

MINUTES
MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THREE LAKES COUNCIL

November 21, 2013

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Three Lakes Council was held on November 21, 2013 at 7:30 PM at the home of Jean and Paul Lewis. Present were:

Jan Andersen, President;
Peter Gross, Vice President and Two Lake Club representative;
John Lemke, Treasurer;
Jean Lewis, Secretary;
Joe Tansey, Lake Oscaleta Assoc.;
Doug Housman, Lake Waccabuc Assoc.;
Beth Llanos, Lakeside Assoc.;
Alayne Vlachos, South Shore Assoc.;
Peter Byshe, Waccabuc Country Club.

In advance of the meeting, President Jan Andersen distributed to the Board the agenda plus a report listing the 2013 accomplishments of the Three Lakes Council:

2013 Accomplishments

Membership & Operations

- Annual membership drive: about 190 members to date.
- Update of 3LC official documents box - ongoing
- Successful Annual Meeting with 120 attendees – Thanks to Housmans and cooks!
- Financial stability with about \$20,000 in donations year to date.

Communications

- Website: pages viewed 13,981 times through October 2013, up 28% from YTD 2012.
- Google email communications group: 340 email addresses.
- Newsletter to 475, 100 copies to Waccabuc Country Club in June

Advocacy and Outreach

- Petruccelli memos and outreach: 4 memos by 3LC, Lakes Committee memo, postcard to community
- 3LC memo to DEC in support of Invasive Species Regulations
- Encouraged speedy replacement of a chain link fence over Oscaleta & supported new hydrant
- Ran regional meeting in Carmel for Federation of Lake Associations – several 3LC attendees

Critter Control

- Goose population stabilization: Betsy and Jack Sinnott, and Lyn and Peter Beardsley oiled eggs for the seventh spring, 21 eggs in 7 nests. Need volunteers to backfill for Betsy & Jack
- Fish: In June, Joe Tansey and his fish committee stocked 500 trout in Waccabuc and Oscaleta.
- Beaver Committee: met twice in 2013 to revisit the criteria and investigate facts
- Beaver team: kept the channels clear of debris all year!

Research & Stewardship

- Plant survey – rake toss survey by ABI in July 2013
- Search for water chestnut on Rippowam - Summer 2013– none found

- Water sampling/testing on Lakes Waccabuc, Oscaleta and Rippowam : CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment) program. clarity, temperature, color, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, nitrates, chlorophyll, pH, conductivity, and calcium measured – 11 sessions on 3 lakes, 1 more sample to be done
- 1 goop/zoop sample from 3 lakes, & 1 shoreline bloom sample
- Pesticide study – pilot, one of 4 NY lakes, 4 sample sessions at each of 4 locations on Waccabuc
- Lake water gauges monitored most days each week.
- Trees for tribs – site maintenance performed this fall
- Posted Three Lakes Council property on Oscaleta Road - Fall 2013
- Monitored oil spill on South Shore
- Long Pond Preserve Property patrolled. Fewer parties. Boat owners contacted and boats removed.
- BEEP – no Brazilian elodea seen found since 2010. BE may be considered eradicated! (yay!)
- People continue to bring lake plant samples for identification.

Jan thanked the volunteers who had made all this happen, including, for the annual meeting and picnic, the Waccabuc Country Club, the Housmans and all the cooks, for the sampling all season, Paul Lewis and Lou Feeney, and the beaver committee and crew. She also invited questions or comments on any item listed in the 2013 Accomplishment Report.

Waccabuc oil spill: Alayne Vlachos commented on the oil spill listed under "Research and Stewardship." She explained that the cottage at 31 South Shore Drive was sold to a new owner in December of 2012. It was in poor condition, and repair work was underway when, on September 7, 2013, an underground oil line was broken and oil seeped into Lake Waccabuc. The NYS DEC, the Town of Lewisboro, and the Westchester County Department of Health were immediately informed of the spill. The DEC responded quickly and installed absorbent pads on the lake in a roughly 20' by 30' area. Though the containment boom remains in place and appears to have prevented further oil seepage into the lake, the South Shore Association remains concerned about deep holes that have been dug on the property, most likely within the wetlands buffer. Alayne requested that the Three Lakes Council keep an eye on the situation.

After learning of the oil spill, Jan Andersen posted emergency response hotline contact information on the Three Lake Council Website for reference in case a similar incident should occur in the future.

Discussion and Action Items

Membership chair: Jack Sinnott, our current Membership Chair, is moving so a new person is needed to chair that committee. There was discussion about possible candidates, and at the end of the meeting, Doug Housman volunteered to step in and take on the role. Thank you Doug!

Goose egg oiling: The Sinnotts were actively involved with goose egg oiling on Lake Waccabuc, so volunteers are also needed to join the Beardslays to fill that void. Jan Andersen explained the program's process and success. Peter Bysse said he couldn't commit, but could be put on a "call list" when that activity is resumed in the Spring.

Beaver Committee: Peter Gross reported that the Beaver Committee recently met and reviewed the status of beaver activity in the channel connecting lakes Oscaleta and Waccabuc. The committee's goal is to keep all discussion, including email discussion, based on fact and practicality. The Committee reviewed our criteria for considering beaver removal and decided that there is no need to change them at this time. Though the triggers for removal have not been reached, the committee has been considering what to do if degradation of the channel should occur in the future. In the interest of using objective measurements, we discussed ways to document any changes. Keeping photographic records over time and ongoing shoreline vegetative surveys were suggested. The Council will continue urging residents to report beaver sightings and/or beaver activity. During 2013, a new dam site was discovered, and Joe Tansey's beaver debris clean-up team had to remove more tree debris from the channel than previously. Jan commented that many experts doubted the ability of humans to keep up with the beavers, but the persistence of Joe and his beaver clean-up team proved that it is possible - at least it has been so far. The Board thanked Joe and his team for their dedication to keeping the channel clear.

Waccabuc Outlet Structure: Joe Tansey, John Lemke and Peter Gross inspected the outlet structure/spillway on the south side of Lake Waccabuc. It is basically a long stone wall with some earthen components. They expressed concern about two trees on either side of the structure, one on property owned by the Brockelmans, and the other on property owned by Saidenberg and Rauch. Should the trees become uprooted during a storm, the root ball might pull up the stones, potentially causing a breach in the structure. Joe spoke with both property owners about the need to protect the dam by removing the trees. Jan thanked Joe, John and Peter for looking into this. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Public Hearing on the Petruccelli proposal: Jan Andersen reported on the November 19th Planning Board Public Hearing regarding the proposal by Rudolph Petruccelli to build a house on a lot adjacent to Three Lake Council property on Oscaleta Road. Approximately 25-30 lakes residents attended the hearing and many more submitted letters to the Planning Board in opposition to the proposal. Other than the applicant, Jan was the first speaker during the Public Hearing, speaking about concerns with the proposal on behalf of the Three Lakes Council. Jean Lewis thanked Jan for representing the environmental protection interests of the Council so well in her comments. Harold Rosenbaum, Fred Cowles and Paul Lewis also made strong points in opposition to the proposal. The Planning Board opted not to close the hearing to give both the applicant and the public a chance to respond to what was presented at the hearing. The next hearing will probably be at the December 17th meeting of the Planning Board. For reference, the Three Lakes Council's letters regarding the proposal are posted on our website: threelakescouncil.org.

2014 Annual Meeting/Picnic: The suggested date for the next Annual Meeting is July 26, 2014. Doug Housman will speak to John Assuma about reserving facilities at the Waccabuc Country Club on that date.

ABI Seminar: Jan Andersen reported that Allied Biological (ABI), our Lake Management consultant, would like to hold a Seminar at the South Salem Fire Department on January 23, 2014. ABI would bring in three speakers on the topics of lake aeration, peroxide, and hydro-raking. Jan contacted Neal Blum of the Fire Department who said this could be arranged if the Three Lakes Council serves as the local sponsor. Although the seminar would be attended by people outside our three-lake area, the Board felt that it would be a valuable educational opportunity for our community, and therefore agreed that we should be the local host. ABI will reimburse us for all expenses incurred. Jan will send out a post card notifying our community of this educational seminar and urging attendance.

Proposed 2014 Budget:

The Executive Committee determined that our priorities for 2014 will remain similar to what they were in 2013, and a preliminary budget was proposed based on those priorities:

2013 Year to date Results / 2014 Preliminary Budget						
Account balances as of	12/31/2011	12/31/2012		10/31/2013		
General Fund	80,100.81	97,318.28		103,809.55		
BEEP Fund	29,508.63	26,779.18		24,026.16		
Total	109,609.44	124,097.46		127,835.71		
	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Budget	2013 Year to date	2014 Budget	Updates
Income	34,694	32,368	30,000	20,553	30,000	
FIRM OR CONTRACTED EXPENSES:						
Insurance	4,122	4,238	4,500	4,233	4,500	
Taxes/Fees	382	385	400	386	400	
Annual Meeting Picnic	1,662	2,046	2,500	1,912	2,500	
Printing/Mailing/Newsletter	2,461	2,532	6,000	2,941	5,000	
CSLAP		1,800	1,350		1,350	
NYS FOLA Dues	150	150	150	150	150	
Lake Consultant goop/zoop	3,100	1,684	2,000		4,680	
Lake Consultant Plant (non-BEEP)	915				5,000	
Lake Consultant - other	1,865		500	295	500	
Water Testing	1,392	3,687	2,000	946	2,000	
Misc. Expenses	220	50	600		500	
Website	101	101	101	10	200	
Brazilian Elodea Monitoring	7,747	1,684	7,500	8,663	5,000	
Fish Stocking		1,875	2,000	1,950	2,000	
Software	100	100	100	100	100	
Goose & Beaver Control		718	1,000	15	1,000	
SUBTOTAL FIRM ITEMS	24,217	21,050	30,701	21,601	34,880	

SOFT ITEMS TO BE MANAGED DEPENDING ON INTEREST & Volunteers:						
BEEP Contingency			23,000		18,000	
Long Pond Security			4,000		4,000	
Aerator Consult/Maint		127	1,000		1,000	
Professional Conf/Meetings	610	216	1,500		1,500	
Educational Seminars			1,000		1,000	
Equipment	381		500		500	
Water Quality Initiatives						
Float ID tags			500		500	
Boat Stickers			1,000		1,000	
Social Event			1,000		1,000	
Trees for Tribs - supplies			500		500	
Contingency					10,000	
SUBTOTAL SOFT ITEMS	991	343	34,000	0	39,000	
TOTAL Budget	25,208	21,393	64,701	21,601	73,880	

Peter Gross suggested ways of improving the budget format to make it a more useful planning tool. Peter proposed acceptance of the 2014 budget as presented, with the suggestion that we work on refining the budget format for next year. All present voted in favor of the motion. The Executive Committee will work on improving the budgeting process and report back to the Board.

Lake Association representatives: Representatives of the Perch Bay Association and Waccabuc Landowners Council have not attended Board meetings recently, and Jan asked the Board to for candidates to represent those organizations. Doug Housman agreed to speak to Matt Lustig and Joe Tansey agreed to speak with Ellen Brockelman Bailey about their willingness to serve as directors.

Jan thanked all for attending and being willing to take an active part in the work of the Three Lakes Council. The next meeting will probably be held in February or March. The board thanked Jean and Paul Lewis for hosting the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Lewis, secretary.