

e-News 2 May 2010

Dam/Lake Update

The Lake is still down about 1 foot. The Lake is 'full' once water starts to trickle over the spillway at 2280 feet. "Normal" pool is higher, up to 2281 feet, to account for more than trivial flow over the spillway and the long shallow path around the dam to the spillway. So far, things continue to look good and the Lake should be 'full' again by Memorial Day weekend. For regular updates, visit Paul Cornez's blog at: www.paulindianlake.blogspot.com .

Site Restoration, the last part of the Phase II bolstering of the dam, is ongoing and should be complete by June. CME Engineering was asked to give us a quick "estimated cost-to-complete" contracted work and an estimate for the Phase III secondary spillway and breast-heightening. It appears the total for all work will be at the low-end of our budgeted range, and a \$million (10-15%) under the high-end or worst case estimates. CME is the third engineering firm to work on the dam project, but they deserve credit for driving the project to an on-time, on budget completion in the end. Former Mayor Barry Lichty deserves a great deal of credit for his hands-on, day-to-day involvement and contract management, and his tag-teaming with Paul Cornez who picked up that task, admirably, in January.

Phase III will be engineered and quoted later this year and begun likely in 2011.

Police on the Lake, Revisited

At the 14 April Council meeting, and after vigorously debating the issue for 3 meetings, Council chose not to fix the police boat. This decision took the form of a vote to not police the Lake, but was really a negative vote on fixing the existing boat. Mayor Miscoe planned to veto that decision, as directing the police force is his job, but that was not necessary. At the 28 April meeting Council reconsidered the decision and, based in some part on your feedback, voted to go out for bid for a new/used patrol boat. Mike quickly established the specs and it will be advertised beginning next week. Bids will be opened on May 26. You can see the specs by visiting the web site and viewing the opening announcement. There is a link there.

Goose Egg/Nest Treatment

The Indian Lake Service Corp has agreed to pay for Goose Egg and Nest treatments which began 1-2 weeks ago and will continue over the next 4 weeks. So far they have found 7 nests and 30 eggs. Eggs are coated with a corn oil to prevent them from hatching, which in turn results in fewer geese to return to nest next year. If you spot a nest and are not sure it is being treated, please call Al Diehl at 754-4631, or e-mail ServiceCorp@indianlakepa.us .

Slalom Ski Course

Council voted to allow the Ski Club to place the buoyed slalom ski course on the lake again this coming year. It will be on the western side, up by the stumps where there is good width. You may contact the Ski Club at SkiClub@indianlakepa.us .

Advisory Committees

Council approved formation of 3 Advisory Committees; one on Business/Commerce Development (business@indianlakepa.us) to foster creation of something like a Chamber of Commerce for local business interests; the second is a Community Events Committee (community@indianlakepa.us) to explore building a stronger sense of community and a 4th "Holiday" weekend between July 4th and Labor Day with a Lake focus; the third is a Recreation Committee (recreation@indianlakepa.us) to explore new parks, playgrounds for our kids/grandkids, and other recreational opportunities. Each of these Advisory Committees will be run by the community members, with support from Council as needed and requested. Charters and membership will be posted to the Borough web site under a new tab Borough-->Committees. Feel free to contact them, using the e-mail addresses provided above, and let them know your ideas.

Flood Insurance and the NFIP

We have not yet obtained clarifying flood elevations, however we have received some good news. Structures are insured separately and "accessory buildings" to residences and workplaces generally do not have to be insured. Garages, sheds, etc., are accessory buildings and we should be able to add boat houses to the list of exceptions. Of course, that will be up to a lender.

We received a newer draft of our suggested Floodplain Ordinance from the state, and it is currently under review. It appears it can be locally customized and will be locally enforced, most likely by our Zoning Officer. It also appears it dovetails with the current DEP Encroachment permitting process, or can be made to, as lakefront structures are by definition in the floodplain/floodway and covered by both. The other notable change in the Floodplain Ordinance is that it clearly defines the 'line of demarcation' for the floodplain as the 100-year flood elevation [2284 feet, or 3 feet over 'normal pool', 4 feet over the spillway height for us], regardless of the zone of the Flood Insurance Rate Map. It seems this is in response to the numerous problems with the maps, nationwide. This clarification can then be used as the basis for challenging a flood map, and the ordinance will outline that process. It will still be up to your insurer and your lender, however, to agree. Fixing the maps up front would be better, and we are still trying.

Based on this new info, the path seems clearer that Indian Lake Borough should elect to participate as participation will be in the best interests of our property owners and residents over the long term. If you see it otherwise, let us know.

Thank you for your time,

Bob Hanson
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