

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

June 11, 2020

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Three Lakes Council was held on June 11, 2020. Due to Covid pandemic restrictions, the meeting was conducted via Zoom. Present were:

Janet Andersen, President

Peter Gross, Vice President and Two Lake Club representative

Katie McGinn, Treasurer

Jean Lewis, Secretary

Doug Housman, Membership Chair

Ellen Bailey, Perch Bay Association representative

Kevin Karl, Lake Oscaleta Association and Long Pond Preserve Trail Steward

Jonathan Peter, 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.

Regulatory Requirements Jan reminded the board to email her the annual conflict of interest certification as required by NYS, and thanked those that had done so.

Annual Meeting Our By-laws require that our annual meeting be held in July or August. Due to the Covid pandemic, all present approved holding this year's meeting electronically on Thursday, July 30th at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Doug Housman will provide a Zoom link for the meeting, and Katie McGinn offered to help with photos and slides. Jan asked Katie to provide the Treasurer's report and Doug to provide a membership update.

Membership The Spring Membership Appeal letter has been mailed and membership is on track for this time of year. So far, we have received \$22,095 from 157 members.

Long Pond Preserve We received numerous reports of steady streams of teens accessing Lake Waccabuc via Long Pond Preserve every day of the week to party and swim to Castle Rock. Residents have raised concerns about the violation of Preserve rules, trespassing on private property (Castle Rock), potential spread of the Covid virus, parking issues, littering, and clearing vegetation. The Board expressed concerns about liability and insurance coverage. We discussed keeping the preserve access as it is, or making it walk-in only. John Lemke reported on difficulties in obtaining police coverage, so discussion centered on the remaining option - closing the Preserve for a temporary period.

Although we have an obligation to keep the land as a public nature preserve, Nature Conservancy will allow temporary closure for many reasons. Jan spoke previously with the Tax Assessor who said closing on a temporary basis would not affect the property's tax status. Therefore, the Board voted in support of temporarily closing the Preserve.

John Lemke and Jan Andersen will consult with the town supervisor and police about closing off the parking area. We will need to post signs and inform the community. The police will continue to ticket cars, and will now be able to ticket trespassers.

(Note: Subsequent to our meeting, Jan spoke with Supervisor Parsons and he agrees to close the parking area and have chief Alfano put up temporary closed parking signs. She also spoke with the tax assessor and confirmed that temporary closure would not change our property tax status. Jan adds, "We will close as soon as we get signs to post and can coordinate with the police." JLL)

Bog bridges Kevin Karl reported that he and a friend have lumber and will build plank bridges over wet areas on the Preserve that become muddy in spring.

Scout bat houses We had been approached by a scout about putting up a bat house on the preserve. The scout has moved forward with three other preserves so this is dropped.

Plant Survey Aquatic plant growth is robust early in the year. With an increasing number of invasive species in area lakes, Jan recommended that we go forward with having Solitude conduct an invasive plant survey on Oscaleta and Rippowam this year. The cost is about \$11,000 and it was included in the budget that was previously approved. All voted in support of having the survey conducted. Jan will notify the vendor.

Stormwater Drain Filters Paul and Jan met earlier with a representative from the EOH to discuss a retrofit of stormwater catch basins with filters to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the lakes. Jan has contacted the representative to try to get this restarted after the COVID pause. This is an action from our watershed plan.

South Shore Community Septic Project Jan reported that the application for a grant to cover the cost of this project must be in by July 1. She would like the South Shore Association and the Three Lakes Council to be partners in pushing this forward if it would help the application, and she has been in touch with the Town Supervisor and Engineer to ensure the application is completed and handed in by the deadline.

CSLAP testing Jan reported that Lou and she have started CSLAP water quality testing on all three lakes and will report any blooms or changes as usual via the Google group.

Newsletter Jan reported that she is working on the Newsletter and will include information about the annual meeting and Long Pond Preserve. Her target is to have it mailed by the end of June.

Commemorative Book Jan reported that she and Jean Lewis have collected many interesting historical photos to include in a book commemorating the 50th year of the Three Lakes Council. She plans for it to be a self-published paperback book with about 84 full color pages printed on photo quality paper. Katie McGinn suggested posting selected portions on the website and/or social media to create community interest. Doug Housman urged setting up an on-line payment method for the book, dues and other contributions. Doug and Katie will work together to set this up.

Weed harvester Jonathon Peter reported that due to especially heavy milfoil growth on the eastern end of Lake Waccabuc, neighbors hired a weed harvesting company. Unfortunately, it doesn't appear to be as successful as they would like, similar to the findings when the Two Lake Club tried out the harvester.

Beaver activity in channel Kevin Karl reported that the beaver winter cache remains in the channel and is restricting boat passage. The Board authorized spending \$1,000 to have Bill Nisbeth clear it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Lewis, secretary