

**MINUTES
MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THREE LAKES COUNCIL**

September 23, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Three Lakes Council was held on September 23, 2019 at 7:30 PM at the home of Jean and Paul Lewis, 44 Twin Lakes Road, South Salem.

Present were:

Janet Andersen, President, and Two Lake Club
Peter Gross, Vice president
John Lemke, outgoing Treasurer, and Lake Waccabuc Association
Katie McGinn, incoming Treasurer
Jean Lewis, Secretary
Ellen Bailey, Perch Bay Association
Paul Lewis, Lake Preservation Committee chair
Kevin Karl, Lake Oscaleta Association, Long Pond Trail Steward
Doug Housman, Membership Chair

Opening President Jan Andersen opened the meeting at 7:30 pm and welcomed all.

Election of Officers A few months ago, John Lemke asked to resign as Treasurer when a replacement was found, although he would remain on the Board. Board members thanked him for his many years of dedicated services as Treasurer. Jan Andersen announced that Katie McGinn of Twin Lakes agreed to serve as our new Treasurer, and thanked her for doing so. Katie summarized her background for the board.

Jan presented the proposed slate of officers: Jan Andersen, president; Peter Gross, Vice President; Jean Lewis, Secretary; Katie McGinn, Treasurer.

Upon a motion by Ellen Bailey, seconded by Paul Lewis, the slate was approved by all present.

Jan read a Resolution required by M&T Bank to declare the officers as bank account signatories. Upon a motion by Ellen Bailey, seconded by Paul Lewis, the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Watershed Plan Update Jan discussed the updated Watershed Management Plan recently received from Michael Martin of Cedar Eden Environmental. The Board felt that the plan is a draft because it does not meet several aspects agreed to in the contract proposed by Mr. Martin and agreed to by the Three Lakes Council, including the lack of community input, and recommendations that didn't adequately address current issues and user concerns.

Community meeting Jan reported that Mr. Martin has agreed to meet with the community on a Friday evening in October to review the findings and recommendations, and hear the questions and concerns of residents. This input will inform the final action items to come from the plan.

**Community meeting – Watershed Plan Update
Waccabuc Country Club Carriage House
Friday, October 25th at 7:00 PM**

Jan thanked Kelly Housman for making arrangements for the Community Meeting to be held at the Waccabuc Country Club Carriage House, and the WCC for hosting our meeting. The Board felt that many recommendations in the draft plan have been addressed by the Three Lakes Council to the best of our ability. Remaining recommendations come with a high price tag and will require a combination of self-funding, grants, and action by governmental agencies. The Board therefore agreed that elected Town, County and State officials, and representatives of the DEC and DEP should be invited to attend. We will also invite other Lewisboro lake association representatives. We agreed to offer light snacks.

Meeting notices will be emailed and we will send postcards to residents of our watershed.

Long Pond Preserve Update

- John Lemke reported that this summer was quiet with fewer people misbehaving. One known injury occurred on Castle Rock. Lewisboro police patrolled the preserve and the Police Chief reported no significant encounters. The presence of a police car on selected weekends served as a deterrent, so the board felt the \$4400 cost was a worthwhile expenditure.
- **Workers' Compensation Audit** John Lemke explained that in 2018, we contracted and paid police officers directly, and we obtained Workers' Compensation Insurance for them. We had a routine audit in September 2019, and it was resolved with no problem. In 2019 we resumed paying for police officers through the town.
- Jan said Judy Hausman reported a significant reduction in trash, perhaps because the rope swing tree has been cut down.
- Kevin Karl, Trail Steward, reported that he has had success in removing invasive plant vegetation. Also, the mile-a-minute weevils released by Jan have significantly reduced the presence of this highly invasive plant.

Inland Waterway Update When Jan investigated the possibility of applying for grant money through an Inland Waterway designation, she felt that the requirements were too onerous to pursue, and the board agreed.

Airbnbs Peter Gross noted a growing number of Airbnbs in our area. He volunteered to generate a list of area such short term rentals, and suggested we send the homeowners a letter regarding safety, traditions on boat usage, and cleaning boats to avoid invasive species.

Fishing Committee John Lemke reported that Ron Tetelman has agreed to be the new chair of the Fishing Committee. The Board expressed appreciation that Ron agreed to assume this responsibility. Fred Cowles expressed interest in serving on the committee.

In a related matter, Kevin Karl informed us that Robby Williams, whose family owns two houses on Oscaleta's south shore, is a professional bass fisherman. He has brought world-class fishermen to Lake Oscaleta, and they consider the lake to be one of the top bass fishing lakes in the country. Robby worries about the effect the presence of cormorants will have on fishing, but since only three or four have been seen, the Board felt that they probably aren't currently a danger.

Weed Committee Jan said this was inactive in the absence of a chair. Doug Housman reported that several Lake Waccabuc residents are seriously concerned about excessive weed growth that impedes swimming, especially in the North Cove. Some voice the need

for assistance from the Three Lakes Council. Jan will send an email seeking a chair and committee members to look at innovative ways of dealing with this persistent problem.

Kevin Karl noted that a lakefront property owner on Waccabuc's south shore has had a suction harvesting operation over the summer. Jan explained that suction harvesting involves hand harvesting weeds, feeding them into a vacuum hose and collecting them in net bags for disposal. This method was used by the Three Lakes Council to eradicate highly invasive Brazilian Elodea in Waccabuc's North Cove (the BEEP project). In response to a question, Jan explained that since there is enough phosphorus and light available for the plants, they tend to grow back in a year or two.

A significant permitting process is necessary for weed harvesting, and since Jan obtained the permits for the BEEP project, she noted that one way the Three Lakes Council might assist homeowners is by offering assistance in navigating the permitting process.

The Three Lakes Council has also offered to offer information on companies that hand harvest or install and remove "bottom blankets" to kill off weeds in swimming areas. It was noted that these companies say they cannot put install them in the deep water by the east end of the Oscaleta-Waccabuc Channel.

Jan also explained that Alum can be used to "blanket" phosphorus that has accumulated at the bottom of the lakes over many years, and keep it out of the water column. Although Alum is not currently permitted by the DEC, it is under consideration as part of the watershed plan. However, since the Alum application process is very expensive, if it is considered, significant fund raising will be necessary.

South Shore Waccabuc community sewage removal system Paul Lewis reported that several years ago he proposed finding a way to curtail the flow of phosphorus into Lake Waccabuc from leaky holding tanks and ineffective septic systems on Waccabuc's south shore. At a Town meeting, the South Shore Association agreed to support a proposal to install a community sewage treatment system.

The Town of Lewisboro has been working to find funding for the project. Paul reported that Town Supervisor Peter Parsons now feels he is close to acquiring funding for the engineering and design of such a system. Jan added that most grants are given only to "shovel ready" project submissions, so having engineering designs would be a significant first step.

Jan closed the meeting at 9:00 PM by thanking Katie McGinn for assuming the role of Three Lakes Council treasurer and expressed appreciation for all for attending and contributing.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Lewis