

Lamoka-Waneta Lakes Association – Board of Directors Meeting

September 20, 2014

Present: Terry Allison, Kurt Bischoff, Cartha Conklin, Ron Dixon, Terry Fisk, Sean Fitzpatrick, Al Gerth, John Herbert, Jean Hubsch, Chris Kain, Dene Karaus, Kevin Morris, Barry Pappas, Chuck & Joan Rybak, Gordon Shafer, Ed Sharpe, Brian Smith, Andy Strawhand, Carolee Thatcher, John Thatcher, David Wallace

Absent: Al Buckland, Dick Fagan, Heidi Gerth, Gary Gray, Patty Smith, Richard Stewart

Guests: (None)

Meeting called to order: 10:02 AM

President Terry called the meeting to order and welcomed new board members Ron Dixon (present) and Patty Smith (absent). She also welcomed back all of the board members who re-enlisted for another term. Our mission is to adjust the way we live to protect the lakes rather than adjust the lakes to the way we want to live.

Objective for today: Establish direction for 2014-2015, projects and committee assignments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes from August 16th BOD Mtg. & August 13th Annual Mtg.: Both sets of minutes were approved as written. ***NOTE: Now that these minutes have been approved they can be posted on the website.***

Treasurer's Report: Total \$39,322.28

Checking	\$14,142.07
Savings	\$20,164.75
Cash on hand	\$ 0.00
Fixed Assets	\$ 5,025.46 (This is a newly added category, does not include clothing & flares)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Terry read a note from Dennis Fagan: Recent rake toss weed testing found 30 sites of EWMF in Waneta Lake this year. (Reminder: Waneta was not treated with Renovate this year.) Lamoka rake toss data was not completed yet. Lakes District will issue a report when done.

NEW BUSINESS:

Our October meeting will be on the 11th instead of the 18th (usually on the 3rd Saturday of the month). The reason is the NYSFOLA conference is on October 18th and Terry A. will be speaking about weed treatments and aeration projects! On October 11th we will have a quick meeting and then move on to stuffing membership envelopes.

Want to include a questionnaire in the membership mailing asking for feedback on lake level, weeds, algae, water clarity, etc. including are you satisfied, dissatisfied and why? Terry will preface the topic in her president's letter mentioning the "weed abatement tax" and a possible increase needed to sustain the effort. The membership letter will included a comment asking people to please return the form even if they do not wish to join the lakes association. Put it on the website too?

Does anyone else want to attend the NYSFOLA conference? It's a full day, home by 5:00 or so. Please call or email Terry A. if you want to be added to the list. Kurt and Cartha will be going.

There will be a treasurer's audit done after today's board meeting.

Last year Barry had asked if we could add an environmental impact committee but nothing was done. Ask the question: "What does what we 'do' do to the lake, the wildlife and the nearby environment?" Would like to check with Cornell Co-operative Extension, DEC, Soil & Water, EPA, etc. for ideas. As of this meeting, Barry, Gordon, Ron and Al agreed to work on this committee. Anyone else? Give it some thought and call or email Barry Pappas.

Investigate individual aeration systems: Blue-green algae was not a problem this year – the information says blue-green algae likes hot weather and stagnated waters. There were very few "positive" tests around NY State due to cooler temperatures and increased rainfall. We now have some owners with small water spray aeration systems in the lake in front of them this year. What if these systems could be as effective as the whole-lake \$140,000 system we have been working toward? Maybe we could be as effective with individual aeration systems placed in the areas where the blue-green algae had been last year. Andy mentioned Irondequoit Bay near Rochester – don't throw money away. Ed says Tractor Supply has a 1hp pump for about \$100. Brian says he was using one that cost ~\$125 and shut it off late July/early August because of the lower water level. Kevin likes the idea of giving homeowners an option but most of the systems are not very effective beyond ~20 feet radius. Stirring up the muck with a larger system like Tucci's will be more effective an abatement method than water fountains. Terry A. says maybe we ought to research it and give a list of options in the spring newsletter with personal results info.

Water testing: We have a team for Lamoka Lake but need a team for Waneta. Should be 2 to 4 people for each lake. Gordon Shafer willing to spearhead it for a while, but not long term but then Ed Sharpe volunteered. Need to add this topic to the spring newsletter also.

Individual water testing kits for wells. Schuyler County is working on this. You pretty much need to know what are the important things to test for instead doing a whole suite of very expensive tests: includes things like bacteria, heavy metals, pesticides and methane (the latter one before fracking comes to the area). Could ask Elaine Dalrymple with Soil & Water.

What's the BOD focus for this year? Health of the lakes.

Do we want to do another Weed EXPO this May? Same/Different? If it is the same we will need a different person(s) to chair it. Maybe more of an Info Meeting. What's to be expected for the coming season? Panel discussion with personal experiences w/ water fountains and possibly John Tucci and other people from other lakes. Maybe include well water testing, environmental impact committee, etc.

Any new ideas for a LWLA sponsored event?

Discuss attendance policy as stated in by-laws. It says we should each attend at least one-half of the seven meetings to be in good standing.

Spring newsletter to members only? No, we will continue to send it to all property owners as a means of fostering communication. So then what do members get for their membership that non-members don't? Directory, LWLA magnet, pride in belonging...

Lake lowering alert for October? This is the 3rd year extra draw down to 1097.5 for a three-to-four week period for owners to do maintenance of their waterfront areas. (The usual target is 1098.0 for winter so we're talking an extra 6 inches lower than usual.) We will start on or about Monday October 13th by having NYSEG open the gates. Should take 7 to 10 days to reach the target, then close the gates and hope we don't get a lot of rainfall. There's no way to control the level below 1098.0 notch. On or about November 7th we will let the lake come back up to 1098.0 assuming we get rain.

New look for website? (BTW: New/updated computer is not needed.)

LWLA magnetic calendar/activity reminder? Should we do this again? Terry has the 2014-2015 calendar of events and meetings. The magnet costs money...

Bumper decal? LWLA same as last year or something different? Let's go with the same design.

OTHER:

Committee volunteers – pretty much the same as last year. List will be updated and issued to the board members. Any new persons wish to sign up, let someone know.

Brian thinks the lake level committee should have a key to the Bradford dam so they can open/close gates without having to wait for NYSEG. – We will discuss the ramifications before we go to NYSEG.

Lake level is 1098.38 today; about 0.4 feet (in other words 4.8 inches) lower than our current target of 1098.8. Some people complaining about not being able to get boats out of lifts due to the current low level. Also people hitting props on bottom of channel.

Al Gerth says "Waterfront Tech" is in the area offering vacuum dredging for lake weed removal. Several places on both Lamoka and Waneta were done last year: including Wright's Rentals, Terry F. & possibly Dennis Fagan. It's expensive but they get rid of weeds and zebra mussels.

Jean says next Tuesday at 7:00 PM is the Tyrone budget meeting. On October 4th there is a harvest dinner at the Tyrone Firehall.

Kurt shared data from the latest lake water testing. The data shows Waneta had turned over but Lamoka was totally different.

Meeting adjourned at 11:36 AM

Next meeting: 10:00 AM Saturday, **October 11, 2014** at Tyrone Town Court

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Fisk