

**MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THREE LAKES COUNCIL**
September 28, 2020

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Three Lakes Council was held on September 28, 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
Tim Kennedy, South Shore Association alternate 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.

Bat House: As part of his Eagle Scout project, a Scout submitted plans for a bat house and requested permission to place it on a tree on Long Pond Preserve. All present supported granting permission. Jan will notify the Scout.

Trees For Tribs: As part of the DEC Trees for Tribs program, trees and shrubs will once again be planted on Long Pond Preserve on Sunday, October 25th. Volunteers are requested to bring their own shovels and gloves due to COVID concerns.

Nuisance Aquatic Weeds: There were two items discussed on this topic.

A Waccabuc resident asked Jan if the Three Lakes Council would arrange for weed harvesting at his lakefront for which he would reimburse the Council and donate an extra amount. All voted against it.

Residents of the South Shore of Lake Oscaleta recently held a meeting to discuss nuisance aquatic weeds. At their request, Kevin Karl read a statement they prepared, informing the Board that they would like the Three Lakes Council to take a larger role on plants.

The Board acknowledged that residents are concerned about aquatic plants, and one of the Council's purposes as stated in our By-Laws is: "To address issues and concerns which may impact the enjoyment of the lakes by residents of the community."

Although our mission does not support funding weed control action on behalf of individual lakefront residents, the Board agreed that it could do more to provide homeowners with useful resources, and could have a role in coordinating any remedial actions.

The Board then discussed options for controlling weed growth in common areas used by all lake residents, such as the Waccabuc-Oscaleta channel. The Weed Committee looked

at this several years ago and tried harvesting. The harvesting had quick regrowth. A company said the water at the Oscaleta end was too deep for them to install benthic barriers and too shallow at the Waccabuc end.

Individual homeowners have hired weed harvesters on Waccabuc and Oscaleta. The reports of benefits vary, perhaps depending on whether they were dealing with submersed or floating leaf plants. In addition, at two locations, launches were damaged and weeds were dumped irresponsibly.

Jan requested that the Weed Committee be revived, which was an item on the statement. Jonathan Peter volunteered to chair the committee. Jan requested that the Committee report to the Board after they meet.

Fish Stocking: In 2018, the Board voted to discontinue funding the stocking of brown trout. This was prompted by two considerations:

- A resident had just released 400 white perch from another lake into Oscaleta, even though he was aware that the DEC forbids stocking of white perch for environmental reasons, and only approves stocking fish from approved hatcheries.
- The expenditure benefits only a few resident anglers. Some on the Board feel that Council money should be spent on actions that affect the majority of lake residents.

Ron Tetelman, chair of the Fish Committee, reported that of perhaps 15-20 active fishermen, only 3 or 4 are vocal in favor of stocking trout and its importance.

Jan urged consideration of the risk/benefit factor of stocking: the risk of possibly harming lake health to benefit the few. She provided links to an article published in a fishing magazine, which said that "In 2010, Trout Unlimited announced that its chapters were no longer permitted to assist state agencies stocking hatchery fish in areas with existing native populations." Jan's understanding is that the DEC is stocking less trout, and moving toward stocking streams, not lakes.

A few Board members expressed support for stocking brown trout again next spring, citing the recreational benefit and their opinion that it hasn't negatively affected lake health. Others mentioned studies indicating that stocking has had a negative impact on lake health in some lakes. Jan asked Ron to search for scientific studies showing that fish stocking does no harm in lakes like ours, and to assess how many people find trout fishing important. Ron agreed to provide this information for our budget discussions this fall.

Long Pond Preserve: We closed the Preserve last spring because visitors were not observing COVID precautions. The closure resulted in fewer problems over the summer with trespassing, illegal parking, violations of Preserve rules, and trash. Now that the swimming season is over, Kevin Karl proposed opening the Preserve for hiking. Paul Lewis suggested opening the Preserve on November 1 and closing it again next April 1, and the Board supported his proposal. Ellen Bailey suggested posting the same COVID prevention signs used in Town parks. Kevin Karl volunteered to take down the "Preserve Closed" signs and put up new signs. Paul Lewis volunteered to assist Kevin.

John Lemke will talk to the Lewisboro Police to see if they support this approach, and will let the Board know if they express concerns.

Membership Actions: The Board agreed to proceed with the membership reminder and Doug Housman will issue a year-end appeal. The virtual membership meeting was well received and the Board tentatively planned a Zoom year-end report for members.

Financial Report: Treasurer Katie McGinn gave a brief financial report. Because of the pandemic, we didn't spend money allocated for such things as the Annual Meeting/potluck and security at Long Pond Preserve. Therefore, the outlook is that 2020 spending will be below the amount we receive in donations.

Zoom meetings: This Board meeting had to be restarted twice because free use of Zoom has a time limit of 40 minutes. The Board enthusiastically voted in favor of directing Jan to purchase a Zoom account. The Board also supported having educational seminars during the year via Zoom.

Summer Lake Music: Jan thanked Peter Gross for providing music for the three lakes community during the summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Lewis, Secretary