

# Knollcrest Tax District

P.O. BOX 8053 • NEW FAIRFIELD, CT • 06812

## Quarterly Report February - April 2014

With the Board term running from August – July, this report represents the third quarter of the current term spanning February 2014 – April 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).

**REMINDER:** The Knollcrest Tax District 2014 – 2015 Annual Budget Meeting will be held this Saturday, May 10, 2014 in the Community Room at the Senior Center, 33 Route 37, New Fairfield at 10:00 AM.

**Dear Resident,**

The Board has worked collaboratively over the last months to address some much needed maintenance issues as well as a number of emerging issues. We invite residents to attend our monthly meetings normally held the second Wednesday of each month in the Windmill meeting room at 7:00 PM (please refer to our meeting schedule on our website) to understand the work of the Board and the depth of discussion that occurs surrounding each director's area of responsibility and the officers' duties.

**Here are a few of the major accomplishments over the past few months that we would like to share:**

### **Marina Upgrade – Northern Dock Stringer**

The northern dock stringer at the marina which is owned by the community was replaced in late April. This stringer includes rental slips for five boat rental slips and spaces for four personal watercrafts. The docks that were replaced were roughly forty years old and had reached their end of life having become marginally functional and unsafe. These docks had been donated to Knollcrest when the Candlewood Yacht Club replaced their docks almost ten years back. Since our marina is extremely protected and not subject to the pounding of waves on the open lake, we were fortunate to have been able to make use of them for these additional years at no cost to the community. Our Marina Director, Elliott Sears, consulted with multiple vendors to develop a uniform set of specifications and expended a significant number of hours negotiating the best possible price based on multiple competing bids. As a result of his hard work, the slips have been delivered and installed in time for this year's boating season.

### **Plowing/Snow Removal and Road Cleanup**

This winter proved to be especially harsh with a number of significant snow fall events. Accumulations totaled over 66 inches. Despite the heavy and numerous snowfalls, our contractor was able to provide a level of service that met the expectations of residents, with the snow removal rating being consistently rated adequate or better (based on the Winter Survey Results). Our roads director Charlie Franklin maintained on-going contact with the vendor before, during and after snow events to provide direction related to discretionary services, such as sanding the side roads, and relayed any concerns that he received from residents to our vendor in a timely manner. Due to the responsive of our vendor, the number of concerns was very minimal.

For the first time in a number of years, the amount of snow plowed to the sides of the roads and intersections over the course of multiple storms warranted bringing in a backhoe to widen the roads and clear the intersections to restore the needed width and visibility. The number of snowfalls and mixed winter

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precipitation also resulted in a large amount of sand being put down on the hill and side roads which was cleaned up this past month. As per our roads director, it was a good thing that we watched the weather trends closely and waited until we did to get the sand cleaned up since we got one last winter punch of a coating of wet snow in late April. Doing it sooner would have meant doing it twice.

## **Vessel ID Project**

An effort is underway to identify the owners of the 18 vessels (kayaks, canoes, and rowboats) being stored at the marina. To date only five vessels remain unclaimed. The project's goal is to identify the owners to determine if any of the vessels may have been abandoned by former residents who have moved away or current residents who are no longer making use of them. Additionally, the marina director should be able to contact the owners as needed. Since the storage rack installed a few years back holds a limited number of vessels, there are vessels being stored on the ground and the marina director is looking for ways to limit their impact on parking, which can become increasingly hard to come by during summer weekends. In a related effort, the Candlewood Lake Authority has recommended that shoreline buffer strips of vegetation be planted in an effort to help improve lake quality by deterring runoff. The ability of Knollcrest to install a buffer will be assessed when the amount of space required for vessel storage is better known.

**REMINDER:** If you have a vessel stored at the marina and have not yet responded to our request that you let us know which belong to you, we ask that you do so no later than May 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **Survey Results**

The results of our Winter Survey 2013 – 2014 have been compiled from responses received electronically and by mail. Answers to questions assist us in understanding the broader needs of our community as well as the collective opinion on a number of topics. Thank you to everyone who responded. The results can be found on our website and will be available at the Annual Budget Meeting.

## **2014 State of the Lake Forum**

The Knollcrest Board was represented at the 2014 State of the Lake Forum, held Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Candlewood Isle Clubhouse. The audience was comprised of the leadership from a number of lakefront communities. The Candlewood Lake Authority and other speakers provided information on topics affecting the lake from the zebra shell muscle threat to the milfoil and water quality issues. A discussion followed that further debated these topics as well as the impact of the bass fishing tournaments. As part of an ongoing effort, Knollcrest is participating in a zebra shell muscle monitoring project along with other lakefront communities. We encourage you to visit the [www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org](http://www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org) website to learn more.

## **Beach Opening**

Our Beach Director, Jody DiFranco, has started preparations for the summer season. Services needed for the season are scheduled to resume for a beach opening on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. A call for community teenagers interested in being a member of the team that rakes the beach each morning was responded to by a number of teens and the team's schedule is being finalized.

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