

Mohegan Lake District and  
Mohegan Lake Association Minutes  
October 11, 1995

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Present

David Wright.....Mohegan Colony  
Steve Horvath.....Section III  
Bill Stevens.....Mohegan Colony  
Charles Zychal.....Mohegan Beach Park District  
Diane Ingram.....Mohegan Colony

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The meeting was held at the Mohegan Colony schoolhouse and began at 8:15 p.m. Minutes of the September meeting were unavailable and will be mailed.

Storm Drain -- Diane was concerned as to the storm drain problem. We had expressed concern to the Yorktown Town Board as to certain "drainage improvements" near the Mohegan Beach Park on the East side of the lake two years ago. These "improvements" included the expansion of a storm drain, which now dumps a large volume of pollution into the lake. Dave applied for a \$42,500 grant to construct a detention basin to allow settling of the pollutants before they can enter the lake. He worked with Tim Miller Associates to design it. The grant was denied, although we will apply again.

In the meantime, it was suggested that we do the work -- since we have the money in our capital fund, and try to get the Town to pay some or all of the cost. It was decided to await the elections, and then raise the matter with the new Town Board in January.

Dave noted that our summer employee, Bob Connick, has worked with Dave to map the various storm catch basins around the lake. We should get the Town to clean out the catch basins -- which are supposed to trap silt and pollutants, but which are almost never cleaned out. Yorktown has a truck which does this, and Dave will find out if we can pay from our budget to get more frequent cleaning. Also, we are trying to get the scouts to take this as a project, but no one has the time to organize such a project. Denis Horbatuk will be contacted to see if his troop will take this on.

The storm drains and catch basin appear to be major contributors of pollutants into the lake...perhaps as much as 75% of the phosphorus, which stimulates algae growth and makes the water appear dirty. We are going to spend millions in taxes to construct sewers, but these drains may be a worse problem (although they can be fixed for much less money).

Sewers -- Steve was delegated the task of calling Yorktown Town Engineer Dan Ciarcia to find out the status of sewers, Both the East and West sides of the lake are slated for sewerage, with the two petitions having been approved by the Yorktown Town Board. The next step was for the projects to be reviewed by the Comptrollers Office in Albany, which is not an automatic approval -- especially in an area where the taxes are already so burdensome. We will try to find out the status and construction timetable.

Attendance -- There was agreement that we must take further steps to get more people to attend the meetings. Diane suggested that we (a) have a specific speaker or program for each session, and (b) send out a mailing to 'active' members in advance. It was noted also that various people have been bringing wine and cheese. Bob Connick has prepared videos and will could have a slide show on Mohegan history -- which Dave will try to put together for next month.

Mailing -- On a related subject, Dave said he is putting together a Winter mailing. Perhaps we can send this out Nov. 1, so people are better alerted to the Nov. 8 meeting. We could include a special announcement of the meeting, with a map how to get here. It was also suggested we include a full map of the lake area, with each beach association shown. Members are encouraged to submit photos for inclusion. The Summer mailing didn't go out to the approximately 250 homes in the Cortlandt side, because the mailing list was lost; the assessor there has not been helpful in generating a new list. Dave prepared the old list by hand from the tax records, but the computer crashed.

Lake Day '96 -- There was discussion of Lake Day 96, but no specific plans were made.

Water Quality -- The water quality was good this year, owing in part to the dry season, as well as our not turning on the aeration system for much of the season. While the aeration oxygenates the bottom and avoids fish kills, it also stirs up the nutrients in the bottom sediments, and may encourage algae growth.

Dave noted that next year, we will try an alternative to aeration -- hypolimnetic withdrawal. This involves drawing off water from the bottom of the lake and pumping it out the outlet at the north end of the lake. If we get rid of this dirty water, rather than allowing cleaner water to flow from the upper levels of the lake, we may see a significant improvement in water quality. It should not be very expensive, as it only involves a pump and a length of tubing with a filter at the end.

Diane said we should be advancing the dredging project. The problem is that there is no one to do the paperwork. We will continue to try to advance this.

Dave noted we had spent much of the year studying a new biotech approach, using bacteria. The bacteria would eat the nutrients which stimulate algae growth. The problem is that, at the end of the process, the seller doubled their price quote -- to \$113,000 -- rendering the proposal too expensive.

Budget -- Dave submitted the same budget as last year, about \$48,000. The surplus from last year will be added to our capital fund, and probably used for the storm drain project.

Next Year's Plan -- In addition to hypolimnetic withdrawal, Dave noted he and Bob Connick are developing a prototype of a new device to clarify the water. The device will be installed at one of the beaches, and will use filters to clean the water. Water will be pumped from the lake, into a chamber about the size of an above-ground swimming pool; the water will be biologically and mechanically cleaned and returned to the lake. There are a number of engineering and biological problems which need to be resolved, however, and a few thousand dollars will need to be spent in assessing the project. If it works, it might be a miracle cure for the lake. Before spending money, he will present a specific plan.

Holland Club Update -- It was noted that Yorktown has been paying on the Holland Club acquisition, which is only a few years away. It was suggested that we have tours in the Spring.

Next month's meeting is November 8 and will be held at the MCA schoolhouse at 8:00 p.m. The meeting ended at 9:30 p.m.

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David Wright, Secretary