

August 2020 Annual Meeting Memo

To: Waterford Association, Inc. Members
From: Charlie Benzyk, President
Subject: Response to August 2020 Membership Meeting Motions
Date: 11/20/20

There were several motions brought to the floor during the August 20, 2020 Membership Meeting. While this update is overdue, it has admittedly taken me some time to fully understand the procedure through which motions can be brought before our members. CT State Statute 33-1065, states that no fewer than 10-day notice must be given to members prior to any vote. Unfortunately, this means that motions on new business cannot be brought to the floor and voted on during out meetings. This 10-day notice rule is in place in order to give all members an equal chance to review issues and participate via one of the allowable forms of voting (in-person, electronic, proxy). That being said, we want to make all of the beach processes and procedures both clearer and easier to understand. Our new website will allow for more streamlined communication between the membership and the board. Although the motions from the August meeting may have technically been invalid, the board felt that because the members present did support them, they deserved serious consideration and a fair response.

I've paraphrased the four (4) motions below and included some information about how they are being addressed.

1. Motion to Add a Bulletin Board to the Beach – A motion was brought to the floor to add bulletin boards to Pleasure Beach. This motion related to old business that had been previously discussed at multiple prior membership meetings. The board has included funds in the 2021 budget to add at least one bulletin board to the beach.
2. Motion to Change Requirement of Allocation of New Member Fees – On July 13th, 2002 the current WAI board voted that starting in 2003, new member fees would “go into a capital improvement Escrow account to be used solely to fund future capital improvements as approved by the Association Members”. This board policy is still in place and the current board agrees with the foresight of our predecessors. A public discussion of this policy and its impacts can be added to the 7/10/21 Membership Meeting.
3. Motion to Accept a Specific Fence Proposal – A motion to vote on an expenditure cannot be brought to the floor and voted on during a meeting without 10-days prior notice. This motion was amended to a motion to have a vote in the future on a specific fence proposal. There are several town and state regulations, permits, and approvals that must be investigated and properly documented before this is feasible. An Exploratory Fence Committee has been formed and will be chaired by Gene Lewis.
4. Motion to Retroactively Approve the Parking Lot Project as a Capital Expense – During the Spring of 2020 a parking lot maintenance project was undertaken. Due to both unforeseen existing conditions and efficiencies involved in having equipment on-site, the scope expanded and caused the cost of the project to nearly double. Capital Budget items inherently must be approved by members ahead of time, not retroactively. It would be a dangerous precedent if this process of prior approval were not followed. Additionally, if the retroactive approval was voted down, the parking lot improvements will remain. There is no need for further discussion on this matter.