

**Three Lakes Council
Annual Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2018**

The Annual Meeting of the membership of the Three Lakes Council at was held on July 21, 2018. The meeting was held at the Waccabuc Country Club Carriage House due to a prediction of rain. Over 110 people attended.

WELCOME AND THANKS

President Jan Andersen welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of the Three Lakes Council in our 48th year. She pointed out that work of the Three Lakes Council is accomplished by a large team of volunteers and thanked the following:

- The Waccabuc Country Club which provides their facility for this event and arranges so much for us
- The Potluck Coordinators and helpers: Kelley Housman who continues to coordinate and improve this event; Kathy Rothfeld, who works with Kelley to set up and clean up; Jean Lewis and John Lemke at our check in table and who help wherever needed; and others on who help out on set up and clean up.
- The cooking and carving crew: Ron Tetelman, Robby Rothfeld, Gene Tedaldi, Paul Lewis, and Lou Feeney.
- And, of course, all of the members in attendance for their annual memberships that fund our outreach and scientific efforts, and for bringing delicious contributions to our shared meal.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Before recognizing the current board, Jan thanked Joe Tansey who stepped off the board this summer. "Joe was an active leader in the Three Lakes, running the fish committee, the weed committee, and the beaver debris removal committee. I am happy to say that he plans to stay active on some of these groups. We owe him a great deal of thanks for his contributions over the years."

Board members are appointed by each association around the lakes and are your voice to the council. Your board representatives are:

- Lake Oscaleta Association – Kevin Karl
- Lake Waccabuc Association – Doug Housman
- Lakeside Association – Ron Tetelman
- Perch Bay Association – Ellen Bailey
- South Shore Association – Jonathan Peter
- Two Lake Club – Peter Gross
- Waccabuc Landowners Council – Randy Gladding
- Waccabuc Country Club - Darrell Alfieri

In addition to those appointed by the organizations, members can also elect at-large directors. The board has nominated and recommends that you re-appoint our at large directors, Fred Cowles and Jean Lewis.

Jan made a motion that the above slate of Directors be approved. The motion was approved by a show of hands.

THREE LAKES COUNCIL'S 2018 ACTIVITIES

Jan began by restating that the Three Lakes Council's Goal is "to protect and preserve the waters of our three lakes using science-based approaches, because the waters in our lakes truly reflect our actions in the watershed."

She continued by listing what the Council has done during each season of this year.

Fall & Winter

- The Three Lakes Council has only owned Long Pond Preserve for a little over two years. Last fall, the Waccabuc Landowner's Council repaired the stone wall along Mead Street and got rid of some fallen trees and debris. Thanks to them, the watershed is greatly improved.
- We reestablished a new Google group after the prior one was shut down.
- We continued to update our website. It is an important method of outreach and education and a good first place to look for information about the lakes.
- Our Three Lakes Council Facebook page is another way to follow what is going on.
- Our successful year-end fundraising allows us to undertake many of these activities. Jan thanked all contributors for their generosity and support.
- And behind the scenes, in the fall and winter, the board reviews actions of the prior year, plans for new activities, and reviews top issues. We file taxes, establish budgets, revenue projections, prioritize initiatives, and contract with our lake managers.

Spring

- In April we continued with our 12th annual adventure in geese population stabilization. Peter and Lyn Beardsley, J Durst, and Lou Feeny and Jan oiled 29 eggs in eight nests. If geese have goslings, they stay on the lakes during the summer. Oiling eggs reduces the number of geese who stay and results in fewer geese "calling cards" being deposited on our docks and lawns. Jan thanked those who brave the spring weather and the squawking geese.
- In May, our annual membership drive kicked off. To date we have about 160 members, thank you! In addition to funding our actions, healthy membership amplifies our voice with the town and state when we comment on proposed regulations.
- In June, the fish committee stocked 480 brown trout in lakes Waccabuc and Oscaleta.
- Our annual newsletter was mailed in June to 425 residents, and we distributed more via the Waccabuc Country Club. The set of lake guidelines on page 3 of our newsletter can be printed out for guests and renters.
- Starting in the spring, about 40 volunteers check the culvert each weekend to keep it clear of beaver debris. This spring we also hired a tree worker to remove debris in the channel left by the winter storms and to clear out the beaver winter food caches. We recognize the channels are a special part of our lakes and want people to be able to travel through them.

- Lake Management Plan Update. In 2004, Michael Martin of Cedar Eden Environmental prepared a management plan for the three lakes. We took some of the actions he suggested. Now that we have over 10 years of data, we asked him to update the plan. Jan expects a report by early next year.

SUMMER

Long Pond Preserve

- Kevin Karl has maintained the trails on the preserve. He has also been diligently going after invasive phragmites in the wetlands on the edge of the lake. Jan expressed thanks to Kevin for tackling this project.
- This spring 3LC planted some sizable trees to continue our effort to stabilize the stream that runs through the preserve.
- In addition to phragmites, we have another highly invasive plant on the Preserve known as mile-a-minute weed. To help moderate its spread, last summer we released mile-a-minute weevils that only eat that particular weed. In hopes of getting several generations of weevils at work, this year we released more weevils in July.
- Jan expressed her appreciation of all who have picked up the trash on the Preserve's shores, especially Judy Housman and Bob Reynolds.
- Again this year, we hired police officers to patrol on Mead Street and to discourage anyone from bringing boats and rafts that can carry invasive plants on to the preserve. This is a big expense but we think it's worthwhile. We've received positive feedback so far, but it is sometimes difficult to schedule officers. John Lemke works with the town police to make this happen – thank you John. This is a good time to remind everyone that Castle Rock and Long Pond Preserve are private property.

Boat sticker initiative. Last year we started to reissue boat stickers and update our record keeping. So far, we have issued over 600 new stickers, but many boats don't have the new stickers. They help us reunite lost owners with their boats, so contact Jan if you need help in getting them for your boats.

Aquatic Plant survey

In 2017 we only did a plant survey on Lake Waccabuc. It showed more places where plants had reached nuisance densities. We don't know yet if that is the beginning of a trend or normal variability. This year we will survey all three lakes again, looking for invasive aquatic plants and analyzing plant densities, and that may tell us more about how the weed population is changing over time. These surveys are taken at one point in the summer, and so won't reflect that the weeds seem to start earlier in the spring and last later into the fall. Another invasive plant or animal could be out there somewhere. Jan asked: "Please report any unusual plant or animal sightings to me: call, send an email or a photo. Don't worry false alarms, that's what I hope for every time!"

Water quality sampling

We continue water quality sampling & testing on Lakes Waccabuc, Oscaleta and Rippowam as part of a NYS DEC program known as CSLAP. Our research helps us understand the normal variability for our lakes, how they compare to other lakes in our region, and should alert us quickly if we go off track. It also provides important information for our lake management action plans and contributes to statewide research on lakes. As in past years, Jan will email to the google group a report after every formal monitoring session, focusing on the clarity of the lakes.

In addition to testing for clarity, our sampling sessions also measure temperature, color, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, nitrogen, chlorophyll, pH, conductivity, chloride, and calcium in our lakes.

In 2017 we sampled 13 times starting in April and ending in December. Reports for each of our lakes in 2017 are on our website.

Harmful algal bloom sampling

We continue our sampling and research on harmful algal blooms by regularly sampling our lakes for blue green algae, whether or not we see any sign of a bloom. When we see discolored water, we send in special samples for analysis. Based on visual conditions, we've sent in two samples so far from Waccabuc, and Jan stated that she expected to collect another sample to send in tomorrow.

If high concentrations of blue-green algae are present, we then test for toxins. Not all blue green algae blooms produce toxins, but some do. Waccabuc's bloom has blue-green algae, but so far no reported toxins.

In 2017, Rippowam had a bloom, but no toxins, and in 2016, all three of our lakes had high levels of blue green algae at some point, but no samples had toxins. Jan is always willing to look at a bloom to see if it should be sampled and submitted for testing, just get in touch.

Financial Report

We are in good financial shape. Treasurer John Lemke summarized that in 2017 we raised just about \$35,000 from our membership drive and annual appeal. Our expenses in 2017 were about \$27,000, but some bills rolled over into 2018. So far in 2018, about \$18,000 has been contributed by 160 members, down somewhat from this time last year.

In 2018 we plan to spend more than we will take in, and that's why it's good to have some reserve funds. The increased spending is driven by board decisions to undertake an update on our lake management plan, to survey the plants on all three lakes, and to prioritize additional actions on Long Pond Preserve.

Waccabuc Algal Bloom

Because of concerns expressed about the heavy algal bloom on Waccabuc this year, Jan ended her report with additional information:

- Blooms can happen when we have a lot of sunshine, warm water temperatures, calm days, and nutrients. We can't do much about the amount of sun, the temperature of the water, the amount of wind – so we are only left to manage nutrients. And that's where we focus.
- This bloom seems different. We have often had blooms in the past, but on all three lakes, blooms have generally been local – not lake wide – and they have lasted for shorter periods than this bloom has lasted.
- Regarding harmful algal blooms (HABs), we have no reports of toxins in Waccabuc's water. But, if in doubt, stay out. As part of the NY State HABs initiative, statistical analysts are trying to correlate physical and chemical properties to blooms. So far it's all about nutrients. Phosphorus controls the biomass and nitrogen seems to affect toxicity. Both of these are nutrients we need to keep out of our lakes.

Closing

The Annual Members Meeting was closed at approximately 7:25 and was followed by a pot luck dinner.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Lewis, Secretary