

LMPC  
Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
Wicomico County Tourist Center  
November 16, 2016

The meeting began promptly at 7:00. In addition to Superintendent Chuck Poole and Mark Rickards, Wicomico County Parks and Recreation, 19 waterfront property owners were present: Pat and Joan Boyle, Robert Sauer, Tom Mace, Jerry Raimo, Andy and Marilyn Booth, Robert Harleston, Bob Davis, Dennis Callaghan. Sally and Ward Lambert, Ray Brodie, John Rue, Steve and Tamara Brewer, Vincent Donovan, Bill and Cindy Nelson, Al and Yvonne Matthews, volunteer coordinator Phillip LeBel, and 38<sup>th</sup> District Delegate Carl Anderton.

Chuck Poole provided an update status report on this year's pond treatment and prospects for next year. He began by noting that henceforth, instead of pond owners calling Lee Outen, regarding high or low pond levels, telephone calls should be directed to Chuck Poole. In so doing, he listed his office number at 410-548-4870 and his cellphone number at 443-80-3449.

In terms of pond treatment, Chuck noted that the health of the pond is as good as it has been in a number of years, and that the regular annual treatments of the past several years have reduced hydrilla to one of its lowest recorded, and that surface weeds also appear to be well under control. Treatment of hydrilla has been done with Aquaneat, while surface weeds have been treatment with Sonar, a water variant of the weed chemical Roundup.

Chuck noted that very little product was used this year and that ongoing monitoring will reveal whether any new product will be needed for 2017. He does not anticipate a need for additional chemical product for the 2017 season but will keep us informed as monitoring conditions and potential product application requirements warrant.

In terms of managing pond levels, Chuck noted that should waterfront pond owners vote for a lowering, it would have to go through channels at the County level. Pre-emptive lowering can be done by the State Highway Authority should conditions warrant. What Chuck also noted is that there is a discussion under way as to whether a weir should be constructed such that under pre-emptive or otherwise requested lowering that pond levels not descend beyond an environmentally adopted standard that may be arrived at should conditions warrant. Owners were informed that any decision regarding the construction of a weir would be shared forthwith and that at this point, it is not a foregone conclusion that such a weir will be built.

Chuck noted that this year's flooding was unprecedented, that it placed exceptional stress on the automatic central gate, and that manual adjustments to the outer gates often were required. An effort is underway to repair the motor of the central gate floating governor.

Members expressed their appreciation for Chuck's presentation regarding both the pond chemical treatment program and pond level management issues. Following his presentation, LMPC volunteer coordinator asked if anyone wishes to take over the volunteer coordinator role as well as the LMPC treasurer role. Following a unanimous vote, both Phillip LeBel and Marilyn Booth agreed to serve an additional year in their present volunteer roles.

LMPC secretary Marilyn Booth then reported on fund balances and transactions for 2015-2016. Below is a written summary:

Balance on hand, November 15, 2015	\$6,534.05
Deposits (Contributions from 36 neighbors)	\$2,800.00
Expenses	\$0.00
Balance on hand November 16, 2015	\$9,334.05

The increase in fund balance was due this year to the decision by County Executive Bob Culver to cover the costs of treatment. Thereafter, an open discussion ensued regarding: 1. Unpaid contributions for 2016; 2. Whether to reconstitute this year's contributions to property owners, given that this year's expenses were covered by the County budget. A vote was taken to retain the existing balance without any restitution until such time as conditions may warrant. It was adopted with 17 voting in favor and 2 opposed.

Next, although someone noted that in a pond lowering decision adopted at the 2015 meeting, a general discussion followed as to whether to re-affirm the decision not to lower the pond for 2017. Ongoing concerns were re-iterated about the length of time of pond lowering and the adverse effect on the ecosystem. Although some noted that should a weir be constructed it might help in maintaining a steady level of a lowered pond, the general sentiment among those in attendance was to re-affirm the decision not to lower the pond for 2017. A motion not to lower the pond for 2017 was adopted with 17 voting in favor and 2 opposed.

During the discussion, Delegate Anderton affirmed his willingness to pursue measures that owners may support regarding measures to preserve the quality of the pond. He mentioned the issue of the weir in particular, and for which representatives expressed their appreciation. In addition, it was noted that the Route 13 north SHA truck weigh station will not be expanding as planned originally last spring. As property owners have learned, the Maryland State Highway authority will convert the present site to a virtual truck weigh station between 2017 and 2017 as a new site will be adopted south of the Princess Anne area. This will result in preservation of the natural forest protection afforded to the health of Leonard Mill Pond, as well as a corollary reduction in accident risks with the removal of entrance and exit truck lanes now operating on both side of the highway. In the interim the temporary offices of the station will be replaced by updated temporary structures while the ultimate conversion proceeds.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.