

MINUTES
MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THREE LAKES COUNCIL

November 18, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Three Lakes Council was held on November 18th at the home of Jean and Paul Lewis. Present were:

Janet Andersen, President
Peter Gross, Vice President and Two Lake Club representative
Katie McGinn, Treasurer
Jean Lewis, Secretary
Darrell Alfeiri, Waccabuc Country Club representative
Ellen Bailey, Perch Bay Association representative
Fred Cowles, At-Large representative
Doug Housman, Membership Chair
Kevin Karl, Lake Oscaleta Association and Long Pond Preserve Trail Steward
Tim Kennedy, South Shore Association representative
John Lemke, Lake Waccabuc Association representative and Long Pond Steward
Paul Lewis, Lake Preservation Committee Chair
Ron Tetelman, Lakeside Association representative

President Janet Andersen called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. She welcomed the attendees and thanked Jean and Paul Lewis for hosting the meeting.

WACCABUC DAM ACCESS. Ellen Bailey and Jan discussed future access to the Waccabuc dam. Ellen's father, Curt Brockelman, has two parcels of land on Lake Waccabuc for sale. The property includes the east portion of the Waccabuc dam, including a rock wall barrier and half of the spillway. Historically, the Brockelmans have cooperated with the Three Lakes Council regarding access to the dam when necessary for maintenance or debris removal. The Board discussed ensuring our access to the dam in the future through deeded access rights. Peter Gross and Fred Cowles will explore this and report back to the Board. Ellen Bailey volunteered to serve as liaison with her father.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN. In June of 2018 the Board contracted with Michael Martin of Cedar Eden to update the Watershed Management Plan, using our 15 years of data and incorporating current lake research. Michael had prepared the original plan for the Three Lakes in 2005, and the prior plan served as a basis and point of comparison. On October 5th, Michael presented the revised Management Plan to the membership. (The plan and presentation are available on our website at www.threelakescouncil.org).

Michael's analysis of watershed and lake conditions included an analysis of the sources of phosphorus, the most troublesome nutrient to our lakes. He found that stormwater contributes phosphorus to all of the lakes, and that 76% of the phosphorus in Lake Waccabuc comes from internal loading. Some of his recommendations involved methods of sequestering that phosphorus. Other recommendations included improved stormwater management, aquatic plant surveys, and fish management.

Jan Andersen said that the reaction to Michael's presentation was quite positive. Several attendees commented on how much they learned from it about the lakes.

Jan then presented potential short term and long term actionable items and the estimated costs of each.

The Board agreed on the following actions:

Stormwater Management:

- Consider stormwater practices to control runoff and erosion on Tarry-a-Bit Road, including investigations into Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA). Tarry-a-Bit is privately owned and maintained. Regarding this issue, Jan Andersen and Paul Lewis met with Kevin Fitzpatrick, an engineer with EOHCorp which has a mandate to reduce phosphorus runoff in the Croton Watershed, and is a possible source of funding.
- Research the cost & effectiveness of retrofitting storm drains with filters. Paul Lewis will contact staff at the Edith Reid Sanctuary regarding their experience. Also, Jan Andersen will contact Kevin Fitzpatrick for information.
- Ask Kevin Fitzpatrick to assess stormwater runoff management at the Waccabuc Post Office parking lot, owned by Waccabuc Landowners Council, and for some of the adjoining area owned by the Waccabuc Country Club.
- Support Country Club involvement: Darrell Alfieri expressed interest in having the Country Club find solutions the severe storm runoff from Perch Bay that shoots down the road to the Club's beach facility. Darrell added, "Club members have deep appreciation for the lake, but we have taken for granted this precious resource for too long, and now need to be more proactive in protecting it." He suggested that the Club could undertake stormwater efforts such as buffer plantings that could set an example for what others could do, and offered to partner with the Council's outreach efforts.
- Educate lakefront owners about riparian buffers, shoreline plantings, and lawn care practices that can reduce phosphorus runoff into the lakes. We agreed this will be our Council's outreach focus for 2020.
- The board decided against the Management Plan's recommendation to buy rain barrels and distribute them to residents.

In-Lake Phosphorus Inactivation:

The anoxic condition in the bottom layer of a lake allows phosphorus in the sediments to dissolve in water and then support algal and plant growth. Possible solutions are to add oxygen to the deep layer, or a physical or chemical barrier on the sediment.

- **Aeration.** Aerators were installed in Waccabuc in 1972 by Union Carbide, and they were shut down in 2004 because they were no longer effective at maintaining adequate oxygen in the deep water layer. New nanobubble technologies are emerging. The board agreed these were not yet mature enough for consideration, and will follow future developments.
- **Alum.** This aluminum salt forms a chemical barrier between the bottom sediments and the water column. Estimated cost would be over \$500K for Waccabuc, which should last for 5 to 20 years. While this chemical is not currently permitted in NY, it is expected to be approved in about 3 years. The board discussed that the required fundraising might be difficult and, with the potential need for reapplication, continuous. The Board questioned if algal blooms are our primary concern, whether they occurred frequently enough to require immediate action. Some noted that blooms only occurred every 5 or 6 years. Since NY does not currently permit alum, and there was concern with its expense, the board agreed to defer pursuing this solution for now. The board asked Jan to find more information about alum toxicity, impacts on oxygen levels, other lake experiences, and potential grants. The Council will also track algal bloom duration and severity to assess trends.

Aquatic plant management: The Watershed Plan recommends the three lakes each have an annual plant survey and also to fund development of an aquatic plant management plan. The board endorsed the more affordable plant survey schedule, which is to alternate a survey of Waccabuc one year with a survey of Oscaleta and Rippowam the next. Jan indicated that templates for plant management plans are available and might be useful for developing a 3LC aquatic plant management plan in-house. The board agreed to attempt to revitalize the weed committee and to ask for volunteers for a chair and members of the committee. Jan will send out this request to our google group.

Fish management: The watershed plan recommendation was to not stock trout, and to have a fish survey done. A prior estimate of this expense for a fish survey was \$65K, and the board did not endorse a fish survey. The board discussed fish stocking and opinions remain divided. The board also voiced concerns about the bass die-offs. Ron Tetelman, chair of the Fish Committee, agreed to consider what actions to bring before the board.

Payment approved: After discussion of the compliance with terms of the contract, and disappointment with the timeliness of the report, the Board voted to pay the remaining \$2,516 owed to Michael Martin for preparing and presenting the 2019 Watershed and Lake Management Plan.

In sum, the board agreed to focus our watershed management efforts on stormwater management actions around the three lakes, including actions by residents, and to defer but remain informed on potential internal loading options.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Plans to rebuild a house on Old Pond Road are likely to come before the Planning Board. If this happens, as Planning Board Chair, Jan Andersen will recuse herself from Three Lakes Council input. Ron Tetelman and Paul Lewis offered to serve as the Three Lakes Council advisors on this project, and they will inform the board and community as appropriate.

BUDGET: Treasurer Katie McGinn presented an updated status for 2019.

2020 Budget. Given the hour and the energy expended on the management plan topics, the board agreed to defer discussion of the budget until our next board meeting.

Next Meeting will be:

Monday, December 9th, 2019
Lewis's Home, 44 Twin Lakes Road
7:30 PM

Jan Andersen thanked everyone for attending and participating, and applauded the valuable input. She expressed appreciation for all the Waccabuc Country Club does for us by providing facilities for our events, and responded enthusiastically to Darrell Alfieri's offer to have the Club take a more active role in lake preservation efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Lewis, Secretary