

# Knollcrest Tax District

P.O. BOX 8053 • NEWFAIRFIELD, CT • 06812

## Quarterly Report May - July 2014

With the Board term running from August – July, this report represents the fourth quarter of the current term spanning from May – July 2014. We hope that you find this brief update informative and should you have any questions or feedback, please email them to [board@knollcrestboard.org](mailto:board@knollcrestboard.org). You may also obtain more information by viewing the minutes of Board Meetings at <http://knollcrestboard.org/MeetingMinutes.html> and past Board quarterly reports at <http://knollcrestboard.org/News.html>.

**REMINDER:** The Knollcrest Tax District Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 9th at the Windmill at 10:00 AM. At this meeting, the election of Officers and Directors of the District will be held.

### Attendance of the Public at Knollcrest Tax District Meetings

There appears to be some confusion regarding eligibility to attend Knollcrest Tax District Meetings. While the Bylaws speak to the eligibility to vote, it does not regarding attendance. To clear up any confusion in this regard, the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission was contacted and Tom Hennick, Public Education Officer advised the Board that as a public entity, the Knollcrest Tax District cannot legally deny any member of the public from attending meetings held by the Board.

### The Board's Role on Issues Between Neighbors

As fellow residents of Knollcrest and your neighbors, the Board can understand the sensitivity and frustration that accompany any issues between neighbors.

With this understanding the Board strives to promote a sense of community where neighbors are mindful of the close proximity of many houses to each other and the openness mandated by the deed covenants and restrictions that at times may lead to misunderstandings and unfortunately conflicts regarding property bounds and associated legal rights.

Please note, that the Board will not weigh in on an individual issue between neighbors regarding property-related issues or other conflicts. The Board is not qualified and has no authority to address property-related conflicts that may need legal or town zoning advisement or public safety issues that need to be handled by the police. The Board defers to the police for all safety related matters even for those occurring on community property. In the past, the police have advised the Board to have residents call the police immediately and not take matters into their own hands.

Further, the Board has no control over correspondence that it receives and makes no judgment in matters such as these as to the validity of claims or accusations of any parties. It is important for residents to realize that all written contact received by the Board is subject to disclosure to any individual requesting it based on the requirements of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act while potentially being discussed at Board meetings open to the public. Therefore, it is important for residents to understand that there is no guarantee of confidentiality. This inability to guarantee confidentiality is a factor in the Board's courtesy reminders sent periodically to residents that reminds residents that the Board will not weigh in on any matters between residents.

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## Update on the Water System

The team that oversees the water system including Steve Plante -KTD Director-Water System, Mark Cronk - KTD President, Jeff Beers, and resources from Water Professionals have been working with Dave Disbrow, who has been helping to maintain the Knollcrest water system for many years, to evaluate the well that had been identified as having collapsed in April. Based on Disbrow's advice, an expert was consulted to evaluate options and identify the best solution given that this well is the oldest of the system ( installed around 1936). 78 years old. Based on this consultation, the decision was made to move forward with a new well.

There is a significant permitting process that must be completed in order to begin the installation of a new well. This includes state approval to seal the existing well. We are currently waiting on the State for this approval. In the interim, the paperwork needed for the new well has been submitted to the Town. This application required the location of the new well to be identified. Disbrow has identified this spot and it has been marked with a stake.

In follow-up conversations with Tim Simpkins, Director of Health - Town of New Fairfield, he has indicated that he is prepared to sign off on the new well as soon as the State approves the sealing of the old well.

The water system currently maintains a separate account balance that allows for unspent monies from prior years to be carried forward. This account balance as of the end of FY14 is more than sufficient to cover the estimated \$10,000 cost of the new well.

## Update on Board Efforts

With the current reporting period falling in the late spring/summer, much of the Board's work has been focused on the beach and marina.

- The street light at the marina was reported as not not working by a resident. The marina director contacted CL&P and the light was promptly fixed.
- The electrical outlet on the light pole at the marina was replaced with one that had a ground fault interrupter (GFI) due to its close proximity to the water.
- The milfoil at the marina and beach that had reached a level that was impeding boats at the marina around the docks and becoming dangerous at the beach was removed.
- The sluiceway that runs along side of the basketball court and into a drain pipe was cleared, eliminating running water that had been spilling out on to the basketball court and down the hill to the beach creating a gully in the sandy area.
- The painting of speed bumps and intersection stop sign lines is pending and currently out to bid with vendors.
- Additionally, the Board researched a number of resident inquiries with the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission and was able to confirm the Board's compliance regarding the concerns raised.

Please visit us at [www.knollcrestboard.org](http://www.knollcrestboard.org) for additional Tax District Board information and updates.