**SAWYER LAKE VILLAGE DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Saturday, April 6, 2024**

 **The Annual Meeting of the Sawyer Lake Village District was held on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 10:00 AM at the Gilmanton Town Hall, Gilmanton, County of Belknap, State of New Hampshire.**

 **The Moderator, Richard Lucas, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The Moderator read the 2024 Annual Meeting Warrants, attached here to. The Moderator then introduced all the officers.**

 **Mr. Lucas asked if all registered voters had checked in and received their pink card for voting. All had. He also explained that only registered voters of the Sawyer Lake Village District can vote.**

 **Mr. Lucas asked Richard Adams, Commissioner, to start. Rich explained that the Commissioners are working on a plan to update the worst roads in the district. He also explained that the District Building has some serious structure problems that will be addressed later. The dam is on schedule. Bob Carter from NH Dams is here to explain what is being done. Financially, the District is in good shape. If the Bond for the dam was called in, we would be able to pay it.**

 **Mr. Lucas then asked Bob Dow, Road Agent, for an update. The roads have been a real challenge this past year. The snow storms have been very wet. It was a real challenge just to keep them open the last storm we had. Mud season came early and often. Bob also mentioned about taking one road project a year to work on. This past year was the worst for washouts. Dave Leboeuf, one of the Commissioners, also mentioned about keeping cars off the roads from November 1 to April 30. There have been a few instances where this has not been the case. Brian Palmer, when plowing has had to go around cars.**

 **Bob Carter from NH Dams then gave an update on the dam. He explained the purpose of the pins on the breakaway. He explained that because the dam has been classified as a “High Hazzard” dam we need to supply additional spillway capacity.**

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**Bob Carter, NH Dams continued: Bob went over the options and the costs, from an auxiliary spillway to an automated release near Beach 1. This would require easements from private property to get the water back into the spillway. The options and the costs should be done at the end of the month. A diver went down to check the low level outlet which is below the red housing on the dam. This is not functioning. It might go up but it would not go back down. There is two feet of silt built up at the base of it. With the silt build up, at least, at this point it is not leaking. Bob has not received the video yet from the diver. Once an option is decided on, we will spend the rest of 2024 designing and getting permits. In 2025 we start to bring the dam into compliance. A question was asked about the pins. Bob explained how they work and why they are not the same size. He explained when the boards gave way in 2006 or 2008, the dam was owned by the state. The pins aren’t the correct size, but it was done quickly to allow the lake to refill. A question was asked about the condition of the boards. Bob said most of them are in good shape and can be used. Another question was asked why it is taking so long. Bob explained that because of the high water his other projects took longer. He then explained, because of the different pipe sizes, the engineering needed to be changed. A question was asked if the $270,000 grant money will cover the repair of the dam? It will cover the cost of the design, permitting and construction of the spillway off of Beach 1. Once the District decides on a plan, we then can apply for additional grant money from FEMA.**

 **Tom LeMien reported on the beaches, District Building, and volunteers. Tom stated that after this winter the boat ramp will need repair. The snow fences will come down and we will start getting ready for beach season. Tom thanked everyone who helped to repair the stairs on the District building. He said it was a team effort. This helped to keep the costs down. This district building on the side facing the mailboxes around the window is rotted and will need to be repaired. Tom said this would be a costly fix. If someone knows somebody around the lake who could donate their time, that would be great. Tom said the commissioners could be reached on their web site:** **SLVDcommish@gmail.com****. This address can also be found on the town**

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**Tome LeMien Continued: web site. Tom then went on to thank all the volunteers that helped to improve the lake. Tom thanked: Frank Tkacek, Mike Griffin, Rich Adams, Bob Dow, Mike Keough, Dave Leboeuf, Rick Milliken, Rich Burns, and the flower gardens in the front of the building were cleaned up by Dave Leboeuf, Mike Doane, and Linda, Paul Annunziato and family.**

 **Dave added two things about the boat ramp. The boat ramp is on Beach 5. No other beach should be used for putting in or taking out boats. Dave also brought up all the boats that have been cleaned off the beaches are still behind the district building. None are in usable condition. The commissioners will look into a way to dispose of them.**

 **Abutters to beach 1 mentioned that people are urinating on their property. Also he wanted to know the procedure for handling people using the beaches that aren’t part of the district. He was told he could ask if they are part of the district, if not let them know it’s a private Lake. Any confrontation should be handled by the police.**

 **Dave and Tom restated that anyone that can volunteer some time to go to the website and let them know.**

 **Dave Lebeouf spoke about the Sawyer Lake Commissioners’ Info Page that was started on January of 2023. That’s all it is. For instance, to let people know that the level of dam will be lowered. There are 164 members. There are a few simple questions, such as, where do you live and you can be on the page. We also have an email address, which he mentioned earlier and you will get a quick response from us. There is also another Sawyer Lake Facebook page. We have nothing to do with this. This is a social page. We do not monitor this page. If you have a complaint either come to a meeting, which is held on the third Thursday of the month, or email us. The meetings start at 6:00 PM.**

 **Dave brought up that the Canada Geese are back! He has a banger pistol from the Fish and Game so you may hear it go off and not to be alarmed. Dave doesn’t live on the water, so he has friends that will email, text, or call that the geese are at Beach 3, or the dam, etc. He also mentioned that anyone that wanted to shovel up the poop and toss it into the woods, it would be appreciated.**

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**Dave LeBeouf Continued: There are other people on the lake that have permission from Fish and Game to have a banger gun. They will also scare off the geese.**

**Dave said each year we will try to have less and less geese. The banger pistol does not bother the loons. Dave would love to get the geese out permanently, but it’s not easy, especially once they have babies.**

 **Dave brought up the mailboxes. They are mostly full. If they break, there are no replacement parts. There are about 144 residents that use the mailboxes. There will be time when we will need to get new mailboxes. Dave asked, in the winter when you go to pick up your mail, try not to make it a drive up window. This packs down the snow and it’s hard to remove. It was asked if there would be house delivery. As far as the Commissioners know, this will not happen.**

 **Dave asked for patience with the clearing of the roads. With all the big trucks on the muddy dirt roads they are being damaged. Bob and Brian and doing the best they can. Mud season is a fact of life living here. It happens every year!**

 **One last item: Applewood and Hemlock. This is a town issue, not the district. We handle all the dirt roads. We have 1.9 miles of paved roads, which the town takes care of. When you see the propane truck stuck and the school bus that couldn’t get up the hill, you can do as much calling the town as us. Any problem on the paved roads is a town issue. If you’re concerned that your neighbor has 15 tons of trash around his house, call the town. A question was asked about the cost of new mailboxes. Dave has booklets for new mailboxes. He will wait until they are needed to get prices. Rich Adams also mentioned that a capital reserve could be started with a $1000 to cover the cost of new mailboxes.**

 **A question was brought up why Hemlock doesn’t go around the lake. She called an ambulance for her mother and they couldn’t find the house. There is sign with an arrow pointing where the numbers are. The fire department doesn’t know the roads.**

 **Janice Tkacek, Treasurer, went over the line items on the budget. She explained each item and explained the budget items that the District went over budget on, and why. The District went over on the roads and legal expenses. The**

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**Janice Tkacek, Treasurer continued: roads went over because of all the weather and washouts this past winter. Legal expenses went over because with the grant for the dam we needed legal advice before the Commissioners**

**Janice Deposited $124,449.00 in tax money from the town. We owe four more years on the bond for the dam. We owe about $44,000 including interest. The tax rate is $2.16 per thousand. There was a question asked if the $15,000 in the capital reserve was used for the repair for the damage done from the beaver dam breach? Janice explained that the District has a Contingency Fund that $15,000 is kept in for emergencies. The District used $13,000 from this fund to do the repairs. The balances for the accounts as of December 31, 2024, were:**

 **Operating Account: $ 2,837.74**

 **General Account: $207,205.56**

 **Capital Reserve: $ 31,177.96**

 **Article II: The Moderator read Article II. To see if the District will bote to raise and appropriate the sum of $119,745.00 for General District Operations.**

 **The Moderator made a motion to accept the sum of $119,745.00. The motion was seconded. The budget of $119.745.00 was passed.**

 **Article III: The Moderator read Article III. To see if the District will vote to authorize the District Commissioners to incur debts for temporary loans in anticipation of taxes.**

 **Motion made, duly seconded, to authorize the District Commissioners to incur debt for temporary loans in anticipation of taxes. Motion was carried unanimously to incur debt for temporary loans in anticipation of taxes.**

 **Article IV: To see if the Village District will vote to establish a Contingency Fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise, and appropriate the sum of $15,000, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. Any**

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**Appropriations left in the Contingency Fund at the end of the year will lapse to the General Fund.**

 **Rich Adams explained this Article. The District was originally told to set up the Contingency Fund this way. He has since found out that the fund only needs to maintain a $15,000 balance. If the District uses $14,000 in a year, then only $14,000 needs to be replaced. If the District used $3,000, then only $3,000 needs to be replaced. It was too late to change the Article this year, but next year it will be reworded.**

 **Motion made and duly seconded, to establish a Contingency Fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise, for the sum of $15,000.**

 **Motion was carried unanimously to establish a Contingency Fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses.**

 **Article V: To see if the Sawyer Lake Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $15,000 to be added to the Sawyer Lake Dam Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Recommendations: Recommended by the Commissioners.**

 **Motion made and duly seconded. Motion was carried to add $15,000 to the Sawyer Lake Dam Capital Reserve Fund.**

 **The Moderator moved onto Article I: To choose all necessary District Officers for the ensuing year.**

 **The Moderator declared nominations open for the office of Commissioner for a Three-year Term. Motion made and duly seconded to nominate Thomas LeMien for Commissioner for a Three-year Term. There being no other nominations for Commissioner, the Moderator declared the nominations for Commissioner closed.**

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 **The Moderator declared Thomas LeMien unanimously elected as Commissioner for a Three-year Term.**

 **The Moderator declared nominations open for the Office of Clerk for a One-year Term. Motion made and duly seconded to nominate Paula Adams for Clerk for a One-year Term. Motion carried. There being no other nominations for Clerk, the Moderator declared the nominations for the office of Clerk closed.**

 **Paula Adams was unanimously elected for a One-year Term as Clerk.**

 **The Moderator declared the nominations open for the Office of the Treasurer for a One-year Term. Motion made and duly seconded to nominate Joseph Murphy for Treasurer for a One-year Term. There being no other nominations for Treasurer, the Moderator declared the nominations for Treasurer closed.**

 **Joseph Murphy was unanimously elected for a One-year Term as Treasurer.**

 **Richard Lucas was nominated for the position of Moderator. This was accepted and duly seconded. Motion carried. There being no other nominations for Moderator, the Moderator declared the nominations for the office closed.**

 **Richard Lucas was unanimously elected for a One-year Term as Moderator.**

 **The Moderator declared nominations open for Auditor. Michael Griffin was duly nominated and seconded. There being no other nominations for Auditor, the Moderator declared the nominations for Auditor closed.**

 **Michael Griffin was duly elected as Auditor for a One-year Term.**

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**The Moderator declared nominations open for Budget Representative open. Richard Adams was duly nominated and seconded. There being no other nominations for Budget Representative, the Moderator declared the nomination for Budget Representative closed.**

 **Richard Adams was duly elected as Budget Representative to the town for a One-year Term.**

**The Moderator declared nominations open for Road Agent for a One-year Term. Robert Dow was duly nominated and seconded. There being no other nominations for Road Agent, the Moderator declared the nominations for Road Agent closed.**

 **Robert Dow was duly elected as Road Agent for a One-year Term.**

 **Commissioner for a Three-year term…………………….Thomas LeMien**

 **Treasurer for a One-year term……………………………….Joseph Murphy**

 **Clerk for a One-year term………………………………………..Paula Adams**

 **Budget Representative to the town..……………………….Richard Adams**

 **Moderator for a One-year Term……………………………….Richard Lucas**

 **Auditor for a One-year term………………………………………Michael Griffin**

**Thanks were given to Bob Dow and Brian Palmer for the great job they did on the roads this past winter.**

 **Thanks were also given to Janice Tkacek for work as Treasurer.**

 **Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM. This was approved and seconded.**

 **Paula Adams, Clerk**