



SLPID APPROVED MINUTES

August 19, 2020, 10:00 am

A meeting of the Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District was held on August 19, 2020 at 10:00 am at the Town of Malta Community Park due to COVID-19 NYS "Pause".

SLPID Lake Administrator: Cristina Connolly . SLPID Commissioners: Tom Carrangi, Karl Hardcastle, Kathy Simmonds, Walter Supley. Assistant Treasurer: Michael VanPatten. Weed Harvesting Supervisor, Lonnie Van Buren, Lake Consultants: Tracey Clothier, Dean Long. Public attended: Pat Tuz, Victor Mazzotti, Town of Stillwater Supervisor, Ed Kinowski.

Call to Order: The monthly meeting was called to order at 10:00 am at the town of Malta Community Park by Chair, Kathy Simmonds. Chair introduced all Commissioners in attendance and welcomed new appointee Victor Mazzotti, appointed by the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors on 8/18/2020. Kathy requested all comments be held until after each report is presented. The Agenda was presented for review. Dean Long presented COVID attendance sheet and questions to all present, which all verbally agreed to no symptoms of COVID-19. 10:15 will be public hearing for budget.

Public Comments:

Pat Tuz (lake resident) publicly thanked Lonnie and the Weed Harvesting Crew for their additional efforts during the last storm to get rid of the weeds. Pat offered suggestion of purchasing a smaller weed harvester that could go in between docks. A smaller harvester would be helpful for the kayakers to keep close along shore and swimmers to enjoy swimming along shoreline. She is aware that the weed harvesting program is designed for deep water weed harvester which is good for boating but not swimmers/kayakers. She stated money is in reserves and could be used for the purpose of a smaller harvester.

Ed Kinowski (Town of Stillwater Supervisor) stated there are a combination of factors regarding the weeds, including where to dump them. This is the first time he has heard complaints about the amount of weeds as a result of the storm. There was a study approximately 5-10 years ago for dredging at Browns Beach. We need a plan of attack for each homeowner, municipality to review and assist with the weed harvesting program. Victor Mazzotti questioned where the engineering study is and if it would still be valid. Tracey Clothier said the Army Corp of Engineers would need to be involved. It would only cover 4000 cubic yards. Tracey stated we could review the process. There continues to be silting. They have pictures from 1994 going forward and it continues to be problematic. Stillwater is also looking at matting – which would require a substantial amount of matting. Victor stated they used matting on his personal property a few years ago and it does have issues. Victor questioned if there is anyone at DEC or Army Corp of Engineers that we could reach out to. When Stillwater purchased Browns beach in 2014 Ed personally walked the beach and hand picked all the weeds. They plan to hire temporary help in 2021 and hand pull weeds again. Ed also stated he has been receiving emails from residents that are paying taxes and do not have a view of the lake.

Secretary's Report: (Debbie Curto)

Public notice published for meeting. (with time and location change)

A review of the July minutes was presented, Walter Supley MADE A MOTION to accept the minutes as noted, 2nd by Tom Carrangi, MOTION CARRIED.

In process of reviewing the insurance applications for 2021. We also received notification of term life insurance for employees.

Opened an account on mailermate for lake notifications. To date 114 have signed up. Possibly of sending a weekly update.

Working on next issue of newsletter. Meeting with Sarah Cole for training.

Walter Supley MADE A MOTION to approve Secretary's Report, 2nd by Karl Hardcastle, MOTION CARRIED.

The following documents/exhibits used at the meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes
3. Public Notice

Public Hearing: 10:15 am, Secretary read public notice for public hearing presenting the 2021 budget Assistant Treasurer presented the 2021 budget. Total outflow \$461,000. Asst treasurer called for any comments. Ed Kinowski said a consideration rather than purchasing a vehicle, Cristina could reach out municipalities to borrow trucks rather than purchasing our own. Victor questioned what the aquatic plant survey was – Tracey explained this is the driving force used to manage and see what problem areas will be addressed in the following year. Ed said he would offer assistance/helpers with weed pulling for next season. The town has purchased 8 sets of waders this year to be used for the safety of the helpers.

Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION to close the public hearing 2nd by Karl Hardcastle. MOTION CARRIED. Walter Supley MADE A MOTION to approve the 2021 budget, 2nd by Karl Hardcastle. MOTION CARRIED. Budget will be forwarded to the County.

Assistant Treasurer's Report: (Mike VanPatten)

Register report and statement of revenue and expenditures were distributed to Commissioners via email prior to meeting for review (due to COVID). Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION TO pay bills in the amount of \$16071.17 2nd by Karl Hardcaslte, MOTION CARRIED. Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION to ACCEPT the Assistant treasurer's report 2nd by Walter Supley, MOTION CARRIED.

The following documents/exhibits used at the meeting: (submitted via email prior to meeting because of COVID-19)

1. Financial Statements: Balance Sheet, Income Statement.
2. Monthly Bank Reconciliations
3. Weekly Payroll Reports
4. Monthly Vendor and Invoices

Lake Administrator / Stewardship: (Cristina Connolly)

Cristina introduced Mark Lomely, Supervisor of Lake Stewardship program. Mark provided an overview of their daily activities. Inspection incoming/outgoing boats for weeds. Inspections are optional– but most boaters take advantage of them. Boat wash station is used frequently. They tend to see a lot of returning users. Visible police presence on the lake. Weekends are very busy. Power washer has been put through a lot of use cleaning off the boats. NYS Parks has stationed a weekend attendant for parking, which has been very helpful. Fishermen has voiced they are not happy with SLPID removing weeds. Fishermen have stated the size of the fish are much smaller. Could this be a result of overfishing? There have not been any fishing tournaments (due to Covid19) that we are aware of. Fish have definitely declined in the lake, which could be due to a series of factors.

Typically part of the Lake Steward program involves outreach programs. We have not been able to do any this year because of COVID. We do put out a display of various weeds on a table along with sheets so that boaters can identify them. We do have a lot of people review the information on the table.

Safety Issues: There are no accidents / safety issues to report.

Lake Level: Cristina stated she would be taking over the Lake Level Report from Tom Carringi. Cristina stated the level is 202.68 Walter Supley disagreed and stated his reading is 203.33 Tom Carringi agreed on the reading. Tom Carringi questioned Cristina why he is being removed from reporting lake level. Cristina stated he could continue to do it. He expressed he has been doing it for 3 years and would like to continue. Karl stated he wanted to express his thanks to whomever is controlling the dam. They have done a tremendous job maintaining the level during the past storms.

Boat Count is complete. We are reviewing the possibility of SLPID becoming part of the Adirondack Lake Council. We will further look into this during the winter months. We started in the Spring – but was put on

hold because of COVID. Recently met with Chazen Co regarding the 2 grants for Stillwater. They are at the data collection stage.

We received a call for missing buoy. (It was located at Lee's) Spoke with Marine Patrol – they are very happy with the set of buoys and the sign posted at the state boat launch.

There has been an increase in police presence. There were two - 911 calls. Two separate incidents, where the same pontoon boat was rented and fingers were amputated on each incident. There was also an increase in the amount of BWI issued. Police also received a 911 call on overturned jet skis.

Several calls were received after the storm regarding the weeds from property owners, which Lonnie can speak to during his report.

Other calls received were complaints of too many boats/kayaks in the water.

After last month's meeting, Cristina met with Mike to review all the financials to grasp a better understanding.

Cristina met with the insurance company at the boat garage for insurance inspection.

Discussion of changing the time of our monthly meetings. Cristina and Kathy felt it was helpful to have the meetings during the day so that other town Supervisors could attend. Secretary stated most town boards, ZBA, fire dept meeting are held at night which is generally better for the public to attend. Kathy suggested doing an early morning meeting (8:00 am). It was decided evening meetings work best at this point. Hopefully Town of Malta Community Center will be open beginning in September to resume the monthly meeting.

Northeast Aquatic Harvesting (Weeddo). Price quotes received from Northeast Aquatic and Solitude. Northeast Aquatic has offered a free demo on the lake.

CSLAP: (Karl Hardcastle)

A few samples of oxygen reading. Doing the 6th test on Tuesday and water test on Monday. Issue with Sucker Brook – high levels of e-coli. Chloroform counts about 1000. 2 sets of tests into the water shed. Route 70 (aka Deans Rd) off 423 – at culvert that where there are higher levels. It is outside the sewer district. Entire area has been forested. No subdivision up there. No obvious source up there. Will take another set of samples. Mike questioned he has not received any invoices from CNA as of yet. Visibility 3 ½ meters. Not a lot of chloroform as in the past. Walter Supley he has received 2 phone calls regarding how clear the water is.

Weed Harvesting: (Lonnie VanBuren) Very little harvesting. Water chestnut 7/21 – 7/31, 9 days – 7 days of actual pulling. (1 day to set up, 1 day to pull out) August 3,4,5 - clean up on the north end after the storm. 8/5 to Riley Cove. Then on to South end no cutting – just cleaning up. We are now back to cutting after 19 non cutting days. Currently at Stony Point – 11 loads per day. In past years we have had more weeds. We looked at reasoning – possibly could be the operator.

We need to look at getting more work done. At the present time, there are some towns that are working four 10 hours which yields more productivity. Lonnie stated Ed Kinowski could speak better on this, as town of Stillwater is currently doing this. Dean stated his brother works for town and it does increase productivity.

Kathy asked if that was something our crew was interested in doing. Karl commented it could be good use, as the harvesters would be off the lake on Fridays. Another option would be overtime. It would take extra overtime to get down to south end. Victor asked if we needed a formal motion to go to 4 day work week. No need as it is a schedule change only.

Lonnie wanted to state as Commissioners serve for only a few years, the weed harvesting crew has been around for many years and they are a valuable source of knowledge. He hopes that unnecessary repeat studies don't need to be done. He feels the harvesting crews should always be involved in the specifications before any bids or studies go out. He wants to make sure they are getting what they need and what they can use. Victor asked if he had any recommendations at this point. Lonnie stated yes, they need a new truck. Lonnie would like to do more harvesting as well as the chemical treatment. They are in need of pull out areas for weeds and also places to dump. Currently we are dumping at Bowman Orchards as they are not using the land. Farmers do not want them. Tom questioned how far Bowman is from the lake. Lonnie stated it is 2 miles. Belau farms (flowers) will take in the Spring and then again in the Fall. Our main spot is Bowmans. The truck and conveyor is 59 ½ feet – so we need to get in somewhere as well as pulling out. There are not many spots where we can do this. Victor asked what is on the wish list: Dump truck as well as another harvester. Discussion ensued about what was needed on the truck and what projected costs would be. It was decided we do a referendum vote at the next

meeting. Referendum will request the authorization to purchase a truck not to exceed \$75,000.00. Walter questioned if there was a process other than what was used last time on purchasing equipment. Victor questioned whether there are bylaws that he could review. Walter Supley MADE A MOTION to have a Referendum vote to purchase a new truck, 2ndy by Victor Mazzoti, MOTION CARRIED.

Mike asked how many more employees would be required. Lonnie stated 2 more. Many years ago, he recalls one season we had 3 harvesters and 2 trucks. Victor asked if there was any type of cutter that we could provide cleanup near docks. Pat asked if we could possible get one like Frank Parrillo has. Lonnie stated if we got a small one, that's all it would do would be shoreline. It's a 7 footer vs getting an 11 footer. The 11 footer provides more volume. Secretary asked if we could ask homeowners to clean up their lakefront and SLPID would do a pick up once a month. Question of how they would get weeds on the truck. They would have to use pitch fork. Board did not think this would be feasible option.

Weedoo – Lonnie said we should look into purchasing one. The rental fee is \$250 per hour. Cost of one is approximately \$90,000. Lonnie is in favor of having a demo. Cristina will look into this further. Victor questioned the contributions from the towns and how that operated. We are currently at year 3.

Weed Disposal - Cristina reached out to Larry King, and he swears it is good for feeding it to cattle. Lonnie stated they have tried to feed it to cattle and states it does not work. There are a few large farms in the area that we could try. Lonnie is not confident this is a viable option.

Aquatic Weed Control: (Dean Long)

Reviewed the South end treatment as well as in the north end. Treatment has been very effective this year. Two herbicide treatments worked well against target species non-native species. Weed harvesting takes care of the native species, which has been doing very well. Dean sent output report. The data monitors a full day worth of harvesting, length of harvesting and how many minutes the harvester has been harvesting and will be able to estimate the dump loads. Biobase data also provides diagram that shows estimated density of the plants.

Communications Report: (Walter Supley)

Between July 22 and Aug 18 reached over 5000 people. 26 new page likes, over 700 read articles which was over 125%.

Old Business:

Tom Carrangi stated there has not been any complaints about the rowers this year – because they have not had a huge presence. They are now coming back. The Sailing Club has been doing paddleboard lessons out in the middle of the lake. Karl is not sure how we could enforce how lake is used. Dean said you cannot write a law

Review Docks at Lake Local / 550 Union: (Dean Long) Back in 2016 recd permit for DEC for new batch of dock. 2018 switched to 550 Union. New owners submitted to city. They showed eliminating one cluster of docks. The cluster of Docks near bridge None of their plans from Dock Doctors, LA Gorup showed navigation channel existed. They showed eliminated. City engineer said docks need to be removed. Applicants said city has no jurisdiction over docks so they refer back to 2016 plans. City did not take action.

Saratoga Marina Docks – never notified by DEC for comment. Clear to Dean Saratoga Marina docks are too close to navigation channel. DEC retained the right to re examine navigation issues if it became a problem. Walter asked who would enforce this. Dean said DEC would be the enforcing agency. Victor asked about Army Corp of Engineers. DEC never examined navigation lines. They took the word of Dock Doctors that they were out of the navigation channel. A survey should be there. Victor stated he thought it is a safety issue. Karl feels it is important to have the survey. Cristina will contact Marine Service for information on navigation.

Tracy Clothier– Boat count completed on 7/19 with Karl Hardcastle. 360 boats on lake this year 527 54% increase from last year. Could be explained by weather and COVID-19. Tracey submitted report to commissioners via email. Mostly extra boats are sitting idle. Each boat has 16 acres. Not a real concern. Interested to review the data on accident when it is released. Tom stated every lake is filled with boats. Tom thinks it's a good thing. Most everything is closed and this is a good way for people to get out, get fresh air. 70% of the boat sales are first timers. Lots of new kayakers. There is a flag that can be put on kayaks so they can be easily seen. Tracey indicated there is a cap on how many boats you can get on the lake, as there are only

so many parking spots at the boat launches. Lonnie has also cleaned out area of water lilies which opened up additional areas.

Watershed – Tracey sent out a piece what they want it to look at. Need a continuous outreach component. We should reach out to the four municipalities and they need to reach out to their citizens and send the information to us.

New Business:

Marine Patrol – huge presence on the lake. They report there a lot of boats on the lake. Biggest problem is uneducated boaters. Need to educate. One idea is to have a designated area for kayakers. Question of how to enforce, each municipality would have to pass a law. Cristina will further look into this. Pat Tuz stated that at the Creek, there is a designated area “common” lane for kayakers. Cristina stated that in the past Debbie Curto organized boater safety courses and perhaps we can look into this again.

Resolution # 27

Motion by: Victor Mazzoti

2nd by: Walter Supley

BE IT RESOLVED that Kathy Simmonds be named as Commissioner, Saratoga Springs for the next 3 years. Current term scheduled to end on 12/31/2020.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

With no other business presented, Victor Mazzoti MADE A MOTION to Adjourn at 12:24 , 2nd by Walter Supley. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Curto
SLPID Recording Secretary