

e-News 22 April 2010

Dam/Lake Update

The Lake is still down about 2 feet. So far, things continue to look good and the Lake should hopefully be full again by 1 May. For regular updates, visit Paul Cornez's blog at: www.paulindianlake.blogspot.com .

Debris on the Lake

As the Lake begins to fill up, more and more of the debris will begin to float and become accessible. More and more boats will also be put on the Lake. Jim Brant has volunteered the old North Marina (Pine Cove) as a location for boat-owners to use to float/tow any debris they find on the westerly finger of the Lake. He will then remove it with a backhoe and burn it on site later in the year.

Property owners down near the dam can do the same at or near the public ramp and the Borough will remove it and burn it. We are searching for a suitable location along either South Peninsula or North Peninsula for convenient access as well [we would need to get a backhoe and truck to the shoreline to remove it].

If you drop off any debris at these locations, please tie it up and mark its location with a floating milk jug or something that can be found and used to aid in its removal.

Police on the Lake

At the 14 April Council meeting, and after vigorously debating the issue for the past 3 meetings, Council was faced with repairing our 1990-vintage police boat at a cost of \$4000-\$5000, or not policing the Lake this year. Of those two options, we chose not to fix the boat. This decision took the form of a vote to not police the Lake, but was as much a negative vote on fixing the existing boat and 11:00 P.M. on a Wednesday night was not the time to explore the many other options in between. Mayor Miscoe plans to veto that decision, as directing the police force is his job [and we seem to agree]. But, that still will not result in a positive decision on how to provide a working boat to do that effectively. The wisdom of putting \$5K into the existing boat is still very much an issue.

Marc Alaia at the Marina has offered to lease a runabout to the Borough for this season for a modest \$1000 as an option. Council will again wrestle with this issue at the 28 April meeting. Input and comments are welcomed.

Goose Treatment

The Indian Lake Service Corp has voted to pay for Goose Egg and Nest treatments over the next 4-6 weeks, at a cost of \$1777. This was done a few years ago, but the geese returned. We have been told that to be effective it must be done 3 years in a row. If the nest and egg approach doesn't work, it may be necessary to 'harass' them with pyrotechnics at around twice the price. Al Diehl is the Lake point-of-contact on this and if you spot a nest and eggs, by all means call Al at 754-4631, or e-mail ServiceCorp@indianlakepa.us

Flood Plain Elevation

4 feet. Seems like a small number, but that is the 'apparent' difference between what we believe the base elevation for the 100-year flood should be [2284 feet], and what FEMA is showing on the 'preliminary' Flood Insurance Rate Maps [around 2288 feet]. We have asked FEMA to revisit this, but have yet to get a response. In any event, we will have little basis to challenge the flood zones upstream and near major tributaries such as Clear Run. At least one existing home [on Bear Run Path/Rd.] and several candidate homesites on either side of Clear Run appear solidly within the flood plain. Virtually any boathouse structure on the lakefront will be as well.

On the insurance side, the impact of the new maps on rates, should flood insurance be required by a mortgagor, is still equally unclear. Portions of all lakefront properties are in the zone, including virtually all boathouses. Flood insurance, unlike homeowners insurance, is determined on a per-structure basis and it is not clear how a mortgagor would handle a property with multiple structures, some in and some outside a flood zone. I have asked my personal insurance agent (resident Bryan Bozovich, a State Farm agent) to obtain flood insurance quotes on some candidate properties to get a feel for current costs. An option, should you be concerned about future costs and implications, is to obtain insurance now, under the existing rate structure, and be grandfathered as long as you own your property.

My concern is this: Indian Lake Borough, to be responsive and responsible, must opt to participate in this National program. Opting to do so may place property owners in a position of having to buy flood insurance where they currently are not required. Additionally, the ordinances required may increase future permitting, construction, and mortgaging costs. For some residents buying insurance today and being 'grandfathered' may be the best decision. Future costs and implications are unclear at best.

Lake Stonycreek residents are in far more different shape as a much large number of their properties, structures, and homes are in the new flood zones.

I hope you find these newsletters useful.

Bob Hanson

CouncilPresident@indianlakepa.us