

GLEN ECHO IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 578 Charlton City, MA 01508

www.glenecholake.org

Minutes

July 7, 2009

The June meeting of the Glen Echo Improvement Association, Inc. (GEIA) was held at the Senior Center in the Town Hall Annex on Tuesday, June 9, 2009. President Jackie Nowak called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

Secretary's Report – The Secretary's report for May 2009 was read. A motion was made by Marge Hewitt and seconded by Bernie Lizotte to accept the minutes as read. The motion *PASSED*.

Treasurer's Report – No Treasurer's report was available for review

Old Business:

- ◆ *Lycott* – A survey of the lake was completed in May 09. At that time, the lake is fairly clean with the exception of a small patch of Milfoil in the north end of the lake. President Jackie Nowak spoke with Lee Lyman of Lycott and Lee agreed to come back in late July/early August to perform another survey. In addition, he agreed to send a quote for extending the existing contract by 1-year.
- ◆ *Nominating Committee* – The nominating committee provided a preliminary list of names of people interested in the open board positions.

President Jackie Nowak took an action to speak with the existing advisory board members to see if they are still interested in participating.

- ◆ *Lawsuit update:* The state filed their brief on 1 June 09. The Chambers have the option to file a rebuttal, but according to Attny Neal, this is not typically done. The next step will be oral arguments in Appeals court. Oral arguments are limited to 15 minutes for EACH side. It usually takes a few months for the decision.

New Business:

- ◆ *Boat Parade* – The annual boat parade will be held on Saturday, 4 Jul 09, at 4:00 pm.
- ◆ *Dam Legislation* – At the May 2009 Annual Town Meeting, the warrant contained an article relating to private and town owned dams. Article 24 authorizes the town of Charlton BOS to petition the state legislation to enact legislation which would allow the town to acquire privately owned dams to manage, maintain and/or repair as necessary. The legislation also allows the town to assess betterments to those who would benefit from the maintenance and repair

of the dams. At some point, the article was changed to also include town owned dams. Article 24 was passed at the May town meeting.

On May 28, 2009, the BOS voted on and approved wording for a legislative act which includes ALL dams within Charlton and give the town an official avenue to procure funds by borrowing or assessing betterments to those properties benefitting from such action.

Lisa Westwell provided some background data regarding the origins of the warrant article. The article originated from issues concerning the privately owned dam at Prindle Lake. The dam is in urgent need of repair and the owners do not want to repair it. Rather they would rather breach the dam, causing Prindle lake to effectively disappear and in turn will affect property values around the lake. The anticipated cost to breach the dam is ~\$180K, versus ~\$360K to fix the dam.

A discussion ensued. There is major concern among the membership with the wording of the special legislation as it does not make it clear how it will determine which properties “benefit” from the repair of town owned dams. For example, Glen Echo’s dam acts as flow control for Cady Brook and hence the existing waste water treatment plant. So, an argument could be made that the town benefits.

Donna Peters indicated that when the Glen Echo dam needed repairs in the late 1990s, the town and legislators petitioned the state for funding to fix the dam and no cost was levied on the town or residents. It is not clear if the town would be able to receive grant money were it to assess betterments on residents.

A motion was made by Donna Peters and seconded by Bernie Lizotte for the GEIA President to write a letter to the local legislative representatives regarding the special legislation. The letter should request that further review of the wording should be completed to fully understand how “benefitting properties” would be defined. The motion PASSED.

A motion was made by Donna Peters and seconded by Bernie Lizotte for the GEIA President to ask the Charlton BOS/administrator to notify the GEIA of any future business, legislation, etc. that would impact Glen Echo Lake. The motion PASSED.

Selectman Peter Boria was able to attend the latter part of the meeting to answer any questions the membership may have. The membership expressed their concerns and asked for Mr. Boria’s interpretation of the legislation wording. Mr. Boria re-iterated that any request for money for repairs/maintenance, etc. must go to and be approved at town meeting prior to being implemented. He also indicated that this legislative act now provides the town with an official means to procure money for these actions, whereas in the past there was no avenue to do so and the town was subject to the availability of grant money and/or funds in the Town’s accounts.

In addition, the Glen Echo Dam is a “high hazard” dam which must be inspected on more frequent basis. A question was raised regarding how the inspection costs would be handled. Mr. Boria indicated that this currently falls under the conservation commission’s budget.

A motion was made by Bernie Lizotte and seconded by Erin Peters to adjourn the meeting. The motion *PASSED*. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Nowak
President, GEIA

For
Carl M. Selavka
Secretary, GEIA