

Lake Todd Village District
Annual Meeting, October 9, 2004

Lake Todd Village District
In the Towns of Bradford and Newbury, NH
Minutes of the Village District meeting
Saturday, October 9, 2004
Bradford Elementary School, Bradford, NH

Acting Moderator Alex Azodi substituted for Moderator Carol Tonkin, who was unable to attend. The moderator called the meeting to order at 9:15a.m. The officers introduced themselves. The purpose of the meeting was explained and copies of the warrant articles were passed out. It was explained that you must be a registered voter to vote. The moderator explained that warrant articles 2 through 10 would be voted by a show of voting cards issued by the Supervisors of the Checklists from Bradford and Newbury. The first article would be voted by ballots as required by RSA 669:55.

The moderator also explained that only registered voters could participate in the discussions unless registered voters approve a motion to permit non-voters to speak. Joyce Sinagra motioned that Lake Todd Village landowners be permitted to speak during the meeting. Elaine Warren seconded the motion. Majority vote in favor. MOTION APPROVED.

Article 1. To see if the Village District will vote to elect by unofficial ballot one commissioner for three years, one commissioner for two years, and one commissioner for one year, and a moderator, a clerk, and a treasurer, each for one term.

The Moderator read article 1. John Warren explained and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions. Ballots were passed out to registered voters. The voting process was explained. Nominations began.

Commissioner 3 year term: Bill Gall nominated William Weiler. Jane Gold nominated John Warren. There were no other nominations.

Commissioner 2 year term: Peter Carl nominated Ruth-Ann Harris. Elinor Robie nominated John Warren. There were no other nominations.

Commissioner 1 year term: Daphnie Lessard nominated Gerard Gold. There were no other nominations.

Clerk 1 year term: Daphnie Lessard nominated Susan Carl. There were no other nominations.

Treasure 1 year term: Peter Carl nominated Elaine Warren. There were no other nominations.

Moderator 1 year term: Joyce Sinagra nominated Carol Tonkin. There were no other nominations.

The moderator collected and counted the ballots. The results are as follows.

Commissioner 3 year term: 17 votes John Warren, 6 votes William Weiler. John Warren ELECTED.

Commissioner 2 year term: 17 votes Ruth-Ann Harris, 5 votes John Warren. Ruth-Ann Harris ELECTED.

Commissioner 1 year term: 22 votes Gerard Gold. Gerard Gold ELECTED.

Clerk 1 year term: 22 votes Susan Carl. Susan Carl ELECTED.

Treasurer 1 year term: 22 votes Elaine Warren. Elaine Warren ELECTED.

Moderator 1 year term: 20 votes Carol Tonkin. Carol Tonkin ELECTED.

Article 2. To see if the Village District will accept the provisions of RSA 31:95-b providing that any village district at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the commissioner to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the village district meeting, unanticipated money from a state, federal, or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year.

Article 2 was read by the moderator. Gerry Gold explained the article and asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked. Article 2 passed by majority vote. ARTICLE 2 APPROVED.

Article 3. To see if the Village District will authorize the commissioners to accept gifts of personal or other property, other than money, which may be offered to the village district for any public purpose, and such authorization in accordance with RSA 31:95-e shall remain in effect until rescinded by vote of a village district meeting.

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Article 3 was read by the moderator. John Warren explained the article and asked for any questions. There were no questions. Article 3 passed by majority vote. ARTICLE 3 APPROVED.

Article 4. To see if the Village District will accept, as grantee by Quitclaim deeds, ownership of the Lake Todd dam from its present owners, as grantors, including responsibility for operation, maintenance, and repair.

Article 4 was read by the moderator. Gerry Gold explained the article. Mary O'Brien questioned what would happen if you did not sign the Quitclaim deed. Gerry Gold responded, that you would continue to be a part owner of the Lake Todd dam and would continue to have uninsured liability because the liability insurance coverage offered by the NH Municipal Association would apply only to the Village District and officers of the District. By maintaining your ownership you would continue to be liable for legal issues involving the dam. Mary O'Brien further questioned if someone does not sign the Quitclaim deed will that person still be taxed. Gerry Gold explained all property owners in the Village District will be taxed, whether or not they sign the Quitclaim deed. There were no other questions. Article 4 passes by majority vote. ARTICLE 4 APPROVED.

Article 5. To see if the Village District will raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,420 for the purpose of:

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| 1) Liability insurance | \$ 960.00 |
| 2) Defray operations, maintenance, and repair expenses of the dam | \$5,450.00 |
| 3) Defray administrative expenses | \$1,010.00 |

These funds are to be provided by the Lake Todd Association and no amount will be raised by taxation.

Article 5 was read by the moderator. John Warren explained the article and asked for any questions. John Robie asked how repair expenses were figured for the dam. John Warren explained all expenses were based on issues related to state inspection of the dam, specifically the rough estimate provided by the dam committee of the Lake Association. Bill Gall asked when the state last inspected the dam and what were the state's comments on the condition of the dam. Gerry Gold answered, Spring 2003 was the last inspection and a list of deficiencies was sent from the State Dam Bureau. A contractor has been asked to examine the dam and to provide a formal contract for needed repairs but there have been delays in the process. Alex Azodi asked if the amount of money reserved for repairs of the dam is just for this year. Gerry Gold stated that this estimate for the repairs for this year was provided by the Lake Association. Joyce Sinagra asked where more money for dam repairs would come from if needed. Gerry Gold replied the Lake Todd Association has given the board of directors of the Association the authority to transfer funds as needed to repair the dam. Bill Gall stated he would like a provision added to provide more money as needed to repair the dam to be sure that the money be available. Gerry Gold explained the money would be available via Article 2 to the extent approved by the Association but that no other funds would be available as there will be no funds raised by taxation in the first year of the Village District. John Robie wanted confirmation that the Lake Todd Association would give the money needed to repair the dam. John Robie also wants confirmation that we would not have to go through a formal meeting to have to obtain the money needed. Gerry Gold confirmed we would not have to go through a formal meeting as the Commissioners are authorized to make expenditures. There were no other questions. Article 5 was passed by majority vote. ARTICLE 5 APPROVED.

Article 6. To see if the Village District will vote to establish a Non-Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1-c for the purpose of the operation, maintenance, inspection and repair of the Lake Todd Dam and to appoint the commissioners as agents to spend from the fund. This fund is to be known as the Lake Todd Dam Non-Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 6 was read by the moderator. Gerry Gold explained the article and asked if there were any questions. Tom Dugdale asked how does the money get into the fund. Gerry Gold explained that while this article establishes the fund in name it will remain empty of funds for this fiscal year. During the current year, the Commissioners will consult with the Trustees of Trust Funds in Newbury and Bradford regarding procedures. Voters at the June 2005 annual meeting will have to approve a warrant article appropriating unexpended funds and a warrant for any new funds to be raised by taxation into the Reserve Fund. Commissioners will recommend an amount; voters will get to vote on the recommendation of how much money to put in the fund. Bill Gall questioned if we would have to meet as a Village District and vote every time money was to be spent from the fund. Gerry Gold explained, once the money was appropriated to the non-capital reserve fund, the Commissioners, in consultation with the Trustees of the Trust Funds, would be able to make decisions on withdrawing money out of the fund. He also went on to explain that at each annual meeting there would be an annual report would explain where money was spent. There were no other questions. Article 6 was passed by majority vote. ARTICLE 6 APPROVED.

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Article 7. To see if the Village District will accept the provision of RSA 33:7 providing that any village district at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the commissioners to issue tax anticipation notes.

Article 7 was read by the moderator. John Warren explained the article and asked if there were any questions. Mary O'Brien asked how much per year will each person be taxed. Gerry Gold responded there are 74 taxable properties in the Lake Todd Village District. The tax rate is estimated at .25-to-.30 cents per \$1,000.00 but that is only an estimate until valuations are compiled. Mary O'Brien also asked if the commissioners are the people who make the decisions to raise the taxes. Gerry Gold stated that only District voters can approve the raising of revenues by taxation and that this would be done by a warrant article for vote at a Village District meeting. Also mentioned by Gerry Gold, the first tax bill for the Village District will be on the November 2005 town tax bill. Elaine Warren, District Treasurer, said this tax bill will reflect a full year of Lake Todd Village District tax. Following that tax bill, the Lake Todd Village District tax will be a line on each town tax bill for that tax period. There were no other questions. Article 7 was passed by majority vote. **ARTICLE 7 APPROVED.**

Article 8. To see if the Village District will vote to adopt the non-partisan official ballot system for election of the village district officers as provided for in RSA 669:13.

Article 8 was read by the moderator. Gerry Gold explained that article 8 was suggested by Bill Weiler. Bill Weiler stated that he believed the non-partisan official ballot system is more in line with town elections, more democratic, and less subject to control of nominations by a small group. Gerry Gold said he had talked with the office of the NH Secretary of State and been told that the unofficial ballot system used today is the default system established by the NH legislature as the voting system closest to the original NH town meeting style. He said he thought this will keep election procedures simple and be less burdensome for the District clerk. Joyce Sinagra asked when is voting for officers would take place. Gerry Gold answered at the annual meetings of the Lake Todd Village District. Joyce Sinagra asked who decides when the annual meetings will take place. Gerry Gold explained that was voted on at the formation meeting August 21, 2004. An article was passed to have our Lake Todd Village District meeting on the last Saturday in June every year. Peter Carl mentioned that adopting the non-partisan official ballot system will make it more difficult to get volunteers for the Village District positions. There were no other questions. The article was voted down. 3 votes in favor, 14 votes against the article. **ARTICLE 8 REJECTED.**

Article 9. To see if the Village District will vote to establish the time for ballot voting to be the hour prior to the beginning of the annual village district meeting.

Article 9 was motioned to be tabled by Bill Weiler. Elaine Warren second the motion. Majority vote in favor. **ARTICLE 9 TABLED.**

Article 10. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Article 10 was read by the moderator. John Warren thanked Gerry Gold for all his hard work. Gerry Gold thanked the Supervisors of the Checklist for their work and participation.

Upon completing article 10 the moderator motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Elaine Warren. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan M. Carl
Lake Todd Village District Clerk