

**Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District
Minutes of Management Committee Meeting
October 8, 2020**

The meeting commenced at 7:36 PM on Zoom Conference Call (Meeting ID: 847 867 563; PW: 126054)

In attendance: Tommy Lee, District Chairman
Brian Waterman, District Vice-Chairman
Terry O'Coin, District Treasurer
Michele Cospier, District Clerk

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The previously distributed minutes of the September 10, 2020 were offered for approval. A motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to accept the Minutes.

Clerk's Report

See attached memorandum dated September 10, 2020 for Clerk's report of communications for the period of August 14, 2020 to September 10, 2020.

Treasurer's Report

A Treasurer's Report dated 10/8/20 showed that the District had \$607,694.27 on deposit at Cornerstone Bank. Of this amount, \$493,508.85 was deposited in the money market account containing betterment payments. The report shows one deposit of \$45,219.76 from three betterment payoffs and interest payment of \$73.48. The general funds checking account contains \$82,471.94. The reports shows no deposits. The reports shows six payments of (1) \$193.41 for correction on water testing billing from ESS Group, (2) \$1303.80 for water monitoring from ESS Group, (3) \$5,388 for insurance premium, (4) \$175.00 to Saunder's Trucking for trash removal from dam crest, (5) \$54.28 for Tax Classification Legal Ad, and (6) \$4,183 to Mirick O'Connel for Legal Fees. The dam stabilization account contains \$30,575.56. The report shows one interest deposit of \$12.50. \$1,125.42 was in the stabilization account. Mr. O'Coin requested and was granted approval for Warrant 230.

FY2020 Tax Payment Update

92 proprietors pay tax to the District. 80 proprietors have paid in full (\$25,376.31 / 88 %), and 7 proprietors have paid half (\$1,351.41 / 9%). 5 proprietors have not paid (881.81 / 3%). Therefore, ~92% of tax payments have been collected. Payments are due in February and May, so this collection profile is inline with past years.

FY2020 Betterments Update

Payments were due in the Fall of 2019. 93 proprietors were assessed betterments by the District. 13 proprietors opted to prepay; 17 betterments were paid off due to early payoff or home sale; and 1 proprietor completed all payments on schedule. Therefore, 62 proprietors are still making betterment payments. 60 proprietors have paid in full (\$83,254.60 / 96.8 %), and 1 proprietors have paid half (\$4,240.06 / 1.6%). Therefore, 99.7 % of betterment payments have been collected. 1 proprietor has paid none, which reflects 0.3% of the betterment payments expected. This payment profile is better than past years.

Old Business

Lake Clarity & Level Management Update

The lake level is currently just below the spillway, which is typical for this time of year and most likely due to evaporation. The drawdown will be conducted this fall following our order of conditions from the MA DEP. The draw-down will start about November 1.

The algae is disappearing from the lake and water is clarifying. The District is expecting the formal report from ESS group regarding their analysis of samples taken in early August and literature on the identification, removal, and proper disposal of water chestnut to be included in a future District newsletter.

Dam Repairs and Maintenance

The dam crest has been mowed, but the trimming needs to be done more completely. The District will possibly look into finding a new landscaper to mow and trim around the dam. The District will get quotes for mowing the dam closer to Spring.

During the Fall 2019 draw down, it was discovered that our lower gate valve would not open properly. R.H. White was engaged to review the valve, and they believe a sheer pin may have broken off preventing the valve from mechanism from engaging the lever. To fix the sheer pin only, the estimate cost of repair is \$5,750. If the entire valve needs replacement, the estimated cost of repair is \$12,000. R.H. White fixed the lower gate valve. A dive team was able to assess the problem and fully repair the damaged component without replacing the entire valve.

Dam Inspection

The District has engaged with Lenard Engineering to conduct our State mandated dam inspection. The dam was inspected. A recommendation to fill near the cap stones will be made. Trees will need to be cut down with 20 feet of the dam. The concrete of the dam look to be in very good condition. The electronic report was issued. The District received 3,4,5 on all areas of the report, where 1 being the lowest score and 5 being the highest score). RH White will be contracted to work on the facade of the dam, fill small sink holes on the top of the dam, and repair several capstones R.H. White will be giving an estimate on these repairs.

Fall newsletter

The Fall newsletter was drafted and discussed the following items:

- ESS groups overall report on the state of the lake
- Educate proprietors on water chestnut identification, removal and disposal
- Educate proprietors on what each one can do to lower the nutrient level in the lake
- Approximate Fall Draw-Down date
- Don't feed the geese pamphlet too
- Phase I dam report findings with link to report on the District's website

The District is planning to mail everyone a copy of this letter with glossy leaflet on the Water Chestnut and nutrient lowering topics along with the Spring 2021 Newsletter / Save-the-Date.

New Business

Tax Classification Hearing

The tax classification hearing will be scheduled for November 12, 2020 at 7:30 pm. The legal ad will be submitted to the print edition Worcester T&G to run October 29, 2020.

Executive Session

The meeting was recessed to go into executive session at 8:04 pm

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Management Committee was scheduled for 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, November 12, 2020 by Zoom Meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

A True Copy Attest:

Michele M. Cospers, District Clerk

**Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District
Memorandum**

Date: October 8, 2020
Subject: District Communications
To: Management Committee
From: District Clerk

District Clerk Michele Cospers reported the following communications for the period of September 11, 2020 to October 8, 2020. This memorandum will be attached to the October 8, 2020 Management Committee Meeting minutes:

- 9/11 Email exchange between Mr. Waterman and ESS group regarding algae in the lake
- 9/15 Email from Mr. Lee regarding RHWhite doing work on the dam and needing to find a better contractor to mow at the dam next spring and summer
- 9/18 Email exchanged regarding the renewal of the insurance policy
- 9/21 Email exchange regarding invoice from ESS Group
- 9/23 ESS Group be submitting their report to the District on Oct 4. Dam valve work was delayed until Sept 30
- 9/24 Betterment payoff by Mike Rose at 17 Lakeview Drive
- 9/28 Algae at higher density by Mr. Waterman's dock
- 9/28 Update from Mr. O'Coin regarding betterment payoff being forwarded to the District from the Town of Leicester
- 9/29 Mr. Hobson inquired about the date of the draw-down
- 9/29 Betterment payoff by Ed Rose at 61 Lakeview Drive
- 10/3 Mr. O'Coin forwarded meeting information regarding the Warrant and a need to vote to funds from general into repair and maintenance.
- 10/4 Information from ESS Group about their report.
- 10/5 Steve Monahan and Mark Hobson inquired as to the date of the drawdown.