted on last night at the APDVD annual meeting, yes, different meeting, same topic. Bob Thompson, APDVD commissioner said they support the deep draw down for dam repair, but not weed control. After a lengthy discussion on the motion, Steve Boucher made a **MOTION** to amend the motion to include for weed control, dam inspection and shoreline cleanup. Seconded by KC Hayes. Vote on the amendment passed; vote on the amended motion passed.

Bob Dearborn made a **MOTION** that the same allowance is granted for real estate signs that was approved at the 2008 Annual Meeting and recorded in the minutes. Seconded Frank Iosch. Approved.

Potential Maintenance Garage Re-location: Carolyn Russell gave a brief, but thorough history of events that have taken place since 2006 regarding this issue. Steve Boucher explained the signed agreement concerning the Weintraub property and its stipulations and emphasized the steps that had been taken to determine if the lot was selected for the garage was a build-able lot. In a meeting with the Washington Planning Board many questions were asked and after a lengthy discussion the planning board recommended that LAE apply for a building permit in order for the Town to officially consider the proposal, and

subsequently sent the application to the Board of Adjustments. Bob Thompson asked if LAE applied for a building permit or not? Carolyn Russell asked Michelle Dagesse to verify the town process, which she did, saying that the only way to get to the Board of Adjustment is to officially apply for a building permit through the Town. A joint meeting of the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment on June 24, 2009 determined that the lot was not adequate for our needs because it was surrounded by wetlands. When Steve was asked why a 911 number was applied for during the process, Michelle said that is simply a part of the building application process that the town requires. Bob Williams said it makes perfect sense to see if a lot is build-able before any final agreement was completed. After a very lengthy discussion, Steve Boucher made a **MOTION** to no longer pursue the purchase of the Weintraub property. Seconded by KC Hayes. Following this motion many residents suggested looking for other properties or doing nothing at all, especially in this economic climate. Some discussion took place about what has to be done and how much it would cost to leave the garage where it is. Bob Thompson made a **MOTION** to move to a vote. Seconded by Ingeborg Haug. KC Hayes made a **MOTION** that LAE would not spend any money this year to acquire a new piece of land for the garage, but rather take the issue back to the BOD for further discussion and presentation to the membership at the next annual meeting. Seconded by Steve Boucher. A voice vote was not conclusive so a ballot vote was called for: YES 50 - NO 12 Approved

NEW BUSINESS:

Pat Liotta went over the proposed budget for fiscal year 09-10 noting that most line items were the same as last year, or less, except for road materials. Don Damm explained this as cost for additional materials that were not applied to the roads last year due to the unexpected cost for grader repairs. Pat reminded members that she borrowed \$2,326.11 from the Revolving Fund, which should be replaced, but had not been added into the proposed budget. A **MOTION** made by Steve Boucher to add \$2,326.11 to the 2009-2010, proposed budget. Seconded by Carolyn Russell. Sue Burt asked if maybe we could pay half this year and half next year. Pat said it needed to be replaced as soon as possible in case of an emergency, which is why the Revolving Fund was established. Approved. Pat Liotta made a **MOTION** to approve the proposed operating budget of \$152,252.11 for 2009-2010. Seconded by Dorothy Thompson. Bob Thompson questioned the \$4,000 in Lake Management and Don said it was for any costs that might be incurred when DES releases its final Lake Level Determination Report. Bob Williams asked why there was a decrease for the position of LCC coordinator, and Don explained that it worked well when it was established during the building boom, but that it wasn't needed now. Approved

OTHER BUSINESS:

Tom Burt made a **MOTION** that "LAE form the LAE Road Transfer Panel to establish communication with Washington, NH town government regarding the cost and conditions under which the Town of Washington, NH would assume responsibility for the road infrastructure known as the LAE Roads. Said panel to have the authority to negotiate and establish a "Plan for Transfer of LAE Roads". Said "Plan for Transfer of LAE Roads" will include provisions for use of the LAE Roads by OHRVs, and Snowmobiles. Said panel will present the "plan for Transfer of LAE Roads" to the LAE members for consideration at a future meeting. This LAE Road Transfer Panel will be independent of the LAE officers and Board of Directors. It shall consist of five members none of whom are LAE officers or Directors. All panel members will be LAE members and full-time residents of LAE. The following five individuals are initially appointed to the LAE Road Transfer Panel: Tom Burt, Michelle Dagesse, Dave Dailey, Tom Taylor, and Bob Wright)". Seconded by Larry L'Hommedieu. Ingeborg Haug was strongly opposed to the motion, particularly the word "to negotiate" on behalf of the Association. Many members questioned why the LAE Board was being excluded or why no one from the Roads and Grounds committee was represented. Bob Wright presented the reasons for this motion, ranging from saving money to legal concerns about road liability.. Many residents addressed the issue of private vs. public roads with many different opinions being voiced. Don Damm pointed out that there were more seasonal homeowners than full time; then he read the Articles of Incorporation that pertain to LAE

ownership of the roads and Article IV (4.4) of the By-Laws, whereby the Board of Directors shall have control and management of the affairs and business of the Association. Amendment by KC Hayes that the proposed Road Transfer Panel should report to the LAE Board of Directors at each scheduled meeting. Seconded by Bob Williams. Voice vote approved. The composition of the Board and this new panel was examined and most members thought that a diverse group should be represented. Eventually Ingeborg Haug **MOVED** to AMEND the motion to read that the Board of Directors will appoint a diverse panel of LAE members who will report to the BOD and will consist of both seasonal and full time members, and one member of the Board of Directors. The amendment was seconded by KC Hayes and approved. Fran Greene expressed frustration with trying to grasp the motion and the amendments, so Don Damm read the following motion that was voted on and approved by the members. Final **MOTION** (“that LAE and its BOD should form the LAE Road Transfer Panel to establish communication with Washington, NH town government regarding the cost and other conditions under which the Town of Washington, NH would assume responsibility for the road infrastructure know as the LAE Roads. Said panel to have the authority to research and investigate a “Plan for the Transfer of LAE Roads”. Said “Plan for Transfer of LAE Roads: will include provisions for use of the LAE Roads by OHRVs, and Snowmobiles. Said panel will present the “Plan for Transfer of LAE Roads” to the LAE members for consideration at a future meeting.)

Bob Wright made a **MOTION** that anyone who wishes to run for an LAE office, may present to the LAE Secretary, on or before April 1st, a petition signed by at least 20 LAE members with their name, the office they wish to run for, and a maximum 50 word Bio. The name shall then be placed on the official LAE Ballot for the upcoming election. The Bio will be sent out along with other Bios in the announcement of the Annual LAE meeting. Seconded by Tom Burt. Carolyn Russell said that every year the nominating committee repeatedly asks for volunteers and that no one has ever been refused a slot on the ballot. This year only one member nominated two persons, but subsequently withdrew those names few days later. When the voice vote was called it was too close to tell so a ballot card vote was held, YES 28 - NO 23, approved. Betty Talpey suggested that if someone was interested in learning how the BOD works, they should volunteer on a committee first to see if they want to get more actively involved.

Bob Thompson said the APDVD had two positions that need to be filled for commissioner and clerk. Bob was reminded that Bob Dearborn had volunteered for the commissioner’s position at the APDVD meeting, so only a clerk is needed. Bob also said dam monitors are needed who would be able to respond within two hours if needed and that you did not have to be a voter in the district. If anyone is interested please contact Bob Thompson.

Carolyn Russell asked LAE members to read the handout she provided explaining that the Committee on the Future of the Washington Meetinghouse was appointed by the Board of Selectmen in December 2007 and its work was funded by the 2008 Town Meeting. The task of the Committee was to work with Architect Richard Monahan to evaluate specific needs of the building to preserve it for continued use as a town asset. The study included a thorough historical review, physical assessment (condition of foundation, electrical/heating/plumbing systems and insulation), a projection of maximizing space available which included ADA access to all floors, removing present interior walls of main floor and reconstructing partitions to accommodate town offices for present and future needs. Many opportunities were provided for public information, input, and response to the studies. A preliminary schematic design was presented to the 2009 Town Meeting with a motion to appropriate sufficient funding to begin the preparation of Construction Documents which would have allowed for the beginning of possible fundraising and grant applications. The motion was defeated. It is expected that the proposal will be revisited at a future Town Meeting when the project is better understood and the economy has improved. Copies available at the Town Hall.

Steve Boucher said that the Planning Committee of the Board would begin to look at ideas and solutions for maintaining an adequate infrastructure in LAE. The committee will plan to report it's finding next year. He asked if anyone had areas of concern to contact him.

Election Results: All nominees were elected and are as follows: Officers: Don Damm, President, Steve Boucher, Vice President, Pat Liotta, Secretary/Treasurer and Marcellus Liotta, Assistant Treasurer. Directors for Two Years: Nancy Damm, KC Hayes, Joe Gentile, Jim MacDougall, Andrew Queen and Don Turner.

Jon Bilski made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 12:20pm. Seconded by Bob Dearborn. Approved.

Don Damm, President reviewed and approved the minutes for distribution.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia A. Liotta

IMPORTANT NOTICES:

***Please update any information that would help keep our office records current. Address changes and especially phone numbers in case of an emergency and emails because they are helpful for quick communication with LAE members.

You will find an updated, approved operating budget for 2009-2010 on the reverse side of this page. Refer to **NEW BUSINESS** to see the **MOTION** that is responsible for the increase from the proposed budget.

OVER