

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**THREE LAKES COUNCIL**  
**DATE: March 29, 2012**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Three Lakes Council was held on March 29, 2012 at the home of Jack and Betsy Sinnott. Present were: Jack Sinnott, President; Jan Andersen, Vice president; John Lemke, Treasurer; Jean Lewis, Secretary; Joe Tansey, Lake Oscaleta Association; Ron Tetelman, Lakeside Association; David Eggers, Perch Bay Association; Dan Kleinman, Waccabuc Landowners; Tom Corry, Waccabuc Country Club; Peter Gross, Two Lake Club; Doug Housman, Lake Waccabuc Association; Paul Lewis, Lake Preservation Committee chair; and Phil Wick, member of Beaver Taskforce.

President Jack Sinnott called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM to consider the report and recommendations of the Beaver Taskforce.

**Background information** - Jack briefly reviewed that the Beaver Taskforce was created at the February 23rd meeting of the Board of Directors following a discussion of problems caused by beavers damming the channel between Lake Oscaleta and Lake Waccabuc. The Taskforce was asked to consider whether addressing the problems associated with the dam is an appropriate role for the Three Lakes Council, to report on information gathered in studying the problem, and to offer recommendations. It was also reported that beaver damming seemed to be starting in the channel between Lake Rippowam and Lake Oscaleta.

Jack thanked Peter Gross, Taskforce Chair, for writing a very complete and professional report that was distributed to the Board in advance of the meeting.

**Beaver Taskforce Report** - Peter Gross wrote and presented the Beaver Taskforce Report. He began by thanking all involved: Taskforce members Joe Tansey, David Eggers, Rick Ferrarone, and Phil Wick; and Jan Andersen and Paul Lewis who provided contacts.

The Report covered the *History and Nature of Problems, The Role and Interest of the Three Lakes Council, Other Interested Parties and their Positions, and Options Considered.*

Two options were presented, followed by a 2-hour discussion, with everyone present contributing his/her thoughts. Discussion of the options included consideration of the effect of beaver activity on the environment, health and safety, lake water levels and recreational enjoyment, as well as more philosophical questions about various approaches.

The Board decided to implement a plan that blended these two options into a phased approach. Initially, we will attempt to keep the channels open and clear of debris to allow proper water flow and boat passage. We will immediately seek volunteers to accomplish this work, and we will engage the Town to help with the clean-up of debris pulled from the channel. We will also fund the installation of a larger gate in the fence along Oscaleta Road, so that the Town can get a backhoe closer to the dam. Specific criteria will be established by the Board to determine whether the efforts are successful. So long as the criteria are met, we will continue in this manner. If the beavers do not leave, and continue to build dams and destroy the trees, the plan calls for the Board to authorize the trapping (killing) of the beavers, as the second phase.

Peter Gross agreed to circulate a draft of the criteria for Board input.

Because of the importance and seriousness of the issues, and because the decisions being made are based on an extensive amount of research and discussion with experts and other interested parties, the Board decided to distribute, within the next couple of weeks, a complete Report via the Google Group and on the Three Lakes website to better inform and educate the lakes residents about this issue and help them understand the rationale, the criteria and the plan. Peter Gross will revise the report and seek Board input before publishing it.

**Nature Conservancy Property Update** - Responding to a question, Jack Sinnott advised that Westchester Land Trust is working on final plans to take ownership of the Nature Conservancy Property at the west end of Lake Waccabuc. The Three Lakes Council signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Land Trust, agreeing that the Council will serve as stewards of the property. The Land Trust will post signs prohibiting lake access based upon language suggested by the Three Lakes Council. The Land Trust will inform the Lewisboro Police that the Three Lakes Council will serve as compliance monitors. John Lemke will arrange for monitoring and protection of the property.

Jack Sinnott thanked everyone present for their high level of participation in the discussion, and for their valuable input. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Lewis, Secretary