

June 23, 2008 LCPOA Update

169 members attended our annual meeting on June 21. We continue to allow both dues paying and non-dues paying members to attend LCPOA meetings so that we can absorb input from everyone as we all work to establish a set of guidelines with broad appeal to as many members as possible.

Following the annual election, 8 of the 9 board members remain in place and we welcome the addition of Craig Manka as a new board member.

While we do not yet have a definitive answer regarding how our association will look as we move forward, some things have been made clear through our work with Atty Levine.

First, mandatory membership may not be practical. Our goal is to mold our association to appeal to those members who see the benefit in use of the common facilities, and in belonging to a member organization with a focus on long-term preservation of our lake environment. We feel it's important to maintain the common properties, reduce fire danger while beautifying our common areas, replant our dying woodland, and insure that water quality is a number one priority. All these things support the long-term value of our properties, and they enhance the enjoyment of our lake area.

Second, we have no desire to be a rules-bound policing entity, nor do we have the authority. We've done an analysis of the various rules and guidelines by which we've been operating and find that the majority of them are handled by ordinances at the state, county and town level. There will be a few guidelines necessary because of the unique nature of our environment, but let's leave the policing of other ordinances to the proper authorities.

We appreciate that over 80% of you have paid your dues. Our commitment to you is that we will do what's needed to continue the maintenance of our facilities and properties while this is being sorted out. Also, please be aware that we have curtailed any capital project expenditures from the budget, and we have taken steps to reduce the normal operating expenses with little impact on your services. As planned the second gypsy moth spraying has now taken place.

One of the member criticisms brought up this past Saturday is that we do a poor job of communicating. While we are not always prompt with our updates, please keep in mind that this is all done with volunteer effort. Also, think back to three years ago, when we had no website or e-mail alert system as we have today. We realize that not all members have computers, and may not have a way to get to the free computer services at libraries and senior centers. So, if you have a neighbor or relative with no computer access, please consider them when you pull new updates from our website, and drop off an extra copy for them. Having said that, we know we can do better and welcome any assistance from our membership.

Your Lake Camelot Board