

LEONARD'S MILL POND COLLABORATIVE

c/o D. Thomas Longo, Jr., Spokesperson & Secretary
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TO: Leonard's Mill Pond Waterfront Households

FROM: D. Thomas "Tom" Longo, Jr., Chair/Spokesperson & Secretary

SUBJECT: Report on LMPC Annual Meeting, November 9, 2011

Following is a report of key points from the Leonard's Mill Pond Collaborative's Annual Meeting held at the Wicomico County Visitor's Center the evening of November 9, 2011. Notice of this meeting was provided to waterfront households a month prior. Seventeen persons representing 14 waterfront households around the pond attended the meeting. Wicomico County Parks Director Chuck Poole attended the meeting on behalf of the County.

Secretary Thomas Longo called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. He briefly reviewed recent major pond events: treatment of the North Prong with SONAR herbicide against hydrilla on June 21, treatment of the East Prong with AQUANEAT herbicide against surface growth on August 24, and Hurricane Irene August 27-28. He showed photographs showing the East Prong before and after its herbicide treatment and the pond's water level rise during Hurricane Irene. He thanked the County for its preemptive lowering of the pond before Hurricane Irene, thereby possibly averting some flooding from the dramatic storm-caused water rise well above even the normal level of the pond.

Key remarks of Chuck Poole as given and in reply to questions:

- Based on recent inspection there is little hydrilla in most of the pond. If this good situation continues it may be possible to forego hydrilla treatment next year, thereby saving some money. But plant growth is to a degree unpredictable and the decision whether to forego will be based on inspection.
- The East Prong treatment against surface growth seems to have had some effect in reducing the water lily growth despite the high flowing water from Irene two days later that may have washed away some of the herbicide.
- There are different restrictions on applications against hydrilla and against surface growth. For hydrilla, the County is theoretically allowed to spray up to 1/3 of the total acreage a year, however, due to an additional restriction of spraying only within 20' of the shoreline, we will always be under the 1/3 total acreage of the pond. We can spray up to 7.8 acres per year if needed (this is the linear footage x 20' along the shoreline). Against surface weed growth we are limited to treating up to two acres of the pond per year. In view of the limitations, and taking into consideration actual growth of unwanted vegetation as observed by inspections, we should assume that treatments will have to be a continuing process year to year.
- This differs from past years when the whole pond was treated only episodically at varying intervals of several years. The Sonar herbicide against hydrilla, an aquatic version of the herbicide Roundup, is very expensive. In the past it cost some \$20,000.00 to treat the whole pond. The County paid half and the waterfront homeowners half. Requested donations by the households ranged up to \$200.00 each. Nowadays the County cannot pay so the homeowners have to foot the entire cost for the chemicals. The County will continue to apply for and get permitting and apply the chemicals through a licensed contractor.
- We did not have to pay for the Sonar this year since the product used was left over from previously. But there is no more leftover Sonar. The required amount of Sonar (Roundup) to treat the allowable portion of the pond next year would be 240 lbs. in six 40-lb. pails at a current price of \$1,100.00 per pail for a total of \$6,600.00 yearly, which price can be expected to go up with inflation.

- The Aquaneat herbicide is quite inexpensive, only around a couple of hundred dollars a year if needed, and the County may have enough leftover Aquaneat to treat the allowable portion of the Pond next year.
- For environmental reasons, to avoid interfering with spawning the County can lower the pond only once yearly for up to six weeks in the January-February period. There are no environmental needs to lower the pond. The only reason to lower it (except briefly ahead of an expected storm) is in response to homeowners' request, and the County requires a written request from the community (not a single homeowner) no later than December 1 of the preceding year to do so. (*See below re the decision the group took on this subject.*)
- Homeowners can help to safeguard the pond as follows:
 - "Try not to throw anything in the pond." This includes leaves and run-off lawn fertilizer. Request lawn-service companies to be aware of this and insure that they are licensed. Natural sedimentation is already occurring and homeowners should not do anything to accelerate it. The only true fix for sedimentation of the pond would be major dredging, but that poses the huge problem of where to put the dredge spoils and would be prohibitively expensive.
 - Keep an eye on the pond and report any vegetation or other problems to the County.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Marilyn Booth reported as follows:

Balance on hand, November 23, 2010	\$5,992.19
+ Deposits - contributions from 49 households	\$3,725.00
- Expenses - three gallons Aquaneat herbicide to control surface vegetation (waterlilies)	<u>\$107.40</u>
= Balance on hand 11/9/2011	\$9,610.15

DECISIONS TAKEN AT THIS MEETING

Statement of Organization and Purpose. Discussion reviewed that up to last year, this group had met sporadically and sometimes only after intervals of several years on an *ad hoc* basis when it was felt needs required. Since pond remediation treatment now appeared to be something that will need annual repetitions and consequent funding, it was felt appropriate to set up a more systematic albeit still informal arrangement. Secretary Thomas Longo earlier circulated a draft document to this effect, which was fine-tuned at this meeting. *John Strube moved and Philip LeBel seconded approval of the statement that appears on the last page of this report. By show of hands all present voted in favor with one abstention (Dr. Ray Brodie).*

Back Up Treasurer. Sally Lambert volunteered to serve as backup treasurer. John Strube so moved, Steve Brewer seconded, and the motion to designate Ms. Lambert as Backup Treasurer was approved unanimously.

Designation of LMPC Leaders. By unanimous show of hands the group designated the following waterfront homeowners for the indicated positions, and they have agreed. The term of service is to the next Annual Meeting.

Chair/Spokesperson & Secretary	D. Thomas Longo, Jr., 30414 Mallard Drive, Delmar, MD 21875 21875410-742-4380; DTLongo@aol.com
Treasurer	Marilyn Booth, 8402 Hilda Drive, Salisbury, MD 21804 410-749-8963; marilyngbooth@comcast.net
Back-up Treasurer	Sally Lambert, 30412 Mallard Drive, Delmar, MD 21875 410-749-1685; lambert9@verizon.net
Block Captains:	

Chestnut Hill	Sally & Ward Lambert (see above)
Danwood	Tamara & Steve Brewer, 30507 Danwood Drive, Delmar, MD 21875 410-749-6449; stbrewer1@gmail.com
Holly Lake Estates	Dr. Ray Brodie, 8599 E. Marlboro Drive, Delmar, MD 21875 443-944-8512; rayjrd1@comcast.net
Pine Knoll One	Melissa & Craig Mast, 30310 Calhoun Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21804 410-543-2365; ornurse20002000@yahoo.com
Pine Knoll Two	Marilyn & Andy Booth (see above)

Budgeting. Discussion reviewed that we should plan on continuing annual expenses for herbicide treatments of ca. \$7,000.00 (\$6,600.00 at current prices for Sonar (Roundup) against hydrilla and ca. \$200.00 for Aquaneat against surface growth, with an additional \$200.00 as a hedge against inflation. Our present balance of \$9,610.00 minus \$7,000.00 next year would leave us with only ca. \$2,610.00. Rather than request a much larger catch-up donation from each household in the future, the group opted to request a more modest donation presently to build up gradually a reserve amount of twice the expected annual expenditure, with a current target amount of \$14,000.00. Accordingly, John Strube moved and Sally Lambert seconded a motion that the waterfront properties each donate \$75.00 as their annual contribution for this purpose, on the understanding that the dollar amount could be revisited and possibly adjusted downward or upward as the reserve builds up and as future expenditures are incurred, the reserve target being twice the expected amount of annual expenditures with the current target being \$14,000.00. This motion was approved unanimously by show of hands.

Checks payable to "Leonard's Mill Pond" should be sent to Marilyn Booth, 8402 Hilda Drive, Salisbury, MD 21804.

Pond Lowering. In order to give homeowners predictable advance notice in case they want to engage contractors for dock and shoreline maintenance, discussion suggested that we put pond lowering on a scheduled basis. *Sally Lambert moved and Marilyn Booth seconded that the pond be lowered every other year starting in 2013 and in odd-numbered years thereafter. This motion was approved unanimously by show of hands.* Mr. Poole reminded that the County would still require a letter from the homeowners as a group requesting lowering no later than December 1 of the previous year. Persons remarked that if a significant number of homeowners desired that the Pond *NOT* be lowered, the requirement for this letter would give them opportunity to let their views be known beforehand (negative option).

There being no further business, Chair Thomas Longo adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

/s/

D. Thomas Longo, Jr.
LMPC Chair/Spokesperson & Secretary

**LEONARD'S MILL POND COLLABORATIVE
STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE
*Adopted at LMPC Annual Meeting, November 9, 2011***

1. The Leonard's Mill Pond Collaborative (LMPC) is an informal body of waterfront households from the five neighborhoods bordering the Pond: Chestnut Hill, Holly Lake Estates, Danwood, Pine Knoll One and Pine Knoll Two. Its purpose is to liaise with Wicomico County and other entities on pond-remediation issues, for example, periodic herbicide applications.
2. The Collaborative is comprised of waterfront household representatives of the five neighborhoods adjoining the Pond. An annual meeting is scheduled each Autumn to which all waterfront households are invited. Volunteer LMPC leaders for the ensuing year are designated at that meeting: a Chair/Spokesperson, a Vice-Chairman (if desired), a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Chairman and Secretary, or Secretary and Treasurer, positions may be combined. A volunteer back-up Treasurer is designated with signing authority and Internet access in the event the regular Treasurer is away or otherwise unable to perform functions. Volunteer Block Captains for each neighborhood are also identified at the Annual Meeting.
3. Voting is by majority of the persons attending the Annual Meeting. Communications with the households are accomplished by email, and by written notices hand-delivered to the households by the Block Captains in each neighborhood.
4. The Chair/Spokesman is the normal liaison point between the LMPC and the county or other entities. The Secretary keeps and distributes records of Annual Meeting proceedings and maintains a historical file of noteworthy events, for example, herbicide treatments. The Treasurer is responsible for the group's checking account and for keeping a record of receipts and expenditures.
5. Based on information presented and resultant discussions, the Annual Meeting may stipulate a voluntary donation amount per household for the next year according to anticipated financial requirements to pay for herbicide chemicals and/or other expenses. Since this is an informal Collaborative these contributions are not legal assessments, rather, they are voluntary donations in the common interest. *(end)*