

MINUTES
MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THREE LAKES COUNCIL
DATE: May 16, 2013

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Three Lakes Council was held on May 16, 2013 at the home of Jack and Betsy Sinnott.

Present were:

Jan Andersen, President
Peter Gross, Vice President (Two Lake Club)
John Lemke, Treasurer
Jean Lewis, Secretary
Joe Tansey (Lake Oscaleta Assoc.)
Alayne Vlachos (South Shore Assoc.)
Jack Sinnott (Director at Large)
Doug Housman (Lake Waccabuc Assoc.)
Beth Llanos (Lakeside Assoc.)
Peter Bysse (Waccabuc Country Club)

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by President Jan Andersen. She opened the meeting by thanking Jack Sinnott for hosting the meeting, and then asked for committee reports:

LAKE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE Jan Andersen reported that during 2013 all three lakes will participate in the CSLAP program, which also means any blooms can be tested for HABs (harmful algae blooms).

BEEP AND AQUATIC PLANT SURVEY

Jan reported that the Three Lakes Council has contracted with our lake manager, ABI (Allied Biological), to do a rake toss survey of aquatic plants in Lake Waccabuc as part of our ongoing monitoring for Brazilian elodea. Jan pointed out that total eradication of invasive aquatic plants is rare, but our suction harvesting effort took place 3 years ago, and if we find no Brazilian elodea again this year, she is guardedly optimistic that we will have won the battle.

We must also be on the lookout for any appearance of water chestnut, another highly invasive aquatic plant. It is in ponds at Mountain Lakes Camp, and geese can be vectors for the plant.

We agreed to send another notice to the google group explaining why aquariums must never be emptied into the lakes.

Lake Waccabuc will be one of four lakes in New York State tested by the DEC for pesticides. Waccabuc was selected as a lake to be tested because it is a drinking water lake, and it is located in an area of the state where sales of pesticides is high. Water will be sampled at four locations in the lake.

MEMBERSHIP Jack Sinnott reported that our annual membership drive flyer will be mailed before Memorial Day Weekend. There are currently about 211 members. Although membership numbers have dramatically increased in recent

years, Jack's goal is to increase participation among people with deeded lake rights. It was suggested that Association presidents be encouraged to more actively encourage their membership to become members of the Three Lakes Council. Paul Lewis will print out a list for each lake association president showing current Three Lakes Council members from that organization.

FISHING COMMITTEE Joe Tansey reported that trout will be stocked at the end of May in Lakes Waccabuc and Oscaleta. In mid-June, indigenous crayfish will be stocked in all three lakes as food for the fish. He reported that his fishing group (Fishnet) has about 20 members, and the bass fishing has been very good.

PICNIC/ANNUAL MEETING DATE Doug Housman reported that he has confirmed a July 27th reservation with the Waccabuc Country Club for use of the beachfront and for the Carriage House as a back-up location in case of inclement weather. The date will be posted in the membership flyer and the newsletter, and posters can be put up on lake community bulletin boards.

BEAVERS Peter Gross reported that the beaver control committee met and reevaluated the criteria set by the Council for determining whether or not beaver removal is necessary. It was determined that the criteria are good, and the committee will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that the trigger points identified by the Council aren't triggered.

Beavers began constructing a second dam in the channel this spring, but Joe Tansey's crew, about 20 in number, has been removing the damming material. As a result, no flooding has occurred and boats are able to get through the channel. Jan Andersen thanked everyone for making that happen.

There is a new lodge located at the eastern end of Lake Oscaleta, on the north side of the stream entering the lake from Ridgefield, a bit behind some reeds and brush. Jack Sinnott requested that the committee report on the number and location of active beaver lodges.

Alayne Vlachos reported much positive feedback regarding Peter Gross's google group email urging people not to consider this a "tree hugger" vs. "beaver hugger" situation. Peter's approach was considered very constructive, and should be published in our newsletter.

Peter feels that we should also educate people regarding the realistic dangers posed by the presence of beavers, since some have expressed fears that are out of proportion to the actual danger.

GEESE STABILIZATION Jack Sinnott reported that the Geese Stabilization Team (the Sinnotts and the Beardsleys) began their 2013 goose egg oiling efforts on Lake Waccabuc on April 9th. They were pleased to see even less goose activity this year than in 2012. On Lake Waccabuc they identified a total of nine nests (vs. 11 in 2012): seven on the island, one on Castle Rock, and one in the pond at the Farrell's house. The weather (constant wind, rain and cold) made it a challenge to thoroughly inspect the lake this season. As a result, they got to Castle Rock too late; a couple of eggs were hatched so they did not oil. The nest on the Farrell's property wasn't reported until incubation was in process, so no oiling was done there either. They observed that predators had destroyed some eggs.

Jack prepared a historical summary of Waccabuc geese activity over the past six years, since the start of our egg oiling project:

Year	Nests	Eggs
2008	18	79
2009	19	84
2010	14	64
2011	17	75
2012	11	39
2013	9	31

He noted that the activity has trended down significantly during the past two years. His conclusion is that the Geese Stabilization Project has been very effective, and we are accomplishing the goal with virtually zero cost. The volunteers are pleased to continue this activity in 2014, although the hope for better weather to ease the task.

FINANCIAL REPORT John Lemke reported that the Council is in good financial shape thanks to the generosity of our members.

Below is the balance summary as of May 16, 2013:

CHECKING Account	\$52,475.77
Securities	\$2,652.85
TOTAL in Checking Accounts	\$55,128.62
 SAVINGS	\$43,267.10
BEEP Account	\$24,108.82
TOTAL in Savings Accounts	\$67,375.92
 TOTAL DEPOSIT ASSETS	\$122,504.54

NEWSLETTER Jan Andersen expressed gratitude that Stephanie Harding will once again serve as the newsletter editor. Jan set the deadline for submission of articles as the end of May. Articles to be included are Peter Gross's article about the presence of beavers in Lake Oscaleta, an article on turtles, Joe Tansey's Fishing Report, John Lemke's Treasurer's Report, and any photos depicting lake life. Since The Waccabuc Country Club just celebrated their 100th anniversary, Jan suggested an article on the Club's history, and Doug Housman offered to submit that. We would like to recognize the contributions of two founders and past presidents of the Council that died this year – Gladys Wolkof and Dick Cirulli. Lynn Beardsley will write an article on Gladys Wolkof, and Jean Lewis will contact Audrey Cirulli for information on Dick Cirulli.

LONG POND PRESERVE Jan Andersen explained that the Three Lakes Council worked for a couple of years to support a transfer of ownership of Long Pond Preserve from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to Westchester Land Trust. However, in January Westchester Land Trust decided not to accept ownership, so TNC will continue to own the property, and asked if we would once again serve as trail stewards. Jan recommended that we do so, and the Board agreed after voicing some concerns about the trail along Tarry-a-Bit Road and other points from which people illegally launch boats. TNC has given us new posted signs, and is working on improving signage. They have worked cooperatively with us in the past, and we expect that that relationship will continue.

We had a Memorandum of Agreement with Westchester Land Trust before they backed out of the property transfer. The Board agreed that we should have one with TNC. Peter Gross will review the existing MOA.

FENCE AT THE OSCALETA-WACCABUC CHANNEL BRIDGE During the administration of former Supervisor Bob Neukirch, chain link fencing was installed at the bridge to prevent people from launching boats. More recently, the Town of Lewisboro repaired the fence. As part of the beaver initiative, the Three Lakes Council installed an access gate in the existing fence. A few months ago, a car ran into the fencing on the west side of the road and destroyed it. The Town has been notified that the driver's insurance company will pay for fence repair, but the work has not been done. This week Jan Andersen discussed the matter with Supervisor Peter Parsons and he agreed that the town should use the insurance money to replace the fencing.

Jan agreed to write a letter to Supervisor Parsons chronicling their conversation. She will also reiterate the Three Lakes Council's concern that boats that have been on other bodies of water can act as vectors for invasive plants or animals and must not enter our lakes. Therefore, she will emphasize the need for replacement and maintenance of the high chain link fence.

BOAT STICKERS Alayne Vlachos reported that this year seven loose boats were identified by their sticker numbers and returned to their owners.

Joe Tansey said that members of the Lake Oscaleta Association would like the Council to issue new, larger, boat stickers. Someone would need to volunteer to coordinate the many tasks associated with this effort: contacting each boat owner on the three lakes to gather information about their boats for the data base, designing and purchasing new stickers, establishing a new data base, and delivering stickers to boat owners. No action was taken at this time.

ASSOCIATION NEWS Peter Gross said that the Two Lake Club is planning to address the overgrowth of lily pads at their beach using a combination of benthic barriers and hand pulling.

NEXT MEETING The Executive Committee may convene a meeting if picnic or newsletter issues arise: else the next meeting is the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Lewis, Secretary