

**MINUTES  
MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
THREE LAKES COUNCIL  
October 20, 2022**

**Note: Next meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 27 at 7:30 PM.**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Three Lakes Council was held on October 20, 2022 via zoom. Present were:

Janet Andersen, President  
Peter Gross, Vice President, Twin Lakes alt.  
Ellen Bailey, Treasurer, Perch Bay alt.  
Jean Lewis, Secretary, at-large rep.  
Doug Housman, Lake Waccabuc Association rep., Membership Chair  
Paul Lewis, Twin Lakes rep.  
Jonathan Peter, South Shore Association rep., Water Clarity Comm. Chair  
Ron Tetelman, Lakeside Association rep.  
T Rajwer, Lake Oscaleta Association rep.  
Peter Hall, Waccabuc Country Club rep.  
Kevin Karl, Lake Oscaleta Assoc. alt., Long Pond Preserve Trail Steward  
John Lemke, Lake Waccabuc alt., Long Pond Security Steward  
Bonnie Robins, Perch Bay Association rep.  
Linda Broudy, Waccabuc Landowners Council alt.

President Janet Andersen called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN 2022**

- **Annual Meeting/Potluck:** About 90 people attended the Annual Meeting/Potluck this year. Due to uncertain weather predictions, it was held at the Waccabuc Country Club Carriage House.  
Ron Tetelman reported that, with help from Robby Rothfeld (chief griller) and Paul Lewis and Gene Tedaldi (carvers), food preparation went smoothly. He will revise the amounts purchased for next year. Kathy Rothfeld and her team of volunteers managed set-up and clean-up very efficiently. Peter Gross provided the sound system. President Jan Andersen presented a very informative and interesting Annual Report outlining the work undertaken by the Three Lakes Council in 2022 and answering questions about the 2021 Waccabuc septic study and encouraging formation of a clarity committee to follow up on the recommendations.
- **Plant Survey and Water Sampling:** Jan Andersen reported that plant surveys were done on Lakes Rippowam and Oscaleta this year and no new invasives were found. The board discussed variability in plant growth in the lakes. Water sampling continued as part of the DEC CSLAP program. In addition to the CSLAP schedule, extra sampling was done in the Fall.
- **Boat Stickers:** Residents are encouraged to use 3LC boat stickers to help return runaway boats to their owners, and to prevent non-resident boats from bringing invasives from other bodies of water to our lakes. Jan reported that she has distributed over 900 new boat stickers and purchased another 1,000.
- **Website Maintenance & Renewal:** Jan Andersen encouraged everyone with questions about our lakes to visit our website. It is an archive of valuable information about our history and lake preservation efforts, and has become a resource for other lake organizations. In December we will renew our 3 year

contract with the website provider for \$1360. She notified the board that would be over the budgeted amount by about \$160.

- **Year-end Membership appeal:** Ellen Bailey encouraged mentioning specific initiatives to be funded by membership donations in the year-end membership appeal letter. Doug Housman and Jan Andersen will work together to compose the letter which Jan will mail electronically.

## **LONG POND PRESERVE**

**Security:** John Lemke reported that our local police encountered little trespassing this summer, and few parking tickets were issued. Perhaps the Preserve shutdown during Covid carried over, breaking the cycle of repeat offenders. If needed, the police will be available next year, and we will budget for it.

**Trails:** Kevin Karl reported on his trail maintenance activities at the Preserve this year.

- **Fewer swimmers observed.** Kevin seconded John's comments regarding fewer swimmers this year, adding that he saw less evidence of swimmers using trails for lake access. There was also less trash.
- **Tree blowdowns.** There were two sizable tree blowdowns affecting trails this year. He was able to cut and clear one and rerouted a trail around the other taking it back to historic locations further from the shore.
- **Invasive vegetation** continues to be a challenge. Kevin declared victory over lakeside phragmites but said he might need to recruit some "weed warriors" to combat other invasives, including phragmites up by the retention pond. He observed less invasive mile-a-minute weed this year, perhaps due to the introduction of 1000 mile-a-minute weevils and a dry summer. We discussed the timing of a weevil release for next year.

**TNC visit.** Jan Andersen said that a representative from The Nature Conservancy will visit the Preserve soon to observe compliance with the easements held by TNC when the Preserve was transferred from TNC to the Three Lakes Council.

**Tarry-a-bit stormwater update.** Prior to the meeting, Jan Andersen provided the Board with detailed information about current East of Hudson Corp (EOH) plans to control erosion that is contributing a significant amount of phosphorus to Lake Waccabuc. EOH identifies and funds phosphorus reduction projects in the NYC watershed.

- A stormwater project to reduce that runoff was part of our lake management plan.
- EOH plans to install rip rap and willow stakes in three streams to reduce streambed erosion and trap sediment containing phosphorus that is currently entering Waccabuc.
- EOH states its plan will significantly reduce phosphorus pollution cost-effectively.
- Jan obtained board agreement to post information about the EOH proposed activities on the Google Group.
- **Board approval.** Following a motion proposed by Jean Lewis and seconded by Kevin Karl, the Board voted unanimously to allow EOH to fund and install the stormwater remediation on Long Pond Preserve.

## **CLARITY COMMITTEE**

Chairman Jonathan Peter reported much progress on a sewer plan to address phosphorus loading created by septic effluent. T Rajwer has assisted him in this effort.

A synopsis of points Jonathan made during his impressive slide presentation:

- Septic systems have a limited lifespan. They are failing and contributing wastewater that is detrimental to lake health.
- Unlike constant upgrades to septic systems, which are temporary and might or might not be done, this plan is a long-term solution.

- Truesdale and Kitchawan lake communities are included in a sewer plan to carry septic effluent to the existing sewer treatment plant at the former Lewisboro Elementary School: the treatment plant could be upgraded without disturbing the prior school building.
- Lake representatives from 3LC, Truesdale, and Kitchawan support the effort.
- More participants should result in lower operation and maintenance costs per household.
- A sewer district will need to be established, and communications with town officials are underway.
- The next step will be to seek grants for engineering studies. Costs should be reasonable since engineering studies were recently done for three lakes for the Town Septic Study.

Board members praised and thanked Jonathan and T for their important work. It will move us forward in a way that can significantly improve lake water quality by reducing the amount phosphorus reaching the lakes.

### **CHANNEL MAINTENANCE PROJECT – mid-channel dam removal**

- Jan Andersen reported on her discussion with Dan Aitchison, the County beaver expert. He said beavers are a natural part of our ecosystem. If you remove their dams it is likely that they will continue to build new ones. If you remove beavers by trapping, new ones will move in to the attractive habitat. Both trapping and dam removal require easy to obtain permits if the landowners request them.
- Jan pointed out that as beavers remove trees along the channel, more sunlight reaches the channel resulting in more weed growth. The Three Lakes Council first addressed beaver control in 2012 to keep the channel open for kayaks and canoes to travel between the lakes, and to avoid flooding that would impact septic systems in low lying areas adjacent to the lakes.
- **C&D Underwater Maintenance.** T Rajwer provided a quote from C&D Underwater Maintenance on the cost of removing dam debris from three areas in the channel and improving water flow. He noted that their primary business is to use divers or equipment to pull weeds. Their quote was for removing beaver debris, removing material up to two feet below the water surface, and disposing of the material removed at an estimated cost of \$20,800. He estimated it would need to be repeated every 3 years or so.
- **Pristine Waters.** Jan Andersen requested a quote from Pristine Waters for deepening the channel where needed and removing plants and deepening a passage at the entrance to Waccabuc, all in an effort to ease boat traffic. The sediment would have to be removed. They have not yet submitted a bid.
- **Other quotes.** At the suggestion of a resident, Bill Finke visited the dam site and then called Jan. He quoted a price of \$2500 to remove the dam debris and widen the channel in that area. Board members said Jan should get a written quote from him based on a written job order that includes photos of the beaver debris to be removed, clarification that nothing was to be left at the Two Lake Club, and a timeline for completion.
- **Discussion to be continued.** Because of the late hour, Jan suggested we table this discussion until another meeting to be held on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. (This date was scheduled after the meeting. JL).

**WACCABUC COUNTRY CLUB.** Peter Hall gave an overview of WCC plans to upgrade their lakeside facilities. The goal is to improve facilities to be up to current code and standards without increasing usage.

- The septic system will be moved farther from the lake to where the basketball court is currently located.
- A new road will go to the snack bar, providing accessible parking and fire department access. Extensive storm water mitigation and replanting is part of the plan.
- The renovation will include redoing the boathouse, adding handicapped ramps, new bathrooms, and an open-air pavilion. The expanded snack bar will be up to code.

They anticipate having all permits in place to begin construction in the fall of 2023.

**NEXT MEETING:** Jan thanked all for their valuable input. Since the meeting ran later than expected, she proposed continuing with the rest of the agenda at another meeting. Discussion about clearing beaver debris from the channel needs to be continued. After the meeting, Jan realized that if work is to be done this year ahead of cold weather, we should meet earlier than the November 10 date that was originally scheduled. Therefore...

**We will meet by zoom on October 27 at 7:30 PM.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The zoom meeting adjourned at approximately 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Lewis, secretary

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**MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**THREE LAKES COUNCIL**  
October 27, 2022

A Zoom meeting of the Board of Directors of the Three Lakes Council was held on October 27, 2022. Present were:

Janet Andersen, President  
Peter Gross, Vice President, Two Lake alt.  
Ellen Bailey, Treasurer, Perch Bay alt.  
Jean Lewis, Secretary, at-large rep.  
Paul Lewis, Twin Lakes rep.  
T Rajwer, Lake Oscaleta Association rep.  
Kevin Karl, Lake Oscaleta Assoc. alt., Long Pond Preserve Trail Steward  
John Lemke, Lake Waccabuc alt. Long Pond Security Steward  
Linda Broudy, Waccabuc Landowners Council alt.  
Errol Antzis, Waccabuc Landowners Council rep.

President Janet Andersen called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and said we would continue agenda items not addressed in our Board meeting held on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Channel Maintenance Project**

Jan and Kevin Karl reported that canoe/kayak passage through the canal is difficult and some residents have found it impossible. The community feels a sense of urgency to remove the mid-channel beaver debris this year.

- The Beaver Committee has been successfully clearing beaver debris from the culvert area since about 2012, but since mid-channel debris is less accessible, piles of sticks have been accumulating there for several years.
- Kevin Karl reported that this week he located the beaver lodge about 25' away from and east of the mid-channel debris and observed that beavers are making a winter cache there. Although busy beavers might continue to add more debris during the winter, removing the accumulation of sticks now would open the channel for boats, and should make it easier to maintain going forward.
- Jan Andersen reported that bids were received from three companies for clearing the beaver debris from the channel: C&D Underwater Maintenance, Salem Tree, and Cooney Tree & Landscaping Service. Prices ranged from \$2500 to \$20,800. No bid is yet in hand from Pristine Waters.
- Following discussion, Linda Broudy moved that we approve hiring Cooney Tree & Landscaping Service to remove mid-channel debris this year at \$3200/day, for an amount not to exceed \$9,600. Ellen Bailey seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. T Rajwer will contact Mr. Cooney to inform him of the Board's decision.
- T Rajwer will monitor the project for the Board and was granted authority to decide at the end of each day whether or not it is necessary to continue with more work.
- Although some work at the culvert was included in Mr. Cooney's bid, the Board decided not go forward with that area at this time. The Town Board is discussing the budget to replace the deteriorating culvert/bridge and their decision will influence our decision about debris removal at that location.

**Lewisboro Lakes Coalition.** Jan explained that this is an informal group of representatives invited from each lake community in town. On December 5<sup>th</sup> they will have a Zoom meeting at 3:00 PM with NYS Assemblyman Chris Burdick to discuss ways of protecting the lakes, including the possibility of forming a sewer tax district and obtaining funding for a sewer project that is under discussion.

**Comprehensive/Master Plan Update.** T Rajwer reported that the final date for input to the current Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee survey is October 31. He said that as a member of the Lewisboro Lakes Coalition, he is reaching out to make sure lake community members know that the comprehensive plan is underway and to ask them to participate so that the value of lakes will be clear in the plan

**Financial Status.** Treasurer Ellen Bailey said that her goal in developing the budget for 2023 will be to ensure that the budget is in alignment with the Three Lakes Council's mission and priorities. The Board discussed revising some lines in the budget to include anticipated costs associated with initiatives currently underway, such as channel maintenance and Clarity Committee plans. Ellen and Jan Andersen will meet to develop the 2023 budget which will be distributed to the Board prior to our next meeting in January. It will include an explanation of possible future actions for which we are holding money in reserve.

The next meeting of the Board will be on January 19, 2023, unless an additional meeting is needed before then.

Jan thanked everyone for attending and participating.  
The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Lewis, Secretary