

# Mohegan Lake District

Mohegan Lake Association  
Minutes -- April 10, 1996

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Present

Bob Potemski ..... Mohegan Highlands  
Denis Horbatuk ..... Mohegan Beach Park  
David Wright ..... Mohegan Colony Assn.  
Toni King ..... SOLE Beach  
Alan Most ..... Section II  
Bob & Betsy January ..... Mohegan Highlands  
Chris Matthews (guest)

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The meeting was held at the Mohegan Colony schoolhouse and began at 8:10 p.m.

Trail -- Chris Matthews, a candidate for Eagle Scout, has sought to construct a trail around some portion around the lake as his Eagle project. Dave has worked with him to help out. The proposed trail area would start at the outlet at the north end of the lake and run along the lake by the condos, all the way down to New Chalet. This would create a trail along approximately 1/4 of the lake, perhaps its most scenic area. The first item which Chris was to do, was to go to the Assessor's Office and ascertain the owners of the property in that area, then to contact each owner and get their approval for having the trail. Unfortunately, Chris had not done this yet, although he had prepared a very attractive signs depicting wildlife. It was suggested that Chris go to the property owners and get their consent and if that cannot be obtained, the project is problematic. Bob P. suggested that as an alternative project, Chris might create a trail in the Tall Timbers property which the Town has just designated as parkland. However, to do so, Chris would have to contact the Town, probably the Parks Dept. (Brian Slavin) and get permission.

Lake Day -- Betsy reported that Lake Day is scheduled for June 23, rain day June 30. There are a number of festivities planned and people are starting to get excited about it. We expect to have educational exhibits, raft and swimming races, an exhibit on the biology of the lake, a slide show on the history of the lake, old-timers' stories, and other food and festivities. Those interested in participating should contact Bob or Betsy at 528-1357.

Budget -- Dave reported that the budget for this year was approved and submitted in an amount slightly less than 1995's budget. We also have a significant capital budget of about \$40,000, and this is intended for major project uses.

Silver Rake -- Dave noted that we had last year looked at the silver rake, an invention which permits deep raking of weeds from the lake bottom and he suggested that somebody look into it again this year. He circulated copies of the literature.

Storm Drain -- Dave reported there has been no improvement in the storm drain situation on the east side, and that we may have to use most our capital budget to pay for mitigation of that storm drain, unless we are able to retain counsel and sue the Town of Yorktown to fix it.

Full-time Help -- Dave reported that we really need a full-time secretary and gopher to handle the myriad items which come up over the course of the year. Bob Connick who was so helpful in the summertime, simply does not have the time the rest of the year because he teaches and is very busy. We need someone who is familiar with the lake and lymnology in general to deal with vendors, matters which come up over the course of the winter and otherwise. It was suggested that we contact Richard Knabel at WCC. Dave also noted that he intends to hire as secretary for the lake district Marianne Heuberger, to handle correspondence, filing, copying, etc. and she will bill her time just as Janet Rodzevik periodically bills us a few dollars for her work as treasurer handing all of the vouchers and processing them with the Town. Finally, it was agreed that Alan Most's son will be hired for a weekend to help to distribute literature door-to-door on our lake friendly fertilizer and perhaps also to publicize Lake Day in June.

Hypolimnetic Withdrawal -- Bob and Dave discussed the concept of hypolimnetic withdrawal, a well recognized lake management tactic. Water is withdrawn from the deep areas of the lake, where it is the worst because it mixes up with the bottom sediments and becomes very rich in nutrients, sparring the growth of algae. One lake management tactic is to drain water from the deep area, pump it out the outflow of the lake, and keep the cleaner water which is at the surface and would ordinarily flow out the outlet. Dave had assumed that we would need an electric pump as well as about 500-800 feet of tubing to be placed along the bottom of the lake out of sight. We would then need a source of electric at Mohegan Beach Park, and might run the pump from that location. Dave expressed concern that the pump, which Bob said would be 220 volt, might be viewed as a safety hazard by swimmers at the adjacent beach and Denis suggested it might be easier to run the power along the so-called Santucci parcel adjacent to their beach. This was agreed and we shall look into it. Bob P. suggested that we might not even need a pump if there is adequate syphon power. It may possible, even though we are bringing up water from a depth of 18 feet, if the tubing is raised up a few inches above the level of the outflow stream, that the natural pressure of the lake will be sufficient to create a syphon effect. There is only question as to what the volume will be. We are not capable of performing these calculations and we will look to an

engineer to perform them.


Lake Friendly Fertilizer -- Dave reported that he has ordered 40 bags of lake friendly fertilizer which will cost approximately \$700-800 including shipping. The fertilizer will be delivered to the Mohegan Colony Bathhouse down near the lake and we will then distribute it to local garden centers and nurseries who are willing to stock it. Dave has had discussions with the headquarters of Frank's Nurseries based in Detroit, to date, without success. He's also contacted a number of other nurseries and expects to have 2 or 3 who are willing to take it. There was discussion over whether we should charge the garden centers since they pay next to nothing for the fertilizer that they stock, and it was ultimately agreed that we should give the fertilizer to the nurseries this year to get them to take it. We should also provide copies of a notice letter to landowners around the lake pointing out to them it's illegal to use fertilizers within 200 feet of the lake. Notice should be given to homeowners who live around the lake. Betsy suggested that the current law, Chapter 90A of the Town Code, should be expanded to prohibit the use of fertilizers throughout the watershed, since anywhere it is put on the lawn, eventually it will wash into the lake. Alan Most's son will take the flyers prepared by Dave and distribute them door-to-door on Saturday and Sunday mornings during April and hopefully we can stop people before they fertilize, and get them to use our lake friendly fertilizer this year. It would make a spectacular difference. This would be far more beneficial to the lake than all of the millions of dollars being sent on sewers presently. Bob J. also noted that there are people around the lake including contractors and major companies such as Ken Lawn, Lawn Doctor, and Spruce Up which should be educated as to why lake friendly fertilizer is good, why they should use it and that there is a law making it illegal if they don't. Bob J. also suggested that we contact the condos, which have a huge lawn area directly adjacent to the lake, and which they probably fertilize every year, and ask them to use the lake friendly fertilizer. They may be one of the worst offenders, although probably out of ignorance, not wilfully.

Sonar -- There was discussion of using a chemical instead of mechanical weed harvesting this year. Dave attended a conference in New Jersey in January (for free!) at which a major part of the discussion dealt with a new chemical called sonar. Sonar is designed to kill weeds, although it would have no impact on the algae problem. If the sonar is successful, it will largely avoid our needing to go through the whole weed harvesting program. Dave presented the scientific literature which he had obtained, which demonstrates that sonar is less toxic than aspirin. If you swallow water which is saturated with sonar, you won't be hurt at all. Sonar works by stopping carotene formations. Carotene surrounds chlorophyll in all living green plants, and provides a layer of protection for the chlorophyll. If the chlorophyll were exposed to direct sunlight, it would immediately die without the

carotene shield. Sonar prevents the formation of this carotene in plants, and has no impact on animals. Dave argued against use of sonar, even though it would save us a huge amount of money -- \$25,000 per year for our current weed harvesting effort versus approximately \$8,500 per year for sonar treatments. Denis pointed out that over 2 years, this will save us over \$30,000, money which we might use for other projects such as fixing the storm drain, buying more lake friendly fertilizer, and general public information. Dave argued that the current weed harvesting serves the function of taking things out of our system, since we can't dredge, it at least allows several tons of organic matter to be taken away from the lake basin, and helps prevent the lake from filling in. If we simply kill the weeds, they will fall to the bottom and we don't take anything out. Bob P. suggested, however, that the silver rake might accomplish this effect, and with the monetary savings, we could actually do some silver raking in the shallow areas and have far greater impact in this regard. Ultimately, the consensus that we will try the sonar this year. There was discussion as to whether we can still get the permit and get it done in time and Dave was confident that we will see results before Memorial Day. This will also affect our hiring for the summer; we had previously discussed hiring Toni King's son, Ellis, and it appears that we will not require his assistance since we will not be doing the weed harvesting. Instead, we will simply go with Bob Connick and to assist him from time to time, George Edlich on a part-time basis. Since the weed harvester is in good shape, we will be able to fill in the gaps if there are problems this year with volunteers on weekends or with George and/or Bob C.

Dave will have the contract signed and get the permit applications filed as soon as possible with a view toward having a first treatment well in advance of Memorial Day.

The next meeting of the Lake District will be held May 8, 1996 at 8:00 p.m. at the Mohegan Colony Schoolhouse. Those needing directions can call Dave's office at 962-1039. A copy of the lake friendly fertilizer information is attached to these minutes for future reference. A copy of the Allied Biological contract is also attached - *Alice's copy only.*

  
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David Wright, Secretary