

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

July 26, 2008

The Annual Meeting of the membership of the Three Lakes Council was held on July 26, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the Waccabuc Country Club Beach. It was held in conjunction with the annual picnic. About 95 - 100 people attended.

WELCOME AND THANKS

Jack Sinnott welcomed everyone and offered special thanks to the following:

- The Waccabuc Country Club for providing the use of their facility as well as many additional services
- Joe Tansey, head chef, and his cooking and carving crew - Gene Tedaldi, Ron Tetelman, Robby Rothfeld and Paul Lewis.
- Barbara Posner, Picnic Coordinator

BUSINESS MEETING

Jack Sinnott, President of the Three Lakes Council, opened the Annual Meeting by updating the membership on Three Lakes Council activities over the past year.

Acknowledgments And Thanks

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.

He made special mention of all the contributions made by Jan Andersen and Lou Feeney, “who engaged in so many activities on your behalf. Jan not only came up with many of the new projects for 2008, she took the initiative in implementing them.”

Highlighting the Past Year’s Activities – Supporting our Mission

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

- Maintain and improve water quality.
- Educate and inform residents in our watershed, and encourage them to adopt a “lake friendly” lifestyle.
- Address issues and concerns that impact the enjoyment of our lakes.
- Conduct research, study potential issues, and coordinate community action.

He highlighted the following activities:

1. Newsletter

The annual Three Lakes Council Newsletter was mailed to everyone in the Three Lakes Watershed in June. Jack thanked all who volunteered their efforts:

- Judy Hausman and Stephanie Harding, who edited and distributed the Newsletter.
- Jan Andersen, Kevin Karl, Paul Lewis, Joe Tansey, John Lemke, and Ron Tetelman who contributed articles.

Jack received positive feedback regarding the Newsletter indicating that it was educational, informative and interesting. The topics covered include geese, turtles, milfoil weevils, water quality (the state of our lakes), fish, the replanting of Waccabuc Creek, and responsible leaf disposal.

2. Geese Stabilization Efforts

Background: In the 2007 Three Lakes Council survey, 88% of those who responded identified geese and their droppings as a nuisance or problem. In response to this concern, Jan Andersen located an organization called Geesepeace which offers a protocol for “geese stabilization” that is supported by both the Humane Society and PETA, and is approved by the Federal Government’s USDA. The stabilization protocol includes:

- egg oiling
- harassment to make the geese leave
- fencing to keep them off lawns

The first egg oiling was done in 2007. In April and May of 2008, volunteers oiled 113 goose eggs following Geesepeace Protocol. The following volunteers participated in this effort: Jan Andersen, Lou Feeney, Paul Lewis, Joe Tansey, and Betsy and Jack Sinnott.

In addition to the “egg oilers,” Jack thanked all who served as “spotters” and reported nests being built on the lakeshores. He encouraged people to continue harassing the geese now that they have finished molting and can fly. If they view our lakes as “unfriendly” they will go elsewhere.

As a result of the egg oiling project, a significant reduction in the goose population has been noted this year, and we expect this trend to continue in subsequent years.

3. CSLAP Testing

CSLAP (Citizen’s Statewide Lake Assessment Program) water testing was done in all three lakes during 2008. The lakes are tested for clarity, temperature, color, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, nitrates, chlorophyll a, and calcium (twice). The samples are sent to the NY State DEC for analysis, and at the end of the season they will send us an annual report. This data is valuable in establishing long-term trends.

For the past three years, water testing has been done on each lake every two weeks during the summer, for a total of 8 samplings per year. This year, for the first time, samples were also taken during the winter.

Jack Sinnott recognized Jan Anderson and Lou Feeney for coordinating and training volunteers for this program, and thanked the following volunteers who collected water samples:

- On Lake Rippowam: Chris and Rick Ferrarone and Alan Young
- On Lake Oscaleta, Paul Lewis, Barbara Posner, Kevin and Dick Karl, Shannon Robinette and Sara Hartley
- On Lake Waccabuc: Jan Andersen, Lou Feeney, Ron Tetelman, Vin and Clotilde Farrell, John Lemke, and Betsy and Jack Sinnott

4. Waccabuc Creek Replanting

This is another major project initiated by Jan Andersen in May, 2008. She coordinated a cooperative effort with the NY State DEC, the John Jay High School Environmental Science Class, Nature Conservancy and the Town of Lewisboro to stabilize the stream banks of the Waccabuc Creek. Approximately 200 trees and shrubs were planted to form a riparian buffer along 700 feet of Waccabuc Creek to prevent erosion. At the same time, much barberry (an invasive species) was removed.

5. Engagement of a New Lake Manager

In 2008 we engaged a new firm Allied Biological, as our Lake Manager. Cedar Eden, our Lake Manager for the past five years, provided us with much valuable lake data and established a baseline for monitoring long-term trends. This year, the Board decided to hire new talent bringing greater focus on aquatic plants, and hired Allied Biological.

On May 15, 2008 Glenn Sullivan and Chris Doyle of Allied Biological presented an educational seminar at the Waccabuc Country Club Carriage House. The presentation focused on the State of the Lakes, and aquatic vegetation (the good and the bad).

Allied Biological has also analyzed data collected by Cedar Eden during 2006 and 2007 and provided us a report addressing water quality trends and recommendations.

During August, Chris Doyle will survey and map all aquatic plants in the three lakes. He will document baseline aquatic plant density, and will identify invasive species, as well as identify rare or threatened aquatic plants. Following this, he will recommend aquatic plant management options.

6. Membership

As a result of our 2008 membership appeal, membership to date has increased to about 160 families. This is a very positive response, and Jack thanked all who responded to our appeal. Many sent in additional donations along with their membership donation and Jack expressed his appreciation for all who did so.

While appreciative of all who joined during 2008, the fact remains that approximately only 50% of those eligible have joined, so Jack urged everyone to talk with their friends and neighbors about the work we are doing on behalf of the lakes, and encourage them to become members.

7. New Website

Jan Andersen has set up a new Three Lakes Council website with assistance from Dan Welsh. While our old website contained much good information, the new website is more user-friendly and flexible. Key people in the Three Lakes Council will now be able to post or update information. The website will have new features such as a bulletin board and photo album.

Lou Feeney spent the winter months collecting and digitizing boxes of historical lake data, and this has been posted on the website. Jack thanked Jan and Lou for their valuable contributions.

8. Drawing For a Free Septic Tank Cleaning

This year, as an incentive for people to pay their annual membership contribution on time, all who paid their membership contribution by June 30th were entered into a drawing for a free septic tank cleaning.

Two septic tank cleaning companies donated a free septic tank cleaning service: Kaiser-Battistone and Vogler Brothers. Jack Sinnott acknowledged their generosity.

The drawing was held, and the winners were Joe Tansey (our intrepid head chef and fish committee chair!), and Alan and Susan Berk of Twin Lakes Road.

9. Questions and Comments

- Michael Gordon commented that Jack thanked everyone except himself, and asked the membership to join him in a round of applause thanking Jack for all he does on behalf of the lakes.

- Senia Feiner suggested that we establish some guidelines for responsible “lake friendly” home and dock maintenance options and post them on the website.

- Members raised concern about oversized motors being used on the lakes (against the Town ordinance), and about domestic ducks being released on the lakes. Jack commented that he has addressed these issues with specific residents. However, it is everyone’s responsibility to comply with the Law and to manage personal behaviors in a “lake friendly” manner. He encouraged the membership to personally discuss these issues with their neighbors as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Lewis, Secretary