

GLEN ECHO NEWS

Summer 2009

www.glenecholake.org

DRAWDOWN

On September 17, 2008, the Charlton Conservation Commission and the Glen Echo Dam Monitoring Committee approved the Association's request for a 4-foot drawdown and a "stepped" refill. Drawdown commenced on October 15, 2008 and was completed by November 1, 2008. Per Lycott's written recommendation, the initial 2-foot refill began on January 16, 2009. The full refill was completed by April 1, 2009.

JOIN US!! Annual 4th of July Boat Parade!

The annual Glen Echo Lake Boat Parade will be held on Saturday, July 4, 2009 at 4:00 pm. Decorate your boat and join us in the North end of the lake! Meet in front of Bernie Lizotte's house. Come join the fun!!

LAKE MAINTENANCE

As you know the lake was treated twice last year for Milfoil, Naiad (Najas), and "Slender" pond weed (Potamogeton pusillus). Lycott recently conducted a survey of the lake and found a small patch of Milfoil in the North end of the lake. While 2009 is NOT a treatment year, this area will be watched and Lycott has agreed

to come back towards the end of July to conduct another survey.

FISHING DERBY!

The 2009 fishing derby will be held on Sunday, July 12, 2008, from 6 am – noon. Lunch will be provided and prizes will be awarded! The cost is \$5. Please contact Joe Dussault at 413-593-3038 for more information.

2009 DUES

2009 dues were due April 1st. If you have already sent in your dues – a big THANK YOU! If not, please make checks payable to GEIA, and send your payment to:

GEIA
PO Box 578
Charlton City, MA 01508

Please use a dues slip when submitting your payment. Dues forms are available on the GEIA website. Lifetime members please don't forget your weed fund donation...Thank you!

REMINDER Boating Safety

Please remember to obey the speed limits on all parts of the lake and to use the boating channel through the narrows. The Glen Echo Lake courtesy rules are posted on the website. Please take a minute to download and review the rules. The Narrows buoys have been

installed. Please stay within this channel at all times while traveling through the narrows. Remember these buoys delineate the boating channel from resident's swim areas.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION – DAMS

At the May 2009 Town Meeting, the warrant contained an article relating to private and town owned dams.

Article 24 authorizes the Charlton Board of Selectmen to petition the House of Representatives and the Senate to enact legislation which would allow the town of Charlton to acquire dam(s) currently in private ownership to manage, maintain and repair as necessary. The special legislation would also allow the town to assess betterments to those who would benefit from the maintenance and repairs of the dams.

This article originated from issues concerning the privately owned dam at Prindle Lake. This dam is in need of urgent repair. The owners and abutters asked the town to assume ownership of the dam, since the dam had to be repaired or breached and the current owners of the dam did not want to pay for repairs. Breaching the dam would cause Prindle Lake to effectively disappear and

would, in turn, lower property values. However, at some point, Article 24 was expanded to also include town owned dams. Article 24 was passed at the May 2009 Annual Town Meeting.

On May 28, 2009 the Board of Selectmen voted on and approved wording for a legislative act (full text can be found at the end of this newsletter) for Article 24. The approved wording includes ALL dams within Charlton (whether privately or town owned) and gives the town an official avenue to procure funds to maintain, repair or make improvements to dams, either by borrowing or by assessing betterments to those properties "benefitting" from such action. All of this would have to be approved at town meeting.

Unfortunately, the legislative act does not make it clear how it will determine which properties "benefit" from the repair of town owned dams. Betterments would be assessed to property owners for the cost of maintenance and/or repairs. It is not clear if the use of betterments will impede the town's ability to receive grants for repairs or just how the process will work.

As written, the legislative act is broad enough that it leaves many questions unanswered. It is unfortunate that the Board of Selectmen were unable to solicit input from ALL lake associations throughout the town prior to putting this act forward, so that these questions could be answered.

values. If you have further questions and/or concerns, please call or write to the board of selectmen and/or legislators:

Representative Geraldo Alicea
Room 33
Statehouse
Boston, MA 02133
617-722-2060

Senator Steve Brewer
Room 109-B
Statehouse
Boston, MA 02133

Charlton Board of Selectmen
37 Main Street
Charlton, MA 01507
508-248-2206

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Call Craig Laliberte
774-230-2750

**NEXT
MEETING**
Tuesday, July 14
7:00 PM
Senior Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

Boat Parade
Saturday, July 4, 2009
4:00 pm
(Meet in the North End in front
of Bernie Lizotte's house)

Fishing Derby
Saturday, July 12, 2009
6:00 – Noon
Joe Dussault's house

GEIA OFFICERS

President
Jackie Nowak
248-4832

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer:
Helen Doucette
248-3222

**LOOKING FOR UP TO DATE
INFORMATION?**

Our website contains association information such as minutes, newsletters, sewer & weed updates and much more! Check us out at www.glenecholake.org.

EMAIL LIST?

Want to be added to our email distribution list for updates as we get them? Please provide us with your email address and you'll be added to our list or just drop a line to nowak151@verizon.net.

TOWN OF CHARLTON TO ACQUIRE DAMS WITHIN THE TOWN, TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO DAMS, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ASSESSMENT OF BETTERMENTS TO PAY COSTS OF THE SAME.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to enable the Town of Charlton to acquire, maintain, repair and make necessary improvements to dams located with the Town, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the in the General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

SECTION 1. The Town of Charlton is authorized, subject to the approval of its town meeting, to acquire by gift, purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise, any dam or dams located within the town, including any real property incidental or related thereto. In connection therewith the Town is further authorized, subject to appropriation, to repair, reconstruct and make improvements to town-owned dams as may be necessary in the judgment of the board of selectmen to maintain, repair or improve such dams, and to accept and expend grants or gifts for such purposes in accordance with G.L. c.44, sec 53A upon arrival of the board of selectmen without further appropriation.

SECTION 2. Upon a two-thirds vote of the voters present and voting at a meeting duly called, the Town of Charlton is authorized to borrow funds for the purposes of this act. Any such borrowing shall be repaid within 40 years of its date of issue, and shall be outside the limit of the indebtedness prescribed in Section 10 of Chapter 44 of the General Laws. Except as provided in this act, any borrowing pursuant hereto shall be subject to the requirements of Chapter 44 of the General Laws.

SECTION 3. Any dam or dams owned by the Town of Charlton shall constitute public improvements for purposes of Chapter 80 of the General Laws, and, subject to the approval of the Town, the selectmen are authorized to assess betterments to pay any and all costs of or relating to acquiring, owning, maintaining or improving any such dam or dams. Such betterments may be assessed upon properties benefitting from the acquisition, ownership, repair, maintenance, or improvement of such dams and in such amounts as the selectmen shall determine. Except as otherwise provided by this act, any betterment so assessed shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 80 of the General Laws. Any betterment so assessed pursuant to this act may be apportioned for a maximum of 40 years.

SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Town of Charlton shall have no liability for or related to the presence, release or threat or release of oil or any other hazardous material with respect to any town-owned dam or dams that occurred prior to the date any such dam was acquired by the Town.

SECTION 5: This act shall take effect upon its passage.

AN ACT TO
AUTHORIZE THE

