

**MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
THREE LAKES COUNCIL**

July 28, 2007

The Annual Meeting of the membership of the Three Lakes Council was held on July 28, 2007. The meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Three Lakes Council picnic. Due to uncertain weather conditions, it was moved to the Waccabuc Country Club Carriage House rather than the Country Club Beach, which is its usual location.

Over 100 people attended, including a quorum of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee members: Jack Sinnott, president; Jan Andersen, vice president; John Lemke, treasurer; and Jean Lewis, secretary.

WELCOME AND THANKS

President Jack Sinnott welcomed everyone and offered special thanks to the following:

- The Waccabuc Country Club for providing the use of their facility as well as many additional services
- Joe Tansey, head chef, and his cooking and carving crew which included Gene Tedaldi, Ron Tetelman, Robby Rothfeld and Paul Lewis.
- Barbara Posner, Picnic Coordinator

BUSINESS MEETING

Jack Sinnott, president of the Three Lakes Council, opened the Annual Business Meeting by updating the membership on Three Lakes Council activities over the past year:

Acknowledgments And Thanks

Jack Sinnott acknowledged and thanked the following people for their efforts on behalf of the Three Lakes Council:

- John Lemke (our new treasurer) and Jim Greaves (our former treasurer).
- Jan Andersen and Lou Feeney who have spearheaded our volunteer CSLAP (Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program) testing activities and the goose egg oiling project
- Judy Hausman and Stephanie Harding who assumed the responsibility for editing, producing and distributing the annual Three Lakes Council Newsletter Committee
- Paul Lewis, chair of the Lake Preservation Committee
- Jean Lewis, secretary
- Representatives to the Town Lakes Committee: Paul Lewis (Lake Oscaleta), Ron Tetleman (Lake Waccabuc) and Jack Cederholm (Lake Rippowam)

Three Lakes Council Activities Over The Past Year

Lake Preservation Committee; Paul Lewis, Chair; members: Jan Andersen, Lou Feeney, Lila Gordon, Keith Eddings, Betsy Sinnott, Jack Cedarholm, Ron Tetleman, Lynne and Peter Beardsley. This year's activities included:

1. Survey

In November 2006, the LPC sent out a survey to over 300 lake residents to solicit views/opinions on our lake preservation efforts. There was a response rate of over 50%. Major concerns mentioned were weeds, water clarity, algae, motorboats and geese.

Jack thanked Bill Langenstein for lending his professional expertise to this effort.

2. **Reduction in Goose Population**

In the survey, 88% of those who responded identified geese and their droppings as a nuisance or problem. The committee sought solutions and Jack thanked Jan Andersen for locating an organization called Geesepeace which offered a protocol for “geese stabilization” that is supported by both the Humane Society and PETA, and is approved by the Federal Government’s USDA. The stabilization protocol includes:

- egg oiling
- harassment to make them leave
- fencing to keep them off lawns

The program was deemed very successful. In the first year, it achieved a significant decline in geese.

3. **Motorboat courtesy**

Many who responded to the survey mentioned a need for more motorboat courtesy. Specific concerns included speed, noise, motorboat wakes, and safety issues associated with boats coming too close to swimmers and other boats. In the week preceding this meeting there was an incident in the channel whereby a motorboat nearly ran over a canoe.

To raise awareness of these problems, the Newsletter contained an article on Motorboat Etiquette.

4. **Water Monitoring and testing**

Jan Andersen and Lou Feeny organized and trained volunteers for the CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program) testing program.

Every two weeks (eight times per season) 20+ volunteers from the Three Lakes Council collected water samples from all three lakes. The water was tested for water clarity, color, temperature, oxygen levels, phosphorus, nitrogen, pH and chlorophyll *a*.

B. Newsletter

Judy Hausman and Stephanie Harding put forth a lot of hard work for over a month, editing articles and getting the newsletter published and mailed. The Newsletter was mailed in late June and positive feedback indicated that residents found it educational, informative and interesting.

C. Membership

Robby Rothfeld, chair of the Membership Committee, sent out a membership mailing in early June. A little over 100 people mailed in membership dues prior to the picnic or paid dues at the picnic. More are expected following tonight’s meeting. Robby Rothfeld will distribute static cling membership decals to all who pay their 2007 dues.

Over the last few years, membership has remained at approximately 170. Although a strong membership drive has increased membership to this level, Jack Sinnott pointed out that it is only half of those eligible for membership. He stated that his goal is to bring membership

much closer to 100% of those eligible.

Jack thanked those who made additional contributions and pointed out that they provide more than half of our funding.

D. Latest project

This year the Executive Committee determined that there was a need to develop a more disciplined approach to managing and establishing our priorities, particularly regarding spending versus benefits. This was proposed and discussed at the April Board meeting. Following that meeting, the Executive Committee drafted a proposal that was discussed at a work session with the Board in mid-June. This resulted in a working document that is in place today. The document sets specific goals for water quality, phosphorus, clarity, geese, aquatic plants, invasive wetland plants, septic pollution, sediment control, and fish.

Approval of By-Laws Revision

Vice President Jan Andersen led this portion of the meeting. She began by stating that in advance of this annual meeting, the current draft of the By-Laws were posted on the Three Lakes Council Website and members were encouraged to review them there.

Background: At the 2006 Annual Meeting the membership voted approval of the Council's updated and revised By-Laws. Subsequently, Lew Terman offered to have them reviewed by the lawyer for the IEEE (of which Lew is president) to make sure there were not any legal exposures. Revisions suggested by the lawyer were reviewed by the Executive Committee and incorporated into the latest draft of the By-Laws.

At this time, Jan asked for membership approval of the revised By-Laws, and they were approved by those present.

Alan Mason of the South Shore Association suggested further review of the membership section of the By-Laws because although cottages within the South Shore Waccabuc Association are individually owned, the land under them is owned communally by the Association. Alan offered to suggest revisions that would take into consideration this circumstance.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Lewis, Secretary

