



Lantern Hill Valley Alliance, Inc
% Betsy Graham, Secretary
72A Long Pond Rd S, Ledyard, CT 06339
860-608-5620; TheLHVA@gmail.com

August 4, 2024

1:15 pm President David Keehn called the LHVA meeting to order.
First on the agenda was Treasurer Bob Graham to give the current financial report:
For the Fiscal Year (to date) Sept 1, 2023 to August 4 2024:

Beginning balance \$7,456.05

Income: Dues (23 pd) \$ 575.00

Donations (14) 1,525.00

Grants (2)* 2,000.00

Acct Verification 0.01

Total Income to date \$4,100.01

Expenses to date: TCORS (lawyer for 501(c)3) \$4,654.50

Property Taxes 76.91

Miscellaneous 137.17

Total Expenses to date \$4,868.58

Ending Balance \$6,687.48

* Two One-thousand dollar grants were received to support our process and application for 501(c)3 status from 1) Connecticut Federation of Lakes and 2) Grassroots Fund of New England.

Upcoming expenses: 1) lawyer; 2) filing for 501(c)3; 3) Invasive Plant survey; 4) Website.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and approved by the membership.

David asked Betsy for the recent minutes from the June 15, 2024 meeting. Betsy read the minutes from the June 15, 2024 meeting. This was a special meeting for voting members to vote on three crucial governing matters. Thirty-one members were in attendance, which met the quorum threshold. Items: 1) the recommendation to change our name from Lantern Hill Valley Association to Lantern Hill Valley Alliance; 2) the recommendation to amend and update our Certificate of Incorporation without a new name and updated mission statement; 3) the recommendation to accept the Amended and Restated By-laws. Votes for items

1 and 2 were unanimously in favor; item 3 had thirty yes votes, and one abstention - passed in favor..

A motion to accept the minutes as read was made and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

David asked Terry for an update on the Lantern Hill Valley Infrastructure upgrade projects to the Hwhitford Brook Ledyard-Stonington townline bridge, the dams on Long Pond and Bush Pond, Bush Pond dike, and culverts on Hyde Mill Pentway and Lantern Hill Rd, south of Long Pond Dam.s Terry had a recent conversation with Steve Masalin, Ledyard's Public Works Director, the person responsible for overseeing these updates. Terry reported that: 1) the bridge project is going out for bidding this fall, and it looks like it will be on track for staging the area before the end of the year, and construction will begin in summer 2025 during low water. It is important that staging start before the end of 2024 to continue to qualify for the CT State local bridge cost matching program; 2) WMC has started developing the dams and dike plans and there is a tentative public meeting to be scheduled in September.

Betsy updated the status of our 501(c)3 process: the lawyer's paralegal is working with the Secretary of State to update our name and Certificate of Incorporation. Once that is accomplished, the next steps are to update the IRS with our updated name, and then we can apply for 501(c)3.

Betsy is also working with a company to develop an LHVA website.

Betsy gave several updates on water-related issues.

- 1) Six LHVA members, Terry, Sandy, Warren, Amy, Bob, and Betsy, participated in the Volunteer Boat Launch Training webinar by the CT DEEP Boat Launch Division. This volunteer-based boating equipment inspection program is optional for boaters to participate in. Betsy explained that they could not start work at the launch due to an issue trying to obtain an insurance policy required for the state permit.
- 2) CT DEEP's water quality division recently visited Long Pond to obtain core samples from the deep area in north Long Pond. The core samples are sent to outside labs to evaluate for diatoms, which help establish the current health and aging of the water bodies and the lake sediment. Additionally, CT DEEP staff took water samples for chemistry analysis.
- 3) The Office of Aquatic Invasive Plants recently completed its second aquatic plant survey, the first conducted in 2020. The great news is that they have yet to find Hydrilla in Long Pond.

New business:

Betsy spoke about our new ExOfficio board member representing the Eastern Pequot Tribe. Larry Wilson is the appointed tribal member but could not attend today's meeting due to a funeral service. Brenda Geer, Vice Chair of the Eastern Pequot Tribal Council, attended in Mr. Wilson's place. We are glad to have this shared community involvement with the Eastern Pequot Nation and everyone who cares about the welfare of these lakes.

David asked Betsy to address the upcoming board elections. Betsy explained that with our By-Laws revisions this year, members will vote for Board members only, and members who have served as officers will be incorporated into the Board member elections. The only exception is the Eastern Pequot representative, appointed by the Tribal Council and not elected by the LHVA membership.

Betsy also mentioned that Warren Speh resigned from the LHVA Board after many years as a Board member and over thirty-five years in the LHVA. David and Betsy thanked Warren for his thirty-five years of service to the LHVA. Betsy recommended nominating LHVA member Amy McKee to replace Warren Speh. David asked if others were interested in becoming a board member and reviewed the criteria for being on the LHVA Board: current member in good standing, willing to serve on committees and attend board meetings. Betsy also explained that with the By-Laws revision, the Board will appoint the Officers from the board members after the Summer meeting. David also reminded the membership that we need member participation on the four standing committees: 1) membership, 2) water quality, 3) outreach and education, and 4) dam management.

David asked Betsy to read the slate of LHVA Board members recommended for election 2024-2025. Betsy explained the four current officers would be split and become part of the two current board cycles:

- a) Five LHVA Board members—Sandy Fedores, John Rodolico, Amy McKee (replacing Warren Speh), David Keehn, and Bob Graham—are up for election for a new two-year term.
- b) Lisa Brownell, Terry Fedors, Debby Keehn, Steve Fagin, and Betsy Graham are continuing to serve the second year of their two-year term (not up for election).

David asked if there were any nominations from the floor. With none, David asked the secretary, Betsy Graham, to cast one vote in favor of the recommended slate, which was completed and accepted.

Last on the agenda were two speakers who shared their experiences. Betsy introduced the first speaker, Riley Matto, a recent college graduate from Eastern CT State University in Environmental Science. Riley is very interested in water quality and testing and has been doing Secchi Disc monitoring with Betsy and as an intern with the Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed this summer. Steve Fagin introduced the second speaker, Ed Lamoreaux, founder of the Alewife Cove Conservancy and a driving force behind the fundraising. Both gave inspirational talks. Both talks were videotaped and will be available for the public.

The meeting ended with a Door Prize drawing! The door prize was a gift certificate generously given by LHVA members Jakub and Shannon Andros to one of several restaurants they own in Mystic. James Gagne, Riley's significant other, won the door prize. A recent college graduate interested in grant writing, he assists Riley in her tasks.

The meeting closed at 3 PM, followed by a great potluck picnic.

The Board had a brief election meeting to elect the officers for this term: President David Keehn, Vice President Steve Fagin, Treasurer Bob Graham, and Secretary Betsy Graham. They also established the Board meeting cycle of the first Sunday of September, December, March, and June. The meeting was adjourned for the picnic.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary, Betsy Graham
Lantern Hill Valley Alliance