

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

August 6, 2011

The Annual Meeting of the membership of the Three Lakes Council at was held on August 6, 2011. Due to rain, the event was held at the Waccabuc Country Club Carriage House. Approximately 130 people attended.

Welcome And Thanks

Jack Sinnott, the Three Lakes Council President, welcomed everyone and offered special thanks to the following:

- John Assumma of the Waccabuc Country Club for providing the use of their facility as well as many additional services.
- The Picnic Planning Committee: Barbara Posner, Coordinator; Kathy Rothfeld, Lindsey Reese, and Susan Wick.
- Joe Tansey, head chef, and his cooking and carving crew: Gene Tedaldi, Ron Tetelman, Robby Rothfeld and Paul Lewis.

Jack acknowledged and thanked members of the Board and Executive Committee for their on-going efforts on behalf of the Three Lakes Council. Members of the Executive Committee are: Jan Andersen, vice president; John Lemke, treasurer; and Jean Lewis, secretary.

Board members, representing each lake association, are
Lake Oscaleta Association – Joe Tansey
Lake Waccabuc Association – Regina Anderson
Lakeside Association – Paul Llanos
Perch Bay Association – David Eggers
South Shore Association – Alayne Vlachos
Two Lake Club - Jan Andersen
Waccabuc Landowners – John Scott
Waccabuc Country Club – John Grimm

Jack welcomed one new Alternate Board Member, Jane Peter, from the South Shore Association.

President's Report on Past Year's Activities

Our goal continues to be to protect and preserve our three lake watershed through education, raising awareness, monitoring activities that affect our lakes, and taking action when needed. Our initiatives are focused on:

- Safeguarding water quality.
- Conducting scientific studies.
- Encouraging good lake management practices.
- Addressing issues and coordinate community action when needed.

Interesting Statistics

Jack reported some "interesting statistics gathered by our ace statistician, Jan Andersen":

1. At present, there are 310 on our Google email communication group.
2. Our Website was viewed 3888 times in 2010.
3. Water sampling activity (in conjunction with the NYS DEC's CSLAP program) began on April 6th and continued until November 28th in 2010. There were 17 outings on each lake for 51 sampling sessions.
4. There were 24 boat sticker requests just this spring.
5. Over the past 5 Springs 428 geese eggs were oiled. This year there were 18 nesting pairs that laid 80 eggs.
6. A few volunteers planted 310 seedling trees at the West end of Waccabuc in an effort to control erosion along the Waccabuc Stream. This was in done in conjunction with the NYS DEC Trees for Tribs program.
7. This July, 475 Newsletters were mailed to all residents within our Watershed.
8. Finally, Jack called attention to the fact that the Three Lakes Council has been in business for 41 years!

Key Initiatives throughout the year Fall/Winter

- During the Fall and Winter months we planned for the upcoming year: budget planning, revenue projections, prioritizing of initiatives.
- During our end-of-year fundraising effort we received \$8,000. Jack thanked members for their generosity and support.

- Planned for effective use of our Lake Manager's expertise, and developed a contract.

Spring

- In April, geese population management took place. Five or six egg oiling trips were made by Betsy and Jack Sinnott, and Lynn and Peter Beardsley. They received a huge round of applause for their efforts!
- In May, the Membership Drive took place. Jack thanked Regina Anderson for her effective efforts as chair of the Membership Committee.
- Saplings planted for Trees for Tribes received care and maintenance.
- The Newsletter was planned, written, formatted, printed, and mailed. Jack thanked Stephanie Harding and Judy Hausman who served as editors and handled production and delivery.

Summer

- Water sampling/testing was done on Lakes Waccabuc, Oscaleta and Rippowam was done in conjunction with the NYS DEC CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment) program. On a Bi-weekly basis, lake water was collected and tested for clarity, temperature, color, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, nitrates, chlorophyll, and calcium. This was carried out by Jan Andersen, Lou Feeney, and Paul Lewis with assistance from Barbara Posner.
- Several residents participated in a "drop-a-block" project. Blocks or bricks were suspended from docks and checked regularly to monitor for zebra mussels which, fortunately, have not yet been found in our lakes.
- Lake Management Consultants sampled lake water for zooplankton (small animals) and phytoplankton (algae). The object is to determine if we can control or influence algae growth in our lakes, and to learn more about the food web.
- An aquatic vegetation survey is underway in all three lakes.
- BEEP – Continued monitoring for any reoccurrence of Brazilian Elodea was carried out by Jan Anderson and Lou Feeney. In 2010 they found a small patch on the North side of the island, which was removed. There have been NO NEW FINDINGS THIS SUMMER. Members are requested to report any unusual plant sightings to Jan Andersen.
- Planning began for the Annual Meeting and Picnic.
- Beavers built a dam in the Waccabuc-Oscaleta channel, and council executives have asked the highway department to remove the blockage and materials from the culvert area.

- Lake water gauges were installed and monitored. This past year there was a 33" swing in water levels.

Long Pond Preserve Property at the western end of Lake Waccabuc, is owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

- We have assisted TNC in stewardship activities such as erosion prevention (Trees for Tribs plantings), tree maintenance, and clean-up of the property.
- There have been inappropriate activities by non-residents who gain access to Waccabuc through the TNC property. Although we don't own the property, and have limited control over its use, we have been working with TNC and local police to find ways of halting access to the lake for unauthorized uses.
- In July, TNC hired a Security Service for weekend enforcement, and we have contributed to the cost.

Financial Report

Treasurer John Lemke prepared the following summary:

In 2010 we raised \$41,000 and spent \$23,000.

The BEEP fund has a \$30,000 fund balance.

In 2011 approximately \$20,000 has been contributed to date by 160 contributors.

The reserve amounts will fund on-going BEEP monitoring, CSLAP water testing, and hiring Lake Management Consultants to survey aquatic vegetation and carry out studies of phytoplankton and zooplankton found in our lakes.

Special Recognition

Jack ended the Annual Meeting by recognizing Lou Feeny for his extraordinary efforts on behalf of the Three Lakes Council. Lou has received a Lake Steward Award from FOLA - the NYS Federation of Lake Associations. He was nominated by Jack for this award, and Jack read his nomination letter:

As President of the three Lakes Council, I am pleased to nominate Lou Feeny for this year's Lake Steward Award.

Lou has contributed to our organization in many, many ways. In addition to being a long-time financial supporter to our Council, he has been building the Three Lakes database with some 6,000 records of water quality tests, actively participates in our geese stabilization efforts, leads our CSLAP bi-weekly water monitoring/sampling and shipping activity, has

provided professional help with our federal tax documents, and authors several articles for our annual newsletter.

During the past two years, he has really gone over and above with his scuba diving in support of our Brazilian Elodea Eradication Program (BEEP). This has not only required significant in-water time to search for this invasive plant, but also includes preparation and cleaning time, as well as a two hour round trip drive to refill his tanks each week. In 2010, beginning in April, Lou worked three to five days most every week until he came out of the water for the season at the end of September. If the Three Lakes has any chance of eradicating Brazilian Elodea, it's thanks to Lou's many contributions with this initiative.

Lou is most deserving of this recognition from NYSFOLA, and we are pleased to recommend him to you for this award.

Jack Sinnott, President
Three Lakes Council, Inc.

The Annual Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Lewis, Secretary