



Three Lakes Council

2024 Annual Report

Highlights of our 2024 activities

Advocacy, outreach, and communications

- Identified potential watershed projects for EOH stormwater funding.
- Sent 10 water quality updates to email list for real time report on algae blooms water conditions.
- Continued updates to 3LC website to make most current information available.
- Expanded Google email communications group to 430 members.
- Newsletter sent to 475 families; 70 copies distributed at Waccabuc Country Club in June.

Sewer project

- Submitted two grant applications in June through the Town for funding to build a sewer system for homes around portions of Lakes Waccabuc, Oscaleta, Rippowam, and Truesdale.
- Successfully obtained a \$6.875M grant from NYS.
- Project presentation on October 8 attended by about 75 residents.
- Town obtained funding from Westchester County for a Map, Plan, and Report on the project.
- Surveyed residents about knowledge and support, and preferred information sources.
- Emphasized that residents will vote before project goes forward.

Lake studies

- Water sampling & testing on Lakes Waccabuc, Oscaleta and Rippowam through CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment) program and supplemental lab work. 12 sampling sessions on Waccabuc and Oscaleta, 11 sessions on Rippowam. Monitored for harmful algal blooms.
- Analyzed results for trends and shared reports through newsletters and website.
- 1 algae and zooplankton sample collected and analyzed from each of 3 lakes
- Lake water gauges monitored for lake water levels and relative changes. Compared to precipitation (rain/snow/snow cover) documented as part of CoCoRaHS citizen science

Stewardship actions

- Evaluated longer term plant surveys for aquatic plant trends
- Goose population stabilization: In their 18th year, the geese team oiled 33 goose eggs in 7 nests to reduce geese population growth and encourage their wider geographic dispersion.
- Continued boat sticker initiative; issued over 1000 stickers to date, providing clean boat info.
- Beaver team cleared the channels all year to enable boat passage through the channels. Their great work was supplemented by hired professionals at end of season.

Aquatic invasive management activities

- Plant survey of Oscaleta and Rippowam in July. No new invasives found.
- Continued education on reasons not to dump aquariums and unused bait into lakes.

Long Pond Preserve

- Trail committee lead by Kevin Karl maintained the trail, reset blazes, and cleared brush and deadfalls. When necessary we hired professionals to remove dead and dangerous trees.
- Performed spring and fall maintenance on trees planted as part of the Trees for Tribs project to reduce stormwater erosion, support streambank protection, and enhance wildlife habitat.
- Cut shrubs to preserve wetland meadow ecosystem.
- Continued work to control invasive plants, including phragmites and mile-a-minute vine.

Membership & Operations

- Annual membership drive showed continued community support with 200 members
- Annual Meeting with 100 attendees at Waccabuc Country Club Beach Club
- Strong financial position allowed budget for new projects
- Transitioned to new officers : new Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary
- Represented 3LC interests at NYS Federation of Lake Association and CSLAP meetings
- 3LC attendees at regional NYSFOLA meeting.

Communications

- Continued updates to 3LC website so most current information is available
- Expanded Google email communications group to 356 members, with frequent postings
- Newsletter sent to 475 families; 80 copies distributed at Waccabuc Country Club in June

Increased partnership with Town government

- Encouraged community participation in comprehensive plan update to emphasize the importance of lakes, streams, wetlands, and creatures those habitats support. Effort was reflected in the updated comprehensive plan approved by the Town in August, 2024.
- Obtained Town maintenance for stormwater retention pond on Long Pond Preserve.
- Town Board, in August, agreed to accept the NYS grant to replace the Oscaleta Road culvert, and approved the Town Engineer's role in December.
- Participated in the Lewisboro Lakes Coalition to identify and pursue shared lake concerns.

Three Lakes Council Financials 2024

- Sustained solid financial status.
- Evaluated and updated bank investments.

