

# Swartswood Lakes and Watershed Association Inc.

## Spring General Membership Minutes

May 25, 2013

The meeting was opened at 10:15 a.m. at Camp Hoover with only 16 members in attendance. Based on current membership of 96, approximately 25 members must be present to make a quorum. Therefore, not being an official meeting, no voting took place.

The minutes of the previous meeting and the Treasurers' reports were read.

Balance are:	General checking	\$19,640.17
	Grant checking	50.75
	Certificate of deposit	1,243.47

Membership – Larry Condit reported current membership is 96 plus SYC. J. Pipher asked if members could obtain membership lists so that they might contact neighbors who had not joined.

Volunteer Hours – Larry Condit has reported 174 hours for last year, although he is sure that many individuals have not submitted their reports.

Swartswood State Park –Blanca Chevrestt advised that a number of trees were down in the park as a result of recent storms. High winds today precluded the life guard swim test scheduled for the afternoon. Blanca was seeking to reschedule at the YMCA.

The lake lowering seemss to have produced good results. Larry Kovar was hired to harvest the beach area at a cost of \$3500 last year.

The park is struggling with limited staff. Much work is being done “in house” to save money. Maintenance is gradually building a walkway to divide the beach sand area from the grass.

The park is booked for camping with the swim area to open today. Blanca advised that the State Police does an underwater inspection of the swim area for safety purposes.

Regarding downed trees, large salvageable ones are being sent to a saw-mill to produce barn siding. Other wood, which is not rotten, has been cut into manageable lengths and piled near the maintenance building. The public can obtain a \$25 permit and take 2 cords.

**Blanca reminded members that they should contact the park before doing any work on docks or waterfront. She may be able to advise if permits are necessary for the planned work. Failure to obtain proper permits has led to residents having to remove structures.**

**A lot of maintenance work has been done on many of the park structures: the Camp bath resided, new roof on a 30 year old building, all of which was again done in-house.**

**There are 2 new eaglets this year. A barge with signs restricting the area around the nest has been put into place. It is hoped this will help clarify exactly where the restricted area around the nest lies.**

**There were a series of questions:**

**Q – Is there an objection to an annual draw-down?**

**A – Fish and Wildlife has concerns regarding creatures that burrow into the lake bottom. There are also concerns regarding fluctuations of the ice for ice fishermen and general safety concerns. Ed Szabo will invite Pat Hamilton, Fisheries expert to next meeting.**

**Q – Has anyone considered the impact the ice has on the wet shoreline?**

**Q – Since the timing of sonar applications has a direct effect on the results is there the possibility of getting a multi-year permit so we don't have to deal with DEP delays each year?**

**Q – Are there new chemicals more effective than sonar?**

**Q – Are there any special events scheduled?**

**A – SANJL regatta was held last week followed by a fishing tournament involving Wounded Warriors. Space and liability issues preclude having events such as 5K races.**

**Newsletter – sent via email to all who have addresses on file. The rest of the members receive the letter via snail mail.**

**Fishing Club – Ed Szabo noted that 57 guests attended the Paradise Fishing Club tourney last weekend, including 2 Wounded Warriors. These three, who had all lost legs, were accommodated on George Morville's pontoon boat.**

The club has stocked 100 fish 14 – 16 inches in length and another 100 16 – 24 inches long. There were 4 ice fishing tournaments scheduled for last winter but only 1 held due to ice conditions.

**SYC – Jim Bastinck reported on a successful SANJL regatta held last weekend with 18 Sunfish participating. He stated that the club is open to all, either as sailors or social members. SYC's recognition of Randy Sprague last year, for his efforts in behalf of the lake, generated a full page of publicity in the local paper.**

**Water monitoring – Alex Roney advised that a new meter had been purchased last year at a reduced price through the good graces of Larry Kovar. He noted the excellent clarity of the water this year, 8 feet in one area.**

**Technical Report – Randy Sprague.**

**DEP has dissolved the department of Watershed Management and placed its function under a variety of departments. As this was our prime DEP contact, we no longer have a single point of contact which makes dealing with them difficult. The ONLM protects weeds at the expense of water quality, which we consider to be the prime concern.**

**A conference call was held with DEP regarding lotus control. Our existing harvester is in bad shape requiring many repairs to pontoons, hydraulics and engine. It is questionable if doing repairs is economically practical. Purchase of a new machine is anticipated to cost in excess of \$100,000. Musconetcong is currently in negotiations to borrow a machine from Hopatcong. Hopatcong is not enthusiastic about lending equipment. Also since the machine will be used to harvest water chestnut, we do not want to put that machine into our lake. Possible actions include: hydroraking which is very expensive, hiring Larry Kovar to harvest, flooding which would be too difficult, or the use of herbicides which is not preferred.**

**The most economical solution for this year may be to hire Larry Kovar to harvest the park beach area as well as a limited area on the west shore. Blanca Chevrestt will obtain estimates and the DEP will try to find the money to fund the project. The DEP asked if SLWA or the businesses on the west shore would pick up some of the cost. They were told definitely not.**

**COLA – Paul and Michele Adamski attended the last COLA meeting. Unfortunately it was a discussion of lifeguard training, a subject which is not of interest to SLWA.**

**Facebook – Jim Stark reminded members that we have a Facebook page.**

**Septic – Members were advised that Wilson Septic is offering a discount when 3 people on a street contract for their services. Cost is about \$245.**

**Zoning – There have been problems with people doing work on their waterfronts without obtaining the necessary permits. If you are putting in a dock that is temporary, no permits are needed. However, if you plan to put in concrete footings for the dock, the footings are considered permanent and a permit is needed. You can contact either Blanca Chevrestt at the State Park, or Arlene Fisher, the Zoning Officer at the town hall for further information.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Margaret R. Emmetts, Secretary**