

## **e-News 21 March 2010**

### **I'll be Dammed!**

The work is done. The valves are closed. The Lake is full. You can read all about it in Paul Cornez's blog at [www.paulindianlake.blogspot.com](http://www.paulindianlake.blogspot.com)

The accumulated snow, sudden warm weather and a few days of rain refilled the Lake in just over a week after the conclusion of the work; it surprised us all, including the dam groundhog and a few people hoping to get some last minute dock work done. We have already been asked to lower the Lake again next fall. While we will consider this, residents also need to be reminded that DEP warned us in 2006 that lowering the Lake every year can harm the Lake. Nearby Lake Shawnee was lowered too many years in a row, killing 'good' weeds holding the lake-bottom together. This caused a chain reaction resulting in highly turbid water, oxygen depletion, and near-total loss of fish. After the excellent health report we received last year, we need to be careful.

### **Flood Insurance**

At the May 15 Town Meeting we will be talking about an upcoming decision the Borough needs to make regarding 'signing up' for the National Flood Insurance Program and preparing a new Floodplain Management Ordinance . If we sign up it may be at a cost to property owners going forward as compliance brings red tape and new requirements. If we don't sign up it will make it nearly impossible for anyone to get flood insurance, difficult to obtain federally backed mortgages or loans, and make us ineligible for federal funding or support in many areas.

It may even be in your interest to purchase flood insurance **now** and be grandfathered. Last week showed that we are certainly not immune to localized flooding, and we had far from 'worst-case' rainfalls and durations.

There have been news programs on TV talking about inaccuracies of the new maps. No one knows your property better than you, in most cases. The new preliminary maps and other materials have been posted on the Borough web site; please do some homework and bring your questions to the meeting. It is not too late to ask for a change to the maps; your opinion is important to us; your thoughts may be of value.

### **Web Site**

You (we) deserve an apology for the web site instability last week. GoDaddy appears to disagree, although once they finally declare victory on the cure they still may do so. We take the complexities of the web for granted some times. We are also exploring "Plan B" (a backup...). Your patience is appreciated.

On the positive side, the migration of the old Planning Commission web site content went smoothly and is essentially complete. The Service Corp content has also been

added and is growing. More historical Council/Borough content (e.g. minutes back to 2007) has been added. Feedback as to what else you would like to see included as we go forward is welcomed.

**Think Spring !!**

Thank you for your time,

Bob Hanson

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