Workshop for Duke dock program set to be offered in December

BY JUSTIN LEE CAMPBELL
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — The Mountain Lakes Community Association will host a December workshop on participating in Duke Energy's dock modification program.

The workshop will teach property owners about permit applications and building options.

"Permit holders may be eligible to expand their dock up to 200 square feet based on the potential impact of Duke lowering the level of Lake Keowee in times of drought," MLCA president Todd Wilson said in a news release. "This is a concession granted to property owners as part of Duke's relicensing agreement with (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission)."

The Journal reported on Oct. 7 an announcement by Duke Energy that eligible property owners on lakes Keowee and Jocassee can apply for dock modifications until Dec. 31, 2016. The program would allow dock owners to "proactively make permanent modifications to ensure a dock's usability when lake levels may be lower, such as during an extended drought," according to a Duke Energy news release.

"During this special period, eligible lake residents may make permanent dock modifications that otherwise may not be allowed," Duke Energy lake services director Jen Huff said. "We recognize residents' concerns about lake access when lake levels are low and encourage them to consider this opportunity for a solution."

Duke Energy said "dock owners must submit an application and receive written approval before work is performed."

The dock modification program will begin Jan. 1, 2017. Permit applications in 2017 will not require a fee. Applications submitted in 2016, 2018 or beyond will require a permitting fee and Habitat Enhancement Program payment, according to the Duke Energy release.

Duke Energy's director of lake services for southern Lake Keowee Brett Garrison and Boat Dock Company owner Ken Wiggington will lead the 3:30 p.m. session. The goal of the workshop, which is a "one-time offering," is to streamline the permitting process for everyone.

"Garrison and Wiggington will take property owners through the process of applying for the permit, parameters for approval and the practical options for the build out of the project," the release said. "The Dec. 14 session is intended to be an interactive workshop where property owners can have dialogue with both a Duke representative and a dock construction specialist in advance of applying for the permit."

MLCA is "an organization intended to help homeowner associations fulfill their responsibilities and to assist with issues that may affect HOAs," Wilson told The Journal. The mission of MLCA is to "enhance and protect our lifestyle quality by sharing and communicating information of general interest on issues that impact the lakes, property values and living environments around our lakes and counties," according to mlcasc.com. "We seek to leverage our collective knowledge, resources and influence in political, legislative and purchased service areas to achieve this mission." MLCA is registered with the South Carolina Secretary of State.

The facility for the MLCA workshop will be announced once it has an estimate of attendees.

For more information or to reserve a spot, email sharonhamilton55@bellsouth.net.

justin@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6685
Follow on Twitter @jlcampbell90