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LAKE WILLIAMS BEACH ASSOCIATION SUMMER '98 NEWS BULLETIN

Independence Day is almost here and the kids are out of school out and about the lake getting their fill of fresh air, water and fun (please drive carefully). The annual meeting was well attended and is now history. There was a lively discussion of weather or not the L.W.B.A. should get involved with water control as it relates to our lake. It was voted by the majority to have the Water Quality report after our meeting was adjourned. Dixie Sorrenson reported on the weed concerns and the need for a base line study before anything else could be done. She and others will work on forming a lake wide group to receive voluntary contributions to conduct this study. Those interested may contact her at 860/642-7226 or 860/644-3965.

Our financial condition was discussed and it was reported that we are in good condition. We were able to reduce our insurance premium by about \$800 for the coming year. This was done by changing carriers and adding signs and life saving devices to our beaches. Please use these throwing buoys for emergencies only. It was voted to keep our annual assessment at \$50. Our new tax collector. Dave Sorrenson, will be preparing and sending out these notices a.s.a.p. They are due and payable on July 1. Your prompt attention to these bills will make his job a little easier.

We will be having our annual "mile long tag sale" again this year. It will be held on Sat. and/or Sun. Aug. 8th and 9th. As usual there will be a \$5 permit fee to help defray the cost of advertising. Permits will be available from Anne LaForge at 33 Lakeshore Dr. or call 642-6272 or myself. Anne has graciously volunteered to chair our annual picnic this year. This will be held on August 22 at first beach at 1:00 P.M. There will be food, games and fun for one and all. Please bring your lawn chairs, a donation for the raffle, and a dish to share. This year we will try resurrecting the craziest hat contest. There will be prizes to the winners in several categories including adults and children. Anne is eagerly seeking people to help her with this effort. If you can help with games or entertainment please contact her at 642-6272.

L.W.B.A. OFFICERS

	Non-a to.
President	John Serbin
Vice President	Gil Koss
Treasurer	Tom McNally
Secretary	Jane Sleath
Tax Collector	Dave Sorrenson
Board of Director	Mary Anderson
	Bob Hathaway
	Marcel Jacques
	Rob Roche
Security Officer	Phil Godeck

Wishing you a great season;

John Serbin

-1/15/1998

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FISHERMEN'S LAKE ACCESS AT ISSUE: [1S SOUTH CENTRAL SHORELINE EDITION]

Altimari, D., & Courant, S. W. (1998, Apr 15). Fishermen's lake access at issue. Hartford Courant, pp. B.5-B5. Retrieved from

Full Text

One of the most frustrating aspects of the local fishing scene is having four lakes available -- but no access.

The board of selectmen is trying to change that. The board is investigating whether a small launch could be installed at Lake Williams, giving canoes and other small boats water access.

"We made a promise to make the lake accessible to rooftop boats and it's time we try and do that," First Selectwoman Joyce Okonuk said.

The town planned to have its own boat launch near the lake's picnic area, but the alignment makes it almost impossible to back an automobile close to the launch, forcing would-be fishermen to carry their boats to the water.

"The old boat launch area is terrible. It's virtually impossible to launch a boat there," resident Harry Halcott said. "If someone is fishing by himself or is older, they have a difficult time carrying a boat."

Halcott suggested building a removable wooden ramp near the parking lot for smaller aluminum boats or canoes. Halcott said a ramp is needed because the lake bottom is rocky.

"The key is making sure that the boat doesn't scrape the rocks and get ruined," Halcott said.

Right now the only way to launch a boat onto Lake Williams is to pay an \$8 fee at the privately owned campground. For an older resident wanting to fish alone two or three times a week, that adds up, Halcott said.

The selectmen agreed to study whether a portable boat launch is a viable option. Okonuk said a resident who is an engineer has volunteered to design one.

Okonuk plans to discuss the possibility with the state Department of Environmental Protection's water compliance unit. The DEP would have to approve any boat launch area; last year, they denied the town's plan.

The 267-acre Lake Williams could be a prime fishing area for bass since the state stocked it last year. It also is popular with water- and jet skiers.

A portable boat launch would have the added advantage of discouraging people from putting power boats onto the lake because the ramp wouldn't be large enough.

Selectman Robert Leone also asked Okonuk to review whether there are any other public rights-of- way leading to the lake. Okonuk will present the selectmen with some options at the board's next meeting at the end of the month.

The selectmen are concentrating on Lake Williams because it is the largest lake in town and has the best public access.

"We need to do something to make it easier for people fishing alone to get on the lake," Okonuk said.

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WEEDS A WORRY AT LAKE WILLIAMS: [4S EASTERN EDITION]

Altimari, D., & Courant, S. W. (1998, May 29). Weeds a worry at lake williams. Hartford Courant, pp. B.1-B1. Retrieved from

Full Text

Dave Altimari covers the towns of Lebanon and Columbia and writes about the outdoors and environmental issues for The Courant. Items to be included in this column can be mailed to him c/o The Hartford Courant, 200 Adams St., Manchester, 06040; or faxed to him at (860) 643-8548.

Something is lurking under the surface in Lake Williams that has residents worried about the safety of boaters and swimmers.

It's not Lebanon's version of Nessie, the Loch Ness monster -- it's only weeds. Milfoil, to be exact. But while weeds aren't a legend in the making, the fast-growing plants could make life miserable for swimmers and boaters.

"Swimmers could get caught in the plants and boat propellers could get tangled as well," said Chuck Lee of the state Department of Environmental Protection's bureau of water management.

"We don't know how long it has been growing in the lake. It was only identified last fall and since it's a private lake there isn't much data to fall back on," Lee said.

Residents went to the town and asked for \$2,500 for a water quality study, but the money was removed by the board of finance during budget deliberations.

Residents of the Lake Williams homeowners association will meet on Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Lake Williams campground to discuss what to do next. Town and state officials have been invited to the meeting.

The cost of a study will be about \$5,000 and members of a water quality committee want to see if residents would be willing to pay for it.

Milfoil is a weed known for its rapid growth, fueled by nutrients found in lakes. Its feather-like leaves with brownish-green stems forms dense beds and grow quickly when it is fragmented, such as when a propeller cuts through it.

The milfoil in Lake Williams is a new strain and state officials don't have much information about the weeds, according to Lee.

"Someone needs to go through the lake and develop a map of where the milfoil is located now," Lee said.

Milfoil has become a common problem in many lakes across the state. No one knows why it grows in some lakes and not others. Lee said the weeds prefer water with high alkalinity, but it does grow in lakes without that characteristic.

"This is not just a problem for lake residents, there will be an impact on the town as well," committee member Dixie Sorenson said.

Sorenson said property values could go down, impacting the town's tax base; fishing could be banned from some areas and parts of the lake could be closed.

Lee said there isn't any sure-fire solution to eliminate the pesky weeds, which can grow in 3 feet to 15 feet of water.

"They could decide to do a weed harvesting or try a special pesticide to attack the weed," Lee said.

Any solution would cost more money, but for now the lake committee is just concerned with the initial study.

The committee already foresees having to possibly close some areas of Lake Williams this summer because of the spreading milfoil. The committee has done some water testing on its own, but without more funding the project can't continue.

The committee also plans to post signs in areas they know milfoil is already growing and will have reminders on shore that boaters should clean their trailers, motors and boat bottoms to prevent importing or exporting the milfoil.

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