

Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners

<http://hickoryhillslake.com>

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hickoryhills@net1plus.com

Fall/Winter 2014

**** NOTICE TO RESIDENTS ****

Effective May 1, 2015 by vote of HHL Shareholders, **Annual Fees** have been increased as follows:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	through 2032
Lakefront	\$375	\$400	\$425	\$450	\$475	\$475
Non-Lakefront	\$258	\$276	\$294	\$312	\$323	\$323

Please see Finance Committee Report for details

Annual Shareholder's Meeting

Reports from September 20, 2014

The following are the reports presented at the meeting.

Letter from the President - Walter Parquet

History - Challenge - Transition

Our lake is 88 years old and it certainly has a history, has overcome past challenges, faces newer challenges and is in a state of transition.

Let's take a look at the **history**. This is from, believe it or not, Wikipedia.

Quote-"Prior to 1925, Hickory Hills was just a swampy area along Mulpus Brook. Charles P. Dickinson owned the land and prepared to turn the area into his own private lake. In the summer of 1925 he had all the trees cleared so that the area could be constructed into an earthen dike. By 1926 the dike began to fill with water, creating the Dickerson Reservoir.

Dickinson died in 1935 leaving the lake to his son Arnold Dickinson. He went on to sell the lake and much of the surrounding property to the Hickory Hills Corporation which consisted of a small group of incorporators. Al Bowron was among the incorporators and took the initiative in building the lake community by draining the lake and building roads on the property

After Al Bowron's death in 1971, his son Scott followed his father's footsteps by taking over management

*of the lake community. The community had struggled and needed much attention to bring it back to its original condition. Despite great efforts, Scott found it difficult to expedite maintenance of Hickory Hills' community and went on to put the lake up for sale in 1978. This drove a group of residents to join together and form the Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc. They went ahead to buy all of Hickory Hills lake and the community surrounding it. **From here on out the residents of Hickory Hills were to band together and hold responsibility over their own community."***

Let's take a look at the **challenges** past, present and future.

(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 damage 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)

The updated 2014- 2015 prospectus, which is enclosed in this Annual Meeting packet of information, outlines major past accomplishments performed by HHL Inc and its resident since 1978. As to current challenges they consist of maintaining the ecological integrity of the lake and its surrounds, concentrating on the flora , fauna and water quality along with proper maintenance and eventual updating of the dam in order to comply with governmental standards. These current challenges directly effect the quality of life and property values on and around Hickory Hills. The enclosed reports from the Lake Management Committee and Dam Committee and Finance Committee spell out their plans and action to bring these challenges to positive conclusions.

It is imperative that the Board of Directors, all of the resident members of all committees and the cast of current volunteers receive the **support from the residents in the forms of increased volunteer participation and sufficient financial support to allow achievement of these challenging goals.**

(Each Committee's enclosed report lists the status of last year's goals and current goals going forward)

Finally let's take a look at the ongoing transition of Hickory Hills Lake and the surrounding community.

Looking back to 1978 our community was predominately a vacation camp complex. Moving up to the present we are a majority full year resident community.

Ever spring I get a surprise at the number of camp style homes that have changed into something completely different. Just in the past few years larger and more complex home have made their appearance on the lake. Why? As the saying goes, "God only made so much lake waterfront".

Due to the ongoing major construction of high end homes on our lake, it has increased all of the property values both on and off lake and has increased demand for renovation, tear downs. The fact that we are private makes us even more desirable from a life style choice. Hickory Hills is one of only a few lakes in MA that are private and managed, financed and controlled by the residents.

In conclusion, we have a rich history that goes back 88 years. During that time the resident community has met every challenge both external and self imposed. We are now experiencing a transition of homes and

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!

activities that further improve the life style and property values of the community. It is the responsibility of all residents to fully support the continuing preservation and improvements to Hickory Hill Lake community.

How? We need your volunteer efforts. At the Annual Meeting seek out one of the Board members and ask how your talents can be incorporated in the many ongoing projects. Support the financial budget that allows the Corporation to function. At present we need to increase the fees in order to fix the dam and continue the fight against an overpopulation of weeds.

Hickory Hills landowners Inc. has a history of success. Let's keep it on a roll!

Walt Parquet-President HHL Inc.

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, and Jack Rabbit, Ex-Officio Members: Walt Parquet (President) and Caroline Fortin (Treasurer).

Ongoing Responsibilities:

- Examine and optimize short and long term investment practices

(con't on next pg)



(con't from page 2) - 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 2013-2014:

- **Provide optimal investment vehicles for C.A.R.F. and all capital funds :**



The Trustees reviewed the C.A.R.F. funds and moved an additional 15% into stocks resulting in an investment strategy of approximately 65% equity and 35% income.

- **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 needs of the Corporation for short and long term investments:** The Trustees reviewed current investments for the Dam fund and decided to increase equity investments by 10%, resulting in a investment strategy of approximately 60% equity and 40% income.

Ongoing Goals for 2014-2015:

- Provide optimal investment vehicles for C.A.R.F. funds
- Review needs of the Corporation for short and long term investments
- Monitor investment strategy for Dam fund investment account

Assets under management

C.A.R.F. Fund as of 9/17/13	\$114,062.00
Donations from Residents 2013-2014	\$ 555.00
Divs earned on Investments 2013-2014	\$1658.00
Increases in Market Value 2013-2014	\$6349.00
C.A.R.F. Fund as of 9/16/14	\$122,624.00

*Market Value fluctuates daily; the numbers above represents the value as of 9/16/14.
For more information on the C.A.R.F. Trustees see HHL By-laws Article IV

(reports con't on next pg)

CLASSIFIEDS

PAYLOAD PLUS TRUCK UTILITY TOOLBOX

All aluminum construction. No rust or corrosion. Lockable and have 2 keys. 46-inches long by 16-inches depth (not counting lid) by 20-inches wide. No dents. Lid pistons work fine. Almost new condition. This came out of my stepside Ford Ranger pickup, but will fit other smaller pickups. E-mail replies only. Cash only. Will meet at mutually convenient location if you're interested. Compare with a new box price.

If interested, please email xxx@aol.com



Used AMF Puffer Sailboat and Trailer

Comes with jib, main, removable mahogany center-board and rudder. Needs one minor repair to deck surface. \$300/BO. Please a message 978-582-xxxx.

VeryFine Apple Food-grade Plastic Barrels

Four clean, environmentally-safe, Very Fine apple juice food-grade plastic barrels purchased for building/supporting a float, or converting to rain barrels. Each one is 37 1/2" H x 20 1/2" round, ~ 55 GA drums. \$45/BO. If interested, leave a message 978-582-xxxx.

Husky Generator - \$450

5K (6K peak). Purchased prior to the second ice storm a few years ago and only used during power outages. It has the Subaru engine, starts up and works fine. If interested, please Contact Rick at 603 459-xxxx.





HICKORY WOODS UPDATE



There are a few changes that are now complete in Hickory Woods. Part of the Main trail has been re-routed due to erosion. The old section of the Main trail is re-labeled **Barred Owl Trail** and is for **non-motorized use only**.

The website maps have been updated with these changes.

The maps also show trails that go off the Hickory Woods trail system into Lunenburg Town Forest. There is a plethora of trails and beautiful scenery to be enjoyed by all. Lunenburg has also been awarded a State Land Grant to move forward with the Lane property acquisition. So we are all looking forward to even more beautiful scenery in the near future!

Please see <http://www.savethelaneland.org> for updated events on the Lane property or http://hickoryhillslake.com/trails/lane_hw_trails.jpg for a map of the area.

Overall the trails are healthy, clear of debris, and I have the awesome opportunity of meeting new neighbors out there all the time.

Written by Doug Waters

(con't from page 3)

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 operations, 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.

Goals vs. Accomplishments 2013-2014

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

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

Goal #3 Test operation sluice gate – **Visual inspection of outer gate conducted and revealed major structural integrity issues.**

Goal #4 Improve vegetation and walkway on earthen dyke & dam – **Ongoing. Filled depressions & gouging along Townsend Harbor Rd from plowing. Loamed & seeded bare areas along earthen embankment. Installed graded base and stepping stone near Woodland Dr for pedestrian traffic.**

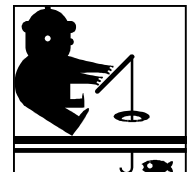
Goal #5 Commission 2014 State inspection – **Completed – Will be done in conjunction with Filter Swale Project.**

Goal #6 Update EAP – **Ongoing – Completed for 2013**

In addition the committee held regular meetings and performed regular maintenance on dam and dyke.

(reports con't on pg 6)

Watch The Width When Drilling Holes In The Ice!



Ice fishing time is fast approaching and we want to remind everyone to keep safety in mind whenever drilling holes in the lake.

Last winter a child walking with his grandpa jumped **into a 10" auger hole** and just by luck, his arms both caught or we could have lost him; so we'd like to take this opportunity to remind all ice fishing men & women our Winter Rule of **not drilling holes larger than 8"**. See our rules on Page 9.

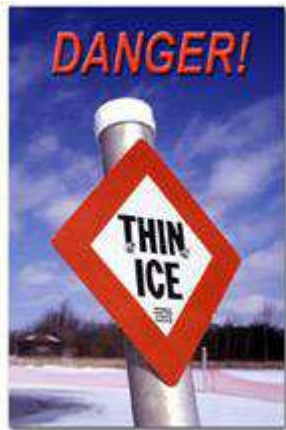
ANY hole in the ice can get dangerously bigger with a lot of rain and the mild changing temperatures that can occur.

Sometimes they don't have a chance to refreeze, and they can also get covered by a layer of snow camouflaging it's large size to people and children walking on the ice.

So keep in mind when drilling... **the hole you drill today, could turn into a hazard for someone else tomorrow.**



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

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/hunting-fishing-wildlife-watching/ice-strength-and-safety-tips.html>

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

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/hunting-fishing-wildlife-watching/ice-strength-and-safety-tips.html>





(con't from page 4)

Goals 2014-2015

The goal of the Dam committee is to keep the Dam in good operational order and up 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 Oversee completion of the Filter Swale Installation and Embankment Improvements
- Goal #3 Improve Sluice Gate Functionality
- Goal #4 Continue to improve vegetation and walkway on earthen dyke and dam
- Goal #5 Analyze results of 2014 Dam Inspection and develop action plan as necessary

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
 - ◇ Develop a 7-year financial plan for the dam that supports the ongoing HHL dam maintenance plan and satisfies safety requirements identified during state inspections.
 - ◇ Complete the current Swale project by early FY 2015. Use funds from the Dam Fund account to pay for this project. Defer remaining major renovation work for 7 years (2022).

2014/2015 BOD Goals

1. Continue aggressive actions toward control & responsible management of native and non native vegetation
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 responsible management and control of lake vegetation
5. Contribute 25% of License Fees into the Dam Fund
6. Increase Shareholder base

- ◇ Continue to contribute to the Dam Fund from Annual Fees and individual donations. Accrue funds with the objective of reducing the amount to be borrowed when repairs are needed. Pay for the remaining cost with private, commercial, and/or Government loans in 2022.
- ◇ Look for alternative opportunities for reducing operating and borrowing costs.
- ◇ Use the financial planning spreadsheet developed during 2011/12 to evaluate candidate scenarios.

Each year since its inception we have contributed more than the budgeted amount to the Dam Fund and therefore remain ahead of our plan. In addition, as part of the FY13 budget closeout, the BOD voted to increase the Capital Assets Reserve Fund (CARF) savings as well. As of the end of July 2014 we have accumulated over \$278K in the Dam Fund (less the projected cost of the Swale project) and \$115K in the CARF; we anticipate that we will again exceed our goal at the end of this FY.

Goal #2: Review Potential Need to Increase Annual Fees At the 2013 Shareholders meeting, the Financial Planning Committee pledged to present a recommended financial strategy to the Board of Directors for FY2014, including whether or not to increase contributions to the Dam Fund by raising Annual Fees. No fee was recommended at that time because of the uncertainty of the project scope and the state of the economy at the time. The FPC has continued its analysis throughout 2014 and now recommends that HHL Shareholders approve an increase in dues starting with the next billing cycle as discussed below.

(con't on pg 10)



Ice Golf & More!

Hickory Hills Lake Management Group presents the 1st HHL Ice Golf Event! Something for everyone in the family!

- ◇ 9 hole custom course
 - ◇ Separate custom mini-golf
 - ◇ Crock-pot Cooking Contest! Bring your favorite crock-pot dish for sampling. Everyone gets a vote. Cash prize and bragging rights for best recipe!
 - ◇ Skating (bring your own skates)
- ◇ Campfires, marshmallow roasting.
 - ◇ Lunch available for purchase (hamburgers, hot dogs).

When: February 8th, 2015 10AM - 3PM*

Where: Island Road Beach and surrounding lakeside area

Rates/Admission: 9 hole course - \$15/pp; Mini-golf - \$10/adult, \$5/child, \$20/family; Ice skating - free!

9 hole course details:

- ◇ Best ball format.
- ◇ Some clubs will be available, but bring your own if you have them.
- ◇ Provide your own balls. Consider painting them a color that you can easily find in snow.
- ◇ Players will fashion a tee with snow for driving.
- ◇ Fairways are natural with a cleared path between tees and greens.
- ◇ Each "tee" and "green" will be cleared.
- ◇ Pull along your clubs and BYO beverages on your own sled.
- ◇ Bring a foursome or come alone. We'll find a threesome or single you can join.

Come join the fun! Play or just enjoy some food and fun with your neighbors!

All proceeds to benefit Hickory Hills Lake. For more information, contact Tim Murphy at tmurphyesq@aol.com

*Last 9 hole tees off @ 2PM



Fall/Winter 2014

Advertise your Business & Sponsor an Ice Golf Hole!



Please consider sponsoring an Ice golf hole by 1/18th. For \$25.00 your business will be displayed on the course, on the sponsor board, and on the score card. An economic way to advertise to your neighbors. email xxx@aol.com for details.



Crock Pot Recipe Contest!

Got a great crock pot recipe? The ladle has been thrown down. Who has the best at Hickory Hills? The voters will decide at the ice golf event. email xxx@comcast.net or xxx@comcast.net for details.

DASH Update!

As ice is forming, the DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester) team looks back fondly on the many hours spent sucking Fanwort from our lake. We have witnessed an amazing level of participation from numerous volunteers in our fight against this invasive weed. Thank you!

Residents have fearfully commented on the multiple locations around the lake with homemade "noodle markers" this summer. When fanwort is spotted, these markers are placed to warn swimmers and boaters to stay away, as well as to alert the DASH team of the exact reported location. The weed is generally removed within a week of initial reporting. These markers remain, so that the Survey team can re-check the area 1-2 weeks after initial removal.



Let's look at a real life example of how this worked in one area of the lake:

1. Wednesday – A surveyor spotted a Fanwort plant, dropped a marker and notified their survey captain. The captain then notified the DASH coordinator.
2. Thursday & Friday – Four more surveyors arrived, and dropped markers at 3 more locations.
3. Sunday – DASH team sucked up all 4 locations. They also found one additional unmarked spot and sucked up that plant too!
4. Two weeks later – DASH team returned and underwater surveyed the previous 5 locations. One area required additional treatment.
5. DASH coordinator reports back to the survey team that the 5 locations were addressed and for the survey team to re-survey the area for additional reporting (either, the area is clear and all markers are removed, or additional sightings get marked and reported back to the DASH team).

Removal of fanwort requires many moving parts. The diver sucking up a plant with that fancy boat is just as important as the surveyor spending Saturday morning in a kayak searching for new fanwort. The DASH is currently operating at a 98% success rate and very quick response times. This summer, 122 fanwort locations were identified and plants removed.

Although we have our work cut out for us next year, we can all agree that finding the plants, sucking up the plants, and double checking our work is the most effective, natural, and respectful treatment for this lake. Our goal is to enjoy the lake while leaving no harm and allowing nature to nurture.



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. No holes greater than 8".
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.

Walking or other activity on the ice is at your own risk.





(con't from page 6) Although HHL has not received a specific deadline from the Office of Dam Safety (ODS) to complete the project, Hickory Hills has a long history working with ODS to maintain a safe and responsible plan that addresses concerns that have been brought to our attention via our bi-annual safety inspection. To meet the inevitable safety requirement of a capacity of ½ PMF mandated by the state, the FPC and BOD have established what we believe is a fiscally responsible goal of 7 years to start the project. A plan will be submitted to the dam inspector for his concurrence and will be reviewed each year as needed.

Several implementation strategies were considered using the dam planning model. **These model solutions apply only to the dam and do not include any increase due to inflation in general operating costs.**

1. No change to the dues for the next 7 years or unless/ until an earlier start date is required. *This scenario results in a significantly higher increase in dues after 7 years.*
2. Increase the dues in 5 incremental annual steps, starting in April 2015 and ramping over 7 years until it reaches the cost of a 10-year loan repayment. Continue with a 10-year loan starting in 2022 (total 17 years). *Provides additional early accumulation of funds over a manageable timetable and cost. Reduces the loan amount and payment as the value of the Dam Fund increases.*
3. A flat increase, starting in April 2015 and continuing at the same amount each year for 7 years plus the 10-year loan repayment. *Requires a relatively large "first step", but remains constant thereafter through the life of the loan.*
4. Reapply for the low-interest Government loan at 2% for dams and seawalls approved by the legislature. *This is a very low probability because HHL is a private lake, which is the lowest priority for state funding. It is worth applying to establish our intent at very low incremental cost to update last year's proposal.*

The Financial Planning Committee recommends strategy 2, incremental dues increase.

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 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. 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. HHL submitted a response to the RFR in 2013, but our priority is so low that we were not considered for funding in 2014. We plan to resubmit the application for 2015.

As part of our charter, the FPC has also been working closely with one of the local lending institutions to explore possible unique strategies for obtaining a commercial loan. Three issues immediately come to mind: 1) the overall project cost is still very uncertain, 2) the commercial interest rates 7 years in the future are unknown, and 3) the value of our primary collateral (the lake) is difficult to assess and may be insufficient to qualify for a large loan. The FPC will continue to explore these areas during 2015.

The FPC also suggests HHL consider other potential lenders including private investors and individual homeowners who live on Hickory Hills lake and want

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Board of Directors for 2014-2015

	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 10) to contribute to their community with donations or low-interest individual loans.

Lake Management Group – presented by P. 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 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.

In 2013-2014 again the primary focus of the LMG has been fighting the invasive weed Fanwort. Unfortunately, Fanwort has been spotted in many locations on the lake and requires constant monitoring and removal efforts. 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.

Hickory Hills Landowners is extremely fortunate that so many dedicated volunteers continue to put forth a tremendous effort to fight this invasive weed. Certified dive volunteers remove the plants, trained deck hands operate the DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester), surveyors monitor the lake for Fanwort and individuals coordinate those efforts.

The LMG is dedicated to continuing the fight against fanwort, but also recognizes that management of native

vegetation is an important component of any lake management plan. Innovative ways to maintain a healthy balance of native vegetation are being investigated and are incorporated within our budget proposal. Additionally, revitalizing erosion control and stormwater efforts are vital to the overall aquatic environment and we expect to focus a portion of our energy to those endeavors.

In late August/early September of this year a lake survey will be conducted to give a clear overview of the current state of the lake. As stated in the Practical Guide To Lake Management developed by the Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs *“In many respects, lakes are like people. They are born, grow older and die, with many possible conditions along the way. Through natural processes lakes will become shallower and more eutrophic (nutrient-rich) and eventually fill in with sediment until they become wet meadows.”* There are many factors that affect how quickly a lake ages including the size of the watershed in relation to the lake, lake depth, human activity, nutrient loading and erosion rates. As stated in the Practical Guide ***“Lake management involves the application of ecological principles and data to establish and maintain desirable conditions.”*** The LMG is recommending that another lake study be conducted in 2016

(reports con't on next pg)

WELCOME!!

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

REMOVED FOR WEB VIEWING



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to determine the effectiveness of lake management techniques.

Goals vs. Accomplishments 2013-2014

- ◇ Improve the Diver Assisted Suction Harvester – **Ongoing - Priority improvements completed, more improvements to be implemented next year**
- ◇ Raise Community Awareness of Lake Issues and improve community relations – **Ongoing. Coffee Hours were held throughout the summer and neighborhood meetings were held. The Lake Management web page was re-designed and a new Facebook page launched.**
- ◇ Increase Number of Volunteers – **Ongoing**
- ◇ Erosion Control – **Ongoing**

Goals 2014 - 2015

- ◇ Create five year financial plan for lake management
- ◇ Implement a 3’ drawdown and raking program to remove vegetation and sediment
- ◇ Test the efficiency of muck pellets & aeration to reduce sediment levels.
- ◇ Test the ability of the DASH to remove native vegetation. Acquire barge to assist with vegetation removal.
- ◇ Investigate problem storm water outfalls & work with Town to improve performance/maintain plunge pools.
- ◇ Implement herbicide program for Fanwort IF deemed necessary.
- ◇ Update lake management plan.
- ◇ Construct rain gardens to mitigate impacts of storm water.
- ◇ Continue to move forward with ongoing tasks; improvements to DASH, community awareness, increase number of volunteers, erosion control.

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, Scott Snape and Chris Albert. 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
- ◇ 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 2013 – 2014

- ◇ Maintain strict boat launch procedures, hire and train two security personnel - **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**
- ◇ Continue to inform residents the need for security, boat stickers, and parking stickers - **Complete**
- ◇ Increase boat and auto sticker compliance by 10% - **Complete**
- ◇ Increase community awareness to reduce vandalism on HHL properties - **Complete**

Goals for 2014 – 2015

- ◇ Increase communication and coordination with lake functions to evaluate security needs
- ◇ Evaluate current wording on beach ID cards to enforce current rules & regulations
- ◇ Maintain strict boat launch procedures, hire and train two security personnel
- ◇ Evaluate beach signage and update
- ◇ Reduce unauthorized boats from entering our lake
- ◇ 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 educate residents about the need for security, boat stickers, and parking stickers
- ◇ Increase boat and auto sticker compliance by another 10%
- ◇ Increase community awareness to reduce vandalism on HHL properties

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Office & Communications Report

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. A 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, 897 Boat stickers, 21 Bumper Stickers; Generated 17 First Right of Refusals issued for Hickory Hills property transfers. Sponsored one Welcome Meeting for new residents and a 6 week summer youth activities program.

Goals vs. Accomplishments 2013 - 2014:

- ◇ **Continue to increase electronic media usage across HHL** – Increased electronic access lake wide by 3.6% or 15 properties (116 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.
- ◇ **Continue Office database updates further streamlining manual processing of Car Parking Stickers and Annual Shareholder packet preparation – Complete** The database now includes resident automobile parking sticker storage, enabling a more timely preparation; in addition, the ability to print Shareholder mailing labels for both usps mailing and emailing without manual intervention.
- ◇ **Enhance and promote Hickory Hills Lake Facebook page and other social media strategies – Complete** Both the new LMG web pages and Hickory Hills Lake Facebook account have increased in use and popularity among residents.

Goals for 2014-2015

- ◇ Continue to increase electronic media usage across HHL
- ◇ Continue Office database updates by adding HHL Stock Certificate history
- ◇ Automate the creation of HHL Stock Certificates

Land & Resource Committee – by P Anderson

The purpose of the Land & Resource Committee is to manage the routine maintenance of, and improve-

ments 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:

- ◇ Renovate and secure Island rd Beach including, new fence, new gates, security cameras, beach sand and brush removal - **Complete except for security cameras which have been suspended**
- ◇ Update signage and repair bridges in Hickory Woods - **Ongoing**
- ◇ Construct additional canoe rack at Island Rd Beach - **Suspended**
- ◇ Maintain HHL Properties - **Ongoing. Main Beach has been renovated including new fence and new beach sand at beach and volleyball court.**

Goals for 2013 - 2014:

- ◇ Install Security Cameras at Island Rd. Office/Beach
- ◇ Renovate landscaping at Office Entrance/Fred Brown Memorial
- ◇ Continue to clear and improve Island Rd. Beach Waterfront
- ◇ Update signage and repair bridges in Hickory Woods as required
- ◇ Maintain/upgrade beaches as required

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>