

MINUTES
MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THREE LAKES COUNCIL
DATE: November 11, 2009

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Three Lakes Council was held on November 11, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the home of Jack and Betsy Sinnott.

Present were: Jack Sinnott, President; Jan Andersen, Vice president; Jean Lewis, Secretary; Joe Tansey, Lake Oscaleta Association; Beth Llanos, Lakeside Assoc.; Bill Hines, Perch Bay Assoc.; Alayne Vlachos, South Shore Assoc.; Dan Kleinman, Waccabuc Landowners Assoc.; John Grimm, Waccabuc Country Club; and Paul Lewis, chair of Lake Preservation Committee.

Jack welcomed John Grimm, who is the Waccabuc Country Club's new representative.

Eckerson Boathouse proposal

Very recently, a proposal before the Zoning Board of Appeals was brought to the attention of the Three Lakes Council. The proposed construction is located on the south shore of Lake Oscaleta. The Executive Committee thoroughly reviewed the application, focusing upon what impact the granting of the two variances sought might have upon lake health.

After careful consideration, the Executive Committee determined that there are significant concerns regarding precedent and negative impact upon the lake, and therefore voted to take a position in opposition to granting the two variances sought: an area (size) variance, and a setback variance.

The Executive Committee drafted a letter stating its concerns and, called tonight's meeting to review the letter and seek approval of the full Board.

Unfortunately, a few days ago we learned that the letter needed to be in the hands of the ZBA yesterday. Therefore, the draft letter was e-mailed to all Board members, along with a request for an email vote. Nine out of ten Board members were able to respond very quickly, and all responses favored sending the letter as drafted.

Jack thanked everyone for the quick and positive response. He reported that he asked for, and received, a letter from our lake management consultants, Allied Biological, regarding the effect of lake shore construction upon lake water quality. Jean Lewis will read the ABI and Three Lakes

Council letters into the record at the November 18th meeting of the ZBA by Jean Lewis.

Jack reported that the Lewisboro Lakes Committee, whose mission is to protect all seven lakes in Lewisboro, also wrote a letter in opposition to granting the variances sought.

Policy Guidance Sought

Jack asked for discussion of what the Council's policy should be regarding future construction projects around our lakes.

He reviewed the fact that, in recent years, we have sent letters to a several homeowners engaged in renovating or constructing homes close to one of the lakes, suggesting things that would mitigate any negative effect on the lakes.

The Board decided in favor of a two-stage review process for any construction project brought to our attention as having a possible negative impact upon lakes. These negative impacts could include such things as environmental impact, health, safety, noise levels or access. In the case of environmental impact, review would be based upon recommendations of our lake managers.

1. The Executive Committee will gather facts to determine the level of severity. If the Committee determines that there is potential for serious negative impact on the lakes, it will propose a plan of action and bring it before the Board of Directors.
2. The Board of Directors must vote to approve any proposed position paper or action plan before it can be presented to the public (Town Boards or Councils, etc.).

It was suggested that our next newsletter should explain this review process, and suggest that residents alert us to activity they know of that could put the lakes in danger. "If you see something, say something."

Financial Report

Due to a death in the family, our treasurer John Lemke was unable to attend this meeting. However, Jack Sinnott reported a brief financial summary related to him by John over the phone:

Our General (operational) Fund balance is approximately \$35,000. Of that, approximately \$3,000 has been committed for the 2006-2007 Lake Studies Report to be written by our lake consultant.

Our Special BEEP Fund, set up as a special fund for our Brazilian Elodea Eradication Project, has a balance of \$45,000. About \$35,000 has been spent to date.

Fund Raising

At the moment, we have enough to fund our on-going operational activities (taxes, insurance, etc.). However, if we make a decision to take on any additional tasks, the fund balance would diminish quickly.

This year some lake studies were deferred because of the urgency of BEEP (Brazilian Elodea Eradication Project). Paul Lewis, chair of our Lake Preservation Committee, argued in favor of resuming stream sampling (for phosphorus inflow), and contracting with Allied Biological for algae and zooplankton studies.

Therefore, in order to finance such activities, the Board agreed go forth soon with our usual year-end fundraising effort.

The Board requested that the fundraising letter mention all that has been accomplished this year thanks generous contributions made by lake residents of money, expertise and volunteer efforts. These efforts include BEEP, CSLAP water testing, goose egg oiling, Trees for Tribs, etc.

BEEP

Jan Andersen reported on follow-up she and Lou Feeney have carried out since the suction harvesting of Brazilian Elodea (*Egeria densa*), done during June and July.

In August, September and October, Jan and Lou went snorkeling and scuba diving to look for signs of re-growth of both native plants and the invasive Brazilian Elodea (BE). Some patches of BE were found that were either not removed during the suction harvesting, or escaped and established roots. Jan and Lou removed them by hand.

Vigilance must be maintained by residents of the cove and the Three Lakes Council. Permits obtained for the suction harvesting process are valid

through next year. The goal is to do hand harvesting of any remaining BE plants, with perhaps some spot suction harvesting.

If that proves to be insufficient, the options include a repeat of suction harvesting of the entire cove, use of benthic barriers where practical, or herbicide treatment.

Herbicide Treatment

Without recommending herbicide treatment, Jan asked for guidance re whether or not to begin the lengthy and expensive permit process for herbicide application.

She listed several considerations:

- The permitting process is very long and expensive.
- It would be difficult to obtain the permits since residents pump lake water for household use. In addition, there would be resistance from homeowners who rely on lake water.
- In lakes that have some history with using herbicides to control BE, the effort has not been successful.
- Jan would not recommend applying for an herbicide permit at this time.

In view of all the information provided Jan, The Board advised against starting the herbicide permit process.

Reimbursement

Paul Lewis proposed that the Council reimburse Jan Andersen for expenses incurred when she attended the two important lake management conferences: NALMS (North American Lake Management Society), and FOLA (Federation of Lake Associations). Jan serves on the FOLA Board.

Paul and Jack Sinnott emphasized the wealth of information and expertise that Jan gathers at these conferences and brings to the Three Lakes Council.

The Board voted in favor of reimbursing Jan Andersen for expenses incurred at the two conferences she attended this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Lewis, Secretary