

2013 Annual Meeting of the Indian Lake Shores Fire District

August 4, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM by President Pat J. Giarrusso. There were 28 residents present.

First order of business was the secretary's report of the 2012 meeting. The minutes were read and as there were no corrections noted, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes.

Next was the treasurer's report. The profit/loss statement was presented by Art Novsam(former treasurer), as the current treasurer, Hiro Uchida, was unable to attend the meeting. Art discussed the large number (14) of residents who have not paid their taxes, as well as the expenses and balance in the bank. After a brief discussion, the report was accepted as read.

Old Business:

- The subject of turning over the governance of ILSFD was discussed. Pros and cons were presented. The main reason for the proposal is the lack of involvement and difficulty of finding people to serve on the council. Of most concern to the majority of residents is the loss of the private nature of our community. If run by the town, the common areas would be open to all South Kingstown residents. A consensus was reached that the cons outweigh the pros and the idea was tabled.**

- Last year, two residents had offered to look into the feasibility of preventing delinquent ILSFD taxpayers from registering their cars. Kathy S. reported that she checked the rules and only cities and/ or towns are allowed to do that. As we are neither, we would not have**

access to that method of tax collection. Judy W. agreed to check in with the town.

- The idea (raised last year) of creating an Indian Lake website never got off the ground. It was agreed that the e-newsletter is sufficient for our needs.

- A council member at large, Stu W., has updated our by-laws and created an attractive new brochure. He reported that an electronic version will soon be available “in the cloud”.

- Residents are again reminded that boats and all personal property must be removed from the common areas by November 1st, anything left will be disposed of.

- Unruly children continue to be a major concern of many residents. Reports of destruction and disturbance were remarked on and president Giarrusso reminded all that the only response is to call the police. Nancy N. reminded everyone to state to the police dispatcher that you want your report to be a matter of record. Lenny W. suggested that a larger, more specific sign, stating the types of behavior that would warrant a call to the police, be posted at the beach and dock areas. Judy W. will put together a proposal for new signage before the next council meeting (sometime in October).

- It was reported that there was a larger than normal turnout of helpers for the annual beach clean-up. Sand at both beaches was spread. A ceremony honoring the life and contributions of Janet Gould was held on the same day. Her family attended.

- The subject of dogs was raised and residents are requested to clean up after their dogs, follow town rules such as the leash law, as well as

be aware that there is a 10 minute limit on barking dogs before neighbors can report to the police.

New/old business: GEESE

The geese population has been discussed at every meeting for many years. This year, thanks to Judy Warburton, we had an information session with Jessica Blackledge from the Conservation District. She discussed some possible deterrents, such as plantings that are at least 16 inches high, spraying, and coating eggs. Using multiple methods in conjunction seems to work best. She is available for help and guidance. Residents were asked to leave their names to form a committee that will explore ways to help the community with the geese problem.

New Business

- A question was raised about whether the quality of the lake water had been recently tested. It was reported that it had been tested 2 weeks ago and the results were not yet available.**
- The repairs made to the playground were discussed. A pipe crumbled, creating a sink hole. While researching the repair of the sinkhole, it was discovered that some of our playground equipment and the material covering the playground area were not up to code. In the interest of safety, repairs were made, some equipment was removed and/or moved, and then new wood chips were installed. John Mycroft was thanked for his pivotal role in accomplishing this work.**
- Other unusual expenses such as tree removal and the purchase of a memorial tree and plaque were discussed.**

- A resident filed a lawsuit against ILSFD after falling in the park area and hurting his ankle. President Giarrusso reported that the insurance investigation found no negligence or fault on the part of ILSFD and we have, at this time, heard nothing further from the resident.
- A young man renting a house at Indian Lake somehow drove into, knocked down and ran over the totem pole on the south plat. The totem pole is being repaired and repainted and will be re-installed. President Giarrusso will look into reimbursement from the driver, or his parents, as he allegedly did not have auto insurance.
- Jan Armor has created a beautiful e-newsletter and residents are encouraged to send him their email address so as to receive the newsletter. All are also encouraged to spread the word to others. A resident suggested putting a notice in with the tax bills.
- There is a water ban in effect. It works on an odd/even system by your street address.
- Judy W. brought some leaves from the new, memorial tree, to show that they appear to be diseased. Jane Bessette, who found and facilitated the purchase of the tree will be notified and asked to contact the nursery where the tree was purchased.

Budget and tax rate

- Art presented the budget proposed for the coming year. A couple of particulars were discussed, including the amount of delinquent taxes owed and how to go about collecting them. The process of a putting a property up for tax sale was described; sending a letter, engaging an attorney, advertising in the newspaper, sending a registered letter.

These costs would all be recouped from the sale. Art feels that the present council has been lax in going after delinquent taxpayers. A motion was made by Jim Eastwood that a property would go up for tax sale if the owner became in arrears on their ILSFD taxes for 2 years. Nancy Mowbray seconded the motion and it passed.

- **The proposed tax rate of \$1.13/\$1,000 was presented. Some discussion ensued, a question was raised about anticipated repair and maintenance expenses. Kathy Spangler made a motion to accept the proposed rate, the motion was seconded and passed.**

- **Election of officers**

With the exception of vice president, all officers and council members wish to remain. John Mycroft will be the new vice-president and Kevin Donohue will become a member at large. Slate of officers is: President: Pat J Giarrusso, VP: John Mycroft, Treasurer: Hiro Uchida, Secretary: Pat L Giarrusso, Tax assessor: Emmy Uchida. Council members: Jane Bessette, Jim Eastwood, Kevin Donohue, Jean Larson, Bob Perrson, Kathy Spangler, Karla Steele, and Stu Westin. Deb Eastwood made a motion to accept the slate of officers, Jean Miro seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29PM

Respectfully submitted,

Pat L. Giarrusso, secretary, Indian Lake Shores Fire District