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Secretary: Missy Vincent, of Eastford

Treasurer: Beach Baywood, of Woodstock

The Nahaco Park Commission met with the Eastford and Woodstock Select Boards on August 6th, at Nahaco Park. The groups had a discussion about long-term and short-term goals for the Park, the Park's infrastructure, policies and programs, and ways in which the Park can be managed most efficiently. At the present time, Nahaco Park receives \$900 from Eastford and \$900 from Woodstock to cover secretarial expenses. It also receives some services from each town, including snow plowing and lawn mowing. However, taxpayers do not pay anything toward operational expenses like electricity, phone, propane, or trash removal. The Towns also do not pay for building maintenance or improvement. The Nahaco Commission has relied on rentals to private groups, donations, volunteer labor, and grants to fund its operations, and to maintain its buildings.

This fall we will be working to get input from the citizens of Eastford and Woodstock about how the Commission should proceed for the best management of the Park, and its 135 acres, and 10 to 20 buildings. We need to hear from you! If the Commission continues to rent to private groups, we can help defray our operating costs, and probably pay for some maintenance. However, access to the Park's beach and picnic area is limited during such rentals. Another option might be to charge a "Town Park Use fee," perhaps like a recycling center sticker. If everyone in Eastford and Woodstock who wanted to use the Park paid for a seasonal pass, maybe that would cover operational expenses. We would have to figure out how and where to sell the passes, and also how to monitor whether Park users had a pass or not.

The Day Camp at Crystal Pond has just had its 11th successful season, running weekdays from July 7th through August 8th. No one, least of all our kids and the young people who serve as counselors, wants to see the Day Camp cease to exist. This spring and summer the Nahaco Dining Hall has also been the site for a Potluck Dinner Honoring Eastford's Fire Fighters, a Seniors' Picnic, a principal's retirement party, a 3rd grade lunch as part of a special field trip, a Conservation Commission "Teach and Learn" event, and yoga classes. I suspect that the individuals who enjoyed these events would like to see such opportunities continue! Arguably, such occasions increase our sense of community, and, in many cases, validate volunteerism. But, if the Nahaco Dining Hall is used for such community events, it cannot at the same time be rented out to private parties. We, the townspeople, need to decide what we want, and if we want to put tax dollars toward the Park.

Nahaco Park would benefit from a number of infrastructure improvements, including a rebuild of the pump house, which controls the Park's water supply; a kitchen upgrade;

Dining Hall window replacement; and work on the Day Camp nurse's station. Tree-trimming, lighting improvements, and road maintenance are on-going needs. In the last two years, the Arts and Crafts Cabin and the Dining Hall roof, floor, bathrooms, and entrance ways have been upgraded—making these facilities much more user-friendly.

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