

# Waves

<http://www.hickoryhillslake.com>

978-582-6365

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners

Fall/Winter 2013

## Annual Shareholder's Meeting Reports from September 21, 2013

*The following are the reports presented at the meeting.*

### Letter from the President - Walter Parquet

Hickory Hills Lake is one of the most exceptional lakes in Massachusetts. It is one of the very few private lakes that are run by a corporation and Board of Directors that are pledged to "do no harm" and to "preserve and protect the natural and recreational qualities of the lake."

Since the creation of Hickory Hills Landowners Incorporated in 1978 the Board of Directors and residents have fulfilled this mandate. The lake and surrounding properties have maintained and improved on this exceptionalism. In that context, we have faced many challenges and have met all of the 38 listed accomplishments as listed in the enclosed Prospectus 2012-2013.

A highlight of just a very few of the major ones are:

- ◇ Payment of the original 1979 mortgage
- ◇ Completion of costly repairs and improvements to the dam in 1982 and 1992
- ◇ Purchase, in 2000, of 52 acres of undeveloped

land and the subsequent construction of walking and snow mobile trail

- ◇ Purchase of land in 1999 for addition of 12 boat slips for off lake residents
- ◇ Establishment of a dam repair fund that has current assets of approximately \$200,000

We have a proven history of meeting environmental and fiscal goals. (Current accomplishments to goals and new goals are listed in the enclosed Shareholders Report) I am confident that we will meet the two major challenges for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, those being; continued financial support of the dam "fix" and the control and eradication of the invasive weed Fanwort.

Regarding the dam "fix", the Board with the leadership of the Dam Committee, have applied for a 20-year low interest 2% loan from the State. In order to complete the "fix" and thus maintain or satisfactory rating and meet the strict MA state requirements it is imperative that a high level of license fee participation be met and maintained. The existence of the lake depends on the condition of the dam and affects all resident property values.

Our second major challenge is the control and eradication of Fanwort. The Lake Management Committee has done an outstanding job in studying, planning, organizing and executing programs and projects toward this goal. There is currently a cadre of Fanwort inspectors, boat crews, divers and other support personnel.

It has been a 3-year battle against this potential "lake killer" and WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!!

A successful resolution of the dam "fix" and control of Fanwort can only be accomplished with the full support of all Hickory Hills lake residents. With your help we will protect and enhance our truly exceptional natural treasure.

*(reports con't on page 2)*

## Recreational Vehicles

We would like to remind our Snowmobile friends to have fun, but to remember their neighbors and not encroach on ice skating rinks and private property.



Please also remember to stay off the Islands and the dike and to stay on the main beach's marked trail which travels over the volleyball court and not ride anywhere near the Office itself.

Remember, recreational vehicles on the islands and beaches damages tree roots and causes erosion so always stay on marked trails.

Please be considerate of your neighbors and keep your machine quiet by 10:00 p.m.

When riding, think of safety first and stay away from open water. It's up to us as a community to police ourselves. Snowmobile and ATV riders should operate their machines safely and with respect for the environment and their neighbors.



(reports con't from page 1)

### Capital Asset Reserve Fund

The C.A.R.F. fund was created to generate income to improve the Corporation's capital structure and financial base for planned and unplanned capital expenditures, which will promote and conserve the welfare and betterment of Hickory Hills. The C.A.R.F. is managed by a Board of Trustees in which members are shareholders of the Corporation. Ex-Officio (non-voting) members are the President and Treasurer of the HHL Board of Directors.

Current Trustees are Tom Bertram, Mark Erickson, Pat LaStella, Jack Rabbit, Robert Vaughan, Walt Parquet and Caroline Fortin

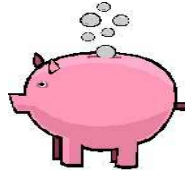
#### Ongoing Responsibilities:

- Examine and optimize short and long term investment practices
- Determine expenditure of funds on projects such as the dam, land purchases, water quality, and unplanned emergencies
- Manage the approval process for appropriating Capital Funds.

#### Goals vs. Accomplishments 2012-2013:

##### - Recommend optimal investment vehicles for the Dam Funds:

The Trustees made recommendations to move the Dam funds to Fidelity and invest the funds into Electronic Transfer Funds (ETFs) to increase the interest gained and the market value.



The Trustees also moved the C.A.R.F. funds from a bank money market account to a Fidelity brokerage account to improve our ability to gain interest and value. In February half of the funds were deposited into three different ETFs which have resulted in an increase from dividends and an increase in market value. We will continue to increase the percentage of the fund into ETF investments when the market prices are favorable.

- **Review needs of the Corporation for short and long term investments:** The Trustees worked with the Dam Committee throughout the year to evaluate the potential costs and time line for dam repairs.
- **Establish new ways to grow the C.A.R.F. Fund:** The

## Small Group Fitness Classes !!



**Mention you're from Hickory Hills to try out your first class FREE !!**

**Contact Lynn Walsh at 978-514-2903**

**Personal Training DISCOUNTS for Hickory Hills residents also available.**

**Call now for details!**

option of making donations to the C.A.R.F. is always available to residents. There is a place on the annual bills for residents to make a donation to C.A.R.F. Several residents make annual donations in memory of their loved ones.

#### Ongoing Goals for 2013-2014:

- Provide optimal investment vehicles for C.A.R.F. and all capital funds
- Review needs of the Corporation for short and long term investments
- Establish new ways to grow the C.A.R.F. Fund

#### Assets under management

<b>C.A.R.F. Fund as of 2/4/13</b>	<b>\$110,700.00</b>
Donations from Residents 2012-2013	\$ 515.00
Divs earned on Investments YTD	\$ 667.00
Change in Market Value YTD*	\$2180.00
<b>C.A.R.F. Fund as of 9/17/13</b>	<b>\$114,062.00</b>

\*Market Value fluctuates daily; the numbers above represents the value as of 9/17/13.

For more information on the C.A.R.F. Trustees see HHL By-laws Article IV

#### Dam Report - T. Bertram presented

A Dam Committee of at least three (3) members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The Committee shall elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman to organize meetings. A Dam Keeper and Assistant Dam Keeper shall be appointed by the Committee and will be responsible for the dam operation in compliance with State Regulations. The purpose of the Dam Committee is to: Identify and document all dam opera-

(con't on next pg)



(con't from page 2)

tions, including but not limited to the drawdown procedure and operation of the emergency sluice gate., Remain aware of all State and local regulations concerning Dam ownership and operation and advise the Board of Directors accordingly, Manage level of the lake utilizing approved drawdown methods to ensure compliance with the Department of Dam Safety, maintain a balanced ecosystem and support recreational uses, Coordinate emergency response in the event of a dam breach in accordance with Emergency Action Plan, Research all non-compliance, structural or environmental issues that may arise, determine an appropriate solution, and provide a detailed Plan to the Board of Directors that shall include projected costs for implementation and addresses feasibility, success rate, comparisons to other solutions, and projected costs for implementation and maintenance.



Research all non-compliance, structural or environmental issues that may arise, determine an appropriate solution, and provide a detailed Plan to the Board of Directors that shall include projected costs for implementation and addresses feasibility, success rate, comparisons to other solutions, and projected costs for implementation and maintenance.

**Goals vs. Accomplishments 2012-2013**

Goal #1 Review conclusions from Hydrology Study and prepare for possible capital improvements **Complete**

Goal #2 Review conclusions from 2012 Dam inspection report and assess recommendations **Complete**

Goal #3 Implement mock emergency testing EAP readiness with safety officials **Complete**

Goal #4 Improve safety measures in Dam operations **Complete**

Goal #5 Inspect and improve sluice gate **Ongoing**

Goal #6 Improve signage on earthen dyke and dam **Ongoing**

In addition the committee held regular meetings and performed regular maintenance on dam and dyke; Updated Dam procedures and operations; Commissioned and analyzed results of Hydrology; Updated EAP; Maintained concrete spillway and Posted new residents only signs

**Goals 2012-2013**

The goal of the Dam committee is to keep the Dam in good operational order and up (reports con't on next pg)

**Custom Made Adirondack Chairs**

Custom made by Scott Andrews in Pelham, NH. These sturdy chairs are made to endure the outdoors, built of ash and mahogany woods, with multiple coats of UV protected polyurethane and stainless steel hardware. Scott will build a chair to suit you by adjusting the height, seat width and angle, with or without the rockers for just \$385. If you would like to see this rocker contact Pat at 978-855-0155 or email at [ligatl@yahoo.com](mailto:ligatl@yahoo.com). Order one now to be sitting in it by spring time!





### Bark N' Bubbles DOG SPA

Does your dog despise the groomers? Bark N' Bubbles is a relaxed in-home environment that isn't like any other groomers office.

At Bark N' Bubbles, your dog can have a spa day, groom, haircut, bath, do agility, rollerblade, have a massage and a lot more!

Services are performed here at Hickory Hills using all safe & effective supplies.

Angela is 13 years old and is an experienced dog groomer with two dogs of her own, a Labrador Retriever and a Golden Retriever.

She is a member of the YGRC, AKC, and UKC.

Angela does Jr Showmanship, Jr handling, obedience, rally, and agility with her dogs.

Call, Text or email to learn more!  
C: 978 793-3135 or 978 582-9672

**30% off first time customers!**



<http://dogzrule2012.wix.com/barknbubblesdogspa>

*(con't from page 3)*

to state specifications in an effort to maintain a consistent water level in Hickory Hills Lake while considering the safety of both up and down stream residents. Additionally the committee is preparing for any major changes that may be mandated by the state, as a result of non favorable inspection report.

Goal #1 Prepare for major renovation to the concrete Dam to meet state requirements

Goal #2 Commission improvements to the swale at the base of the earthen dyke

Goal #3 Test operation sluice gate

Goal #4 Improve vegetation and walkway on earthen dyke and dam

Goal #5 Commission 2014 State inspection

#### Goal # 6 Update EAP

#### Finance Committee - J. Shearer

The purpose of this committee is to support the Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc. and its Shareholders with long-range financial planning as directed by the Board of Directors. The primary focus is to continue coordination with the Dam Committee for planning the anticipated dam renovation.

Over the past year, we've worked to accomplish the following goals:

#### Goal #1: Continue Dam Renovation planning

There is still a great deal of uncertainty about what the State will require for renovation of the dam and when the renovation would have to be completed. This directly impacts the scope, cost and timing of the project, making it difficult to accurately forecast our needs. Our strategy therefore is to

- ◇ Continue with the ongoing 5-year HHL dam maintenance plan and satisfy requirements identified during recent state inspections (see Dam committee report)
- ◇ Defer major renovation work as long as possible
- ◇ Continue to contribute to the Dam Fund from Annual Fees and individual donations to pay

*(reports con't on pg 6)*

#### Watch Your Waste!

Did you know that Massachusetts residents fill enough trash bags each year to circle the earth two-and-a half times?



Did you ever wonder where all that trash goes?

Two-thirds of our trash could be recycled or composted, but only one-third of it actually is. The rest is either burned or buried in Massachusetts, or shipped out of state for disposal. What a waste!

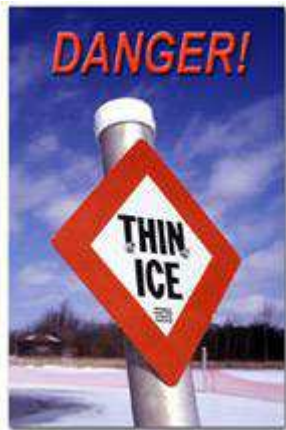
There are lots of simple things you can do to reduce waste, save money and protect our environment.

Find out about all the items you can recycle at 1-800-CLEANUP or <http://www.earth911.org>





## ***KEEP AN EYE ON THE ICE!***



Winter has made its appearance in Massachusetts but at this stage of the season the condition of ice on the Bay State's waterbodies can be unpredictable and treacherous. The Division of Fisheries & Wildlife urges outdoor enthusiasts to play it safe and check ice carefully before venturing onto ice-covered waters. A clear layer of 4-inch ice is a good, safe thickness for foot traffic. An ice strength table and safety tips are posted at

[www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/safety/ice\\_safety.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/safety/ice_safety.htm).

How can you tell if ice is safe? There are no guarantees -- always consider ice to be potentially dangerous. Assess ice safety by using an ice chisel to chop a hole in the ice to determine its thickness and condition. Make sure you continue to do this as you go further out on to the ice, because the thickness of the ice will not be uniform all over the pond or lake. Be aware that ice tends to be thinner on lakes and ponds where there are spring holes, inlets or outlets. Don't venture on to ice bound rivers or streams because the currents make ice thickness unpredictable.

What if you fall through the ice? As with any emergency, don't panic! Briefly call for help. It doesn't take long for the cold water to start slowing your physical and mental functions,

so you must act quickly. Air will remain trapped in your clothes for a short time, aiding your buoyancy. Kick your legs while grasping for firm ice. Try to pull your body up using ice pins or picks that should be hanging around your neck. Once your torso is on firm ice, roll towards thicker ice. This will better distribute your weight. Remember that ice you have previously walked on should be the safest. After you reach safe ice don't waste precious time, you need to warm up quickly to prevent hypothermia. Go to the nearest fishing shanty, warm car, or house. Don't drive home in wet clothes!



If a companion falls through the ice remember the phrase "Reach-Throw-Go." If

you are unable to reach your friend, throw him or her a rope, jumper cables, tree branch, or other object. If this does not work, go for help before you also become a victim. Pet owners should keep pets on a leash. If a pet falls through the ice do not attempt to rescue the pet, go for

help. Well-meaning pet owners can too easily become victims themselves when trying to save their pets. Links to winter weather related preparedness tips and a video on ice safety from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources can be found at [www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/safety/ice\\_safety.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/safety/ice_safety.htm).





(con't from page 4) for eventual repairs when needed.

- Pay for the remaining cost with private and/or Government loans
- ◇ Look for alternative opportunities for reducing operating and borrowing costs
- ◇ Use the financial planning spreadsheet developed during 2011/12 to evaluate candidate scenarios

We are currently ahead of our plan for the Dam Fund. As of the end of FY2012, we accumulated over \$218K (thereby exceeding our 2012 goal of \$200K). We anticipate that we will again exceed our goal of \$235K at the end of FY2013.

It may also be possible to defer the start of the project by several years, which would enable us to accrue additional funds to offset borrowing.

**Goal #2: Review Potential Need to Increase Annual Fees** At the 2012 Shareholders meeting, the Financial Planning Committee pledged to present a recommended strategy for FY2014 to the Board of Directors, including whether or not to increase contributions to the Dam Fund by raising Annual Fees. The FPC recommends that the Annual Fees be continued without change at the rate approved by Shareholders in 2009. This recommendation is based on the current economic conditions and their unfavorable impact on many of our Shareholders; the uncertainty of the scope, cost and schedule for the dam renovation; the favorable balance of accumulated funds in the Dam Fund; and the potential opportunity for a low-interest Government loan. This recommendation will be revisited during the forthcoming FY.

**Goal #3: Seek Alternative Sources for Funding the Dam Renovation** The Massachusetts Legislature approved Senate Bill 01985 in December 2012. The Bill established a Revolving Loan Fund to provide low-interest, long-term loans to public and private dam and seawall owners. The Bill was signed by the Governor early in 2013 and a draft implementation plan was published for public hearings in June. The Bill provides initial (woefully insufficient) funds to inspect and repair or remove some 3000-plus eligible dams and sea walls in Massachusetts. The funding will be split equally between dams and sea walls.

### 2013/2014 BOD Goals

1. Continue aggressive actions toward control & eradication of invasive and nuisance aquatic plants, most especially Fanwort
2. Continue non major dam improvements as detailed in the last inspection report and hydrology study
3. Update Emergency Action Plan
4. Continue to revise financial projection scenarios toward adequate funding for eventual major dam renovation and upgrade
5. Continue improvements in electronic communications means and methods to all residents.
6. Contribute 25% of License Fees into the Dam Fund
7. Recruit new Shareholder Committee Chair
8. Increase Shareholder base
9. Improve Island Rd area signage, parking, fencing and overall physical condition

The loan interest rate is an attractive 2%. The implementation plan establishes criteria for eligibility and identifies priorities for funding. Unfortunately, the priority sequence is (1) dams owned by Government agencies (e.g. cities, towns and municipalities), (2) dams owned by 501c charities, followed by (3) high hazard, privately owned dams like HHL.

In June of this year, two members of the HHL BOD met with Lunenburg's state Representative Jennifer Benson and Massachusetts Senator Jennifer Flanagan's aide. The objective was to familiarize them with the potential scope and impact on the more than 550 HHL properties surrounding the lake, and to seek their support to obtain a low-interest loan. The meeting was very successful and both pledged their support to HHL.

Following this meeting, the BOD submitted written testimony to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) who conducted the public hearings for implementation of Senate Bill 01985. In particular, the testimony expressed our concerns pertaining to the priority structure in Bill 01985. No response has been received as yet.

In mid-August 2013, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs released a Request for Responses for applicants seeking funding from the Dam

(con't on pg 9)



Hickory Hills Residents,

Recently, a concerned resident of Hickory Hills created and distributed to resident mailboxes his own flyer regarding the use of Sonar, a chemical agent for the treatment of Fanwort in our lake.

This resident unfortunately did not contact the Board of Directors or the Lake Management Group before distribution, and thus, this flyer contained incorrect information.

Earlier this year, the Board of Directors hired an Environmental Consultant Agency, Geosyntec to perform a Water Quality Analysis and Aquatic Weed Survey on our lake.

Their results were the same as the prior year's survey by Aquatic Control Technologies, and are quite different than the information included in the flyer you may have received.

Regarding the use of chemicals to fight Fanwort in our lake, the recommendations from both Geosyntec in 2013, and Aquatic Control Technologies from 2012 are as follows:

*For Fanwort, Sonar (fluridone) is the only herbicide currently registered in Massachusetts that provides effective short-term control. Unfortunately, this broad-spectrum systemic herbicide requires a long exposure time (>60 days). Given the current locations of fanwort in Hickory Hills Lake, treating with Sonar is not practical or recommended because it would require treating virtually the entire lake. However, another broad-spectrum herbicide Clipper, active ingredient flumioxazin) has been proven effective for short-term fanwort control. Clipper is pending registration based on a June 2013 recommendation from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). Because this "contact" herbicide requires a very short exposure time, it can be used for spot treatments. As such, Clipper may provide a useful option for the relatively small infestation areas of Hickory Hills Lake. It is worth noting that the use restrictions for Clipper recommended by MassDEP include the following:*

*"Treated areas may not be retreated with flumioxazin or any herbicide with a similar mode of action (i.e., light dependent peroxidizing herbicide) in consecutive years in order to prevent the development of herbicide resistance in treated plants."*

*Based on this recommended restriction, a strategy for Clipper use could involve herbicide application in one year to reduce plant abundance, followed by DASH harvesting in the following year.*

Once Clipper is approved for Massachusetts aquatic use, we will investigate the best methods to add this to our tool box.

The Board of Directors and Lake Management Group are encouraged by the efforts of our residents to help with the eradication of this aggressive weed in our lake and ask any resident who wishes to help, to contact us by phone or email at 978 582-6365 or hickoryhills@net1plus.com.

Board of Directors

Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc.





## Winter Rules — Use of Hickory Hills Lake Area



To ensure a safe and enjoyable use of the Hickory Hills Lake area, we remind you of the following rules established by the state, town, and/or Hickory Hills Landowners:

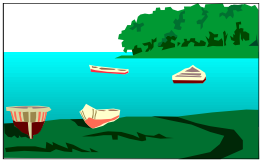
1. Use of Hickory Hills Landowners' facilities, lake beaches, and islands is limited to licensed residents with current IDs and their guests.
2. Keep your ID with you while you use Landowners' facilities.
3. Guests must be accompanied by their host who has an ID while using Landowners' facilities.
4. Property owners who rent their homes are responsible for obtaining IDs for their renters.
5. Renters are not eligible to use Landowners' facilities unless they have identification.
6. No resident who is delinquent paying annual charges can be the guest of a resident who has paid annual charges.
7. Property owners are personally responsible for the behavior of their family members and guests while the latter are using Landowners' facilities.
8. Ice fishing is limited to residents with current IDs and their guests. A Massachusetts State Fishing License also is required.
9. Ice fishing is permitted from dawn to dusk only. No ice drills are to be operated before 6:00 a.m.
10. Ice fishing shall be done in compliance with all the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts including those laws and regulations concerning the number of fishing holes to be drilled each day and the size and number of fish to be taken.
11. No open fires are permitted on the lake or on the land. (The town also prohibits open fires.) All fires must be contained (grill, hibachi, etc.). All materials brought on Landowners' facilities must be removed.
12. Vehicles may not be parked on public roads during snow-storms because they will obstruct snow plowing (a town ordinance). For fire purposes, all roads shall be kept clear during any type of weather.
13. Islands, except those privately owned and posted, may be used daylight hours only (one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset).
14. No trespassing on the spillway.
15. If a dog falls through the ice, do not attempt a rescue. The Lunenburg Rescue Squad has a flotation suit and can arrive within a few minutes to make a safe rescue.
16. No glass bottles or glass of any kind are permitted on Landowners' facilities.
17. Use of snowmobiles and recreation vehicles on Landowners facilities is limited to residents with current IDs and their guests. Snowmobiles and recreation vehicles also must be registered with the State of Massachusetts. Operating a snowmobile or recreation vehicle shall be done in compliance with all the laws and regulation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
18. Don't roll rocks or debris on ice! They become hidden after snow fall and could lead to injury.







## Lake Management Group An opportunity to get involved



At this year's Annual Shareholders Meeting there was a great report presented by the Lake Management Group about Fanwort in Hickory Hills Lake. Several residents again expressed interest in learning more about the removal process and participating in proper lake management. The Committee reviews lake issues and explores solutions in order to make recommendations to the Board of Directors and take action.

We need your help! If you are interested in participating in this committee group please send an email describing your interest to the office at [hickoryhills@net1plus.com](mailto:hickoryhills@net1plus.com) or to Paula Bertram at [paula.bertram@verizon.net](mailto:paula.bertram@verizon.net).

**Even if you can only spare a couple of hours here and there, that's OK.** Please contact us now to help preserve our own little piece of heaven!

*(con't from page 6)* and Seawall Loan Fund to renovate or tear down structures that do not comply with safety requirements. The submittal deadline was Aug 29, 2013. Despite our low priority, the Board of Directors decided to respond to the RFR. Several BOD members collaborated to prepare a proposal to upgrade HHL's dam to full compliance. The proposal requested a loan in the amount of \$841,180 at 2% per annum for 20 years and includes use of funds accrued from HHL Dam Fund to date. Should we be selected by the EOEEA to receive a loan, the FPC anticipates that a special Shareholders' meeting would be required to approve the scope and funding for the project before a formal commitment could be made to the state. It is highly likely that this opportunity would require an increase in annual dues to meet the loan pay-back, but would still be a "better deal" than a high-rate loan several years in the future.

### Lake Management Group – presented by T. Bertram

The Lake Management Group will consist of at least five members, and will be comprised of residents of HHL, shareholders in HHL, dedicated to protecting the Hickory Hills ecosystem. The group shall elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman to coordinate meetings. The purpose of the Lake Management Group is to: Identify issues that

that may now or in future affect the natural health of the lake; Investigate and review management techniques for a variety of issues including, but not limited to: invasive species, silting, weed management, pollution, and storm water issues; To research each issue, determine an appropriate solution, and provide a detailed Lake Management Plan that addresses feasibility, success rate, comparisons to other solutions, and projected costs for implementation and maintenance; Periodically review and update the Lake Management Plan as the lake ecology changes or additional management techniques become available; Organize various fund raising events to supplement the Lake Management Group budget, improve community awareness and foster community spirit.

The Lake Management Group Chairman shall be empowered to form ad hoc sub-committees to investigate specific areas of the lake and report back to the Lake Management Group and the Board of Directors.

### Goals vs. Accomplishments 2012-2013

- ◇ Education of LMG members/Board of Directors & residents on: Invasive species threats & appropriate mitigation response and Storm water threats & mitigation methods - **Ongoing**
- ◇ Continue Fanwort remediation and implement long range plan for invasive species. **Complete**
- ◇ Execute chemical treatment for Little Hickory **Complete**

### Goals 2013-2014

Due to the tremendous effort involved in the deploy-

*(con't on next pg)*



### Board of Directors for 2013-2014

	President	Walt Parquet
	V. President	Tom Bertram
	Treasurer	C. Fortin
	Clerk	Chris Albert
Directors:	Paul Anderson	Jim Shearer
	Jim Leblanc	Scott Snape
	Eric Manseau	James Toale
	Mike Nault	



(con't from page 6) ment of the suction harvester and coordinating survey volunteers, members of the LMG have not been able to move forward with other LMG projects.

At this point, Fanwort has been found in various areas of the lake. Countless hours have been expended by relatively few people to locate and remove this threat. It is frustrating that many residents who enjoy the lake have not participated in this effort. It is critical that residents understand the potential magnitude of the Fanwort problem and assist in the struggle to combat this invasive weed. Fanwort can grow more than 1" per day, overpowering native vegetation and impacting recreational uses such as swimming, boating and fishing. Eventually the degraded water quality can negatively impact property values. In order to raise awareness of the LMG efforts and the Fanwort situation, much energy has been devoted this year to various community activities such as the coffee hour and poker run. More volunteers are desperately needed to conduct periodic surveys of the lake and assist with the removal effort.

It is expected that harvesting of Fanwort will continue next year, however it is the expectation that various sub-committees will be able to devote themselves to other important lake management tasks such as erosion control, stormwater management etc.

**Security Committee Report – by Eric Manseau**

The committee will consist of five members; both residents and shareholders of HHL. The chair must be a member of the Board of Directors. Committee Members: Eric Manseau – Chair person, Walter Parquet, James LeBlanc and Paul Lawn. The purpose of this Committee is to provide protection of HHL properties and environs from outside usage and enjoyment from outside influences.

- ◇ This will include any watercraft not identified with a valid HHL sticker
- ◇ Usage of HHL properties by vehicles not identified with proper HHL parking sticker
- ◇ Policing of all HHL fundraising events
- ◇ Ensuring free access to all activities to all landowners provided by Hickory Hills Landowners association
- ◇ Oversee that safe boating practices are followed by all residence of the lake

**Accomplishments vs. Goals 2012 – 2013**

- ◇ Implement boat launch procedures, hire and train two inspectors - **Complete**
- ◇ Hire and train two security personnel for Boat Launch Inspections - **Complete**
- ◇ Coordinate with Dam Committee timing and scheduling for Boat Extraction in the fall and Insertions in spring at the Boat Launch site - **Complete**
- ◇ Better communicate with residents the need for security, boat stickers, and parking stickers - **Complete**
- ◇ Increase boat and auto sticker compliance by 10% - **Complete**

**Goals for 2013 – 2014**

- ◇ Maintain strict boat launch procedures, hire and train two security personnel.
- ◇ Hire and train two security personnel for Boat Launch Inspections
- ◇ Coordinate with Dam Committee timing and scheduling for Boat Extraction in the fall and Insertions in spring at the Boat Launch site
- ◇ Continue to inform residents the need for security, boat stickers, and park *(reports con't on next pg)*

**WELCOME!!**

HHL, welcomes the following new residents who have recently moved to our lake community!!

Names Removed For Web Viewing



(con't from page 10)

ing stickers

- ◇ Increase boat and auto sticker compliance by another 10%

Increased community awareness to reduce vandalism on HHL properties

**Office & Communications Committee – by J. Toale**

The purpose of this Committee is to support the business operation of the Hickory Hills office in its efforts to support Hickory Hill Landowners Inc. and its property owners. The key function of this committee is to facilitate communication with and between residents, shareholders, committees, and the directors and officers of the Hickory Hills Landowners.

*Office statistics:* Replenished office stock and supplies as needed; Sold 6 shares of stock, 483 ID cards, 856 Boat stickers, 11 Bumper Stickers; Generated 40 First Right of Refusals issued for Hickory Hills property transfers.

Further automated the task of processing license fees, boat stickers and ID Cards which reduced manual processing time by 38% between April and May in comparison to 2012.

Launched a Pay Online Annual Fee service for residents who prefer to pay dues via Credit or Debit Card.

*Communications statistics:* Continued lake-wide email distribution for Waves, general announcements and shareholder meeting materials resulting in considerable savings. We currently have 419 electronic recipients. Sponsored one Welcome Meeting for new residents and a 6 week summer youth activities program. Installed an Office Bulletin Board displaying this year’s Office Hours, Boat Launch Inspection Schedules, Boat Parade pictures, Youth Program Sign-up & Schedule, Youth Program Help Wanted notice and various LMG events.

**Goals vs. Accomplishments 2012-2013:**

- ◇ **Continue to increase electronic media usage across HHL** – Increased electronic access lake wide by 3% or 15 properties (131 residents not on email roll). Will try to broaden electronic media reach, while continuing to communicate with residents who don’t use the internet or email.
- ◇ **Evaluate Utility of Blog** – After launching in 2012, Blog traffic was minimal from residents. This effort was

abandoned. “Push” strategies will be included in our social media strategy.

- ◇ **Evaluate use of social media (Facebook, twitter, etc)** – It was determined to utilize Facebook for resident-to-resident communications.
- ◇ **Evaluate ability to accept credit card payments** – Launched a Pay Online License Fee service for residents who prefer to pay this fee via Credit or Debit Card.

**Goals for 2013-2014**

- ◇ Continue to increase electronic media usage across HHL
- ◇ Continue Office database updates further streamlining manual processing of Car Parking Stickers and Annual Shareholder packet preparation
- ◇ Enhance and promote Hickory Hills Lake Facebook page and other social media strategies.

**Land & Resource Committee – by P Anderson**

The purpose of the Land & Resource Committee is to manage the routine maintenance of, and improvements to all common real estate owned by HHL, including Hickory Woods land and trails, private roads, boat lot, canoe rack, office building, parking lot and our common beaches. It is this committee’s responsibility to investigate all requests for permits from HHL shareholders and residents and report findings to the BOD for approval.

**Goals vs. Accomplishments 2012-2013:**

- ◇ Continue to implement Trash cost reduction Strategy - Complete
- ◇ Continue to implement office building plan – Placed on hold to allow shifting of priorities to fan-wort and dam
- ◇ Maintain HHL properties
  - ◇ Brookview Beach has been renovated including brush and tree removal, additional parking, new fence, secure gate and new beach sand
  - ◇ Hemlock Beach has been renovated including new fence and secure gate, brush removal and new beach sand delivery in the spring of 2014

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**Goals for 2013-2014**

- ◇ Renovate and secure Island rd Beach including, new fence, new gates, security cameras, beach sand and brush removal
- ◇ Update signage and repair bridges in Hickory Woods
- ◇ Construct additional canoe rack at Island rd Beach
- ◇ Maintain HHL Properties

**Shareholder Outreach Committee – by C Fortin**

The Shareholder Outreach Committee shall consist of at least three residents of HHL dedicated to increasing Shareholders to the Corporation. The committee was formed in 2012 at the request of the HHL BOD to achieve the 2011/12 goal of increasing new shareholders to the Corporation by 10%. The committee requires a grass roots word-of-mouth approach to achieve this goal.

**Goals for 2012/2013**

Increase Shareholders by 5% - Incomplete

**Goals for 2013/2014**

- ◇ Increase Shareholder Base
- ◇ Continue to work on marketing New Shareholder benefits at annual New Resident Orientation Meetings
- ◇ Recruit new Chair for this committee

End of reports

**Did you know?**



ATV operators under 18 years of age **MUST** take the Off Highway Vehicle Safety and Responsibility Course to legally operate in Massachusetts? Proof of successful completion of the course must be in the operator's possession.

For a list of courses available, visit the following link

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/grants-and-tech-assistance/enforcement/environmental-police/boat-and-recreation-vehicle-safety-bureau/ohv-safety-certificate-course.html>

Please visit the link below to view additional OHVS information.

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/eea/ohv/materials/ohv-pamphlet.pdf>

**Safe Boating Classes**

The Board of Directors encourages all residents to consider enrolling yourself and children in one of the Massachusetts Environmental Police Boating and Recreational Vehicle Safety Courses.

Boat Massachusetts addresses fundamental safety concepts and emphasizes the operator's legal and ethical responsibilities. It targets the boating novice, especially young boaters (12 through 15 yrs of age), who are required by state law to complete such a course in order to operate a motorboat without adult supervision.

Additionally, safety and legal demonstrations are offered to groups of boaters, snowmobile riders, and all-terrain-vehicle users, with programs tailored to a group's particular needs.

The closest location is holding classes in Feb at Littleton High School beginning 2/24. To sign up, call 978-540-2490 or visit their website at <http://littletonrec.com>.

**To view the complete schedule & other locations visit**  
<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dle/courselist.htm>

**Snowmobile Code of Ethics**

*Published by the International Snowmobile Industry Association.*

1. I will be a good sports enthusiast. I recognize that people judge all snowmobilers by my actions. I will use my influence with other snowmobile owners to promote fair conduct.
2. I will not litter trails or camping areas. I will not pollute streams or lakes.
3. I will not damage living trees, shrubs or other natural features. I will go out only when there is sufficient snow so that I will not damage the Land.
4. I will respect people's property and rights.
5. I will lend a helping hand when I see someone in distress.

6. I will make myself and my vehicle available to assist search and rescue parties.
7. I will not interfere with or harass hikers, skiers, and snowshoers, ice anglers or other winter sports enthusiasts. I will respect their rights to enjoy our recreation facilities.
8. I will know and obey all federal, state and local rules regulating the operation of snowmobiles in areas where I use my vehicle. I will inform public officials when using public land.
9. I will not harass wildlife. I will avoid areas posted for the protection or feeding of wildlife.
10. I will stay on marked trails or marked roads open to snowmobiles. I will not snowmobile where prohibited.
11. I will not drink and drive.