

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

August 1, 2009

The Annual Meeting of the membership of the Three Lakes Council at was held on August 1, 2009 at 7:15 PM at the Waccabuc Country Club Beach. It was held in conjunction with the annual picnic. Approximately 80 people attended.

WELCOME AND THANKS

Jack Sinnott 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 and Lyn Beardsley.
- 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 Executive Committee for their on-going efforts on behalf of the Three Lakes Council. They are: Jan Anderson, vice president; John Lemke, treasurer; Jean Lewis, secretary.

Highlighting the Past Year's Activities in Support of our Mission

Jack reported on activities undertaken this year in support of our mission which is to:

- Focus on water quality improvement.
- Educate and inform residents in our watershed, and encourage them to adopt "lake friendly" lifestyles.
- Address issues and concerns that impact the enjoyment of our lakes.
- Conduct research, study potential issues, and coordinate community action.

He highlighted the activities that have taken place since our last meeting:

August 2008

Our lake manager, Allied Biological, conducted an aquatic vegetation mapping survey. The purpose is to quantify the density and diversity of aquatic plants in our three lakes. In the process of mapping the vegetation, the presence of Brazilian Elodea - a highly invasive plant - was discovered in the north cove of Lake Waccabuc. The information gathered in the mapping survey will serve as a working baseline from which future trends can be charted.

Winter 2008

The Executive Committee developed a plan and supporting budget for 2009. The plans were reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. We also had a year-end fund-raising appeal with a general letter sent to the community, raising approximately \$9,000.

Spring 2009

In **April**, the Geese Stabilization project was again carried out by volunteers following the Geese Peace protocol.

- This program is federally monitored and is approved by PETA and the Humane Society.
- This year over 100 eggs were oiled during April and May.
- This is the third year we have oiled eggs, and it has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of geese on our lakes.

In **May**, we hosted an Educational Seminar at which our Lake Manager presented the findings of the Aquatic Plant Survey. Approximately 60 residents attended this session.

In **June**, we conducted our Annual Membership Appeal. Jack was pleased to note that, so far in 2009, we have received strong and increasing support from our community and beyond.

In July:

- The Annual Newsletter was sent out to 400+ residents in our watershed. The purpose of the newsletter is to educate, recognize and remind people what is being done, and what each individual resident can do, to protect our lakes. Jack thanked Judy Hausman and Stephanie Harding for coordinating the production, and Jan Andersen who was such a prolific writer/contributor.
- CSLAP* Water Testing was resumed. Bi-weekly sampling is being done on each of the three lakes by a team of volunteers headed by Jan Andersen, Lou Feeney and Paul Lewis. The water is tested for clarity, temperature, color, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, nitrates, chlorophyll and calcium. The NYS DEC analyzes the water samples, and will provide us with an annual report showing trends and changes in lake water quality.

Jack thanked Jan Andersen and Lou Feeney for leading this effort.

*Citizens' Statewide Lake Assessment Program

BEEP: OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE AND MOST SIGNIFICANT INITIATIVE IN THE PAST YEAR

This was the discovery of Brazilian Elodea (egeria densa) and the development of a plan to eradicate it (BEEP - Brazilian Elodea Eradication Project).

- **August 2008:** Brazilian Elodea identified by our lake manager and confirmed by the aquatic plant expert at the DEC and several others.
- **September 2008:** The Executive Committee developed a plan of action to address this issue. Eradication was our goal, and all options were considered. Cost estimates were calculated.

The issue was communicated to residents of the affected cove, and then the three lakes community. The goal was to make people aware of the problem, to gather input, and ultimately to gain support for the proposed plan.

- **October - December 2008:**
 - Began the permit process to secure necessary approvals.
 - Made application for several grants, none of which materialized due largely to the difficult economic times.
 - Sent out RFPs (Requests For Proposal) to potential contractors who do suction harvesting.
 - Continued pursuing the permit process with the Town of Lewisboro.
- **February 2009:**

Developed a Fundraising Plan that included researching and pursuing funding possibilities including grants from political entities and organizations, and contributions from local residents. Grant money never materialized, so BEEP was entirely funded by contributions from local residents and organizations.
- **March 2009:**
 - Initiated fundraising efforts.
 - Selected and entered into negotiations with our suction harvesting contractor.
- **May 2009:** Our Wetlands Permit was approved by the Town of Lewisboro.
- **June 8, 2009:** Suction harvesting of Brazilian Elodea was begun in the north cove of Lake Waccabuc.
- **July 11, 2009:** The eradication work was completed.

Jack thanked a long list of people involved with the BEEP:

- Ed Delaney and the Lake Waccabuc Association
- Re Haegle, Seve Ohnemus, Regina Anderson and Christian Brutzer who helped formulate the fundraising plan
- Special thanks to Ann Schneider who made many follow-up phone calls after the fundraising letter was mailed, with successful results.
- Nadine and Peter Levy who provided help and support from start to finish.
- Kevin Karl who volunteered to serve as the qualified limnologist to oversee the BEEP process (required as a provision of the Wetlands Permit). He provided professional expertise that we otherwise would have had to pay for.
- Steven Angelilli who volunteered the use of his property and use of his equipment, thus saving us additional money.
- Special thanks to Lou Feeney who was on-site, hands-on every single day. He proved to be our "solution man" for all problems that arose.
- Brad and Bonnie Klein who organized a fund-raising barbecue at their home and raised over \$4,000 for the BEEP.

-AND VERY SPECIAL THANKS to Jan Anderson who figured out and pursued the permit process from all levels of government, researched and contacted possible contractors, and provided hands-on leadership throughout the entire process. Jack added that she was present at the work site every single day, monitoring progress and offering to provide for the contractor anything needed to make the job go more quickly and smoothly.

Jack announced that the Three Lakes Board of Directors decided to recognize Jan and present her with "a weekend away," so that she can relax after a very long and tiring job that was extremely well done. Jan responded in her usual gracious manner, thanking Jack for the gift while adding that it was truly a team effort.

IT IS NOT OVER YET. We will need on-going monitoring and inspection to make sure Brazilian Elodea doesn't re-appear in the cove or show up anywhere else in the three lakes. If it does, we will likely need to do "spot removal" next year.

Jack praised the tremendous grass-roots initiative, and the amazing community response that was offered in the form of funding, volunteers, ideas, and help whenever we asked for it.

He closed the meeting by thanking everyone for all the support provided for our work.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Lewis, Secretary