

Loon Lake Park District Association
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
December 16th, 2017 9 AM

President John Nick called the meeting to order at 8:56am

Attendance: George Greenwood, John Nick, Mary Flynn, Rich McCrum, Eric Lauritzen, Doug O'Brien, Rob Freligh, Jim Fregoe, Glen Vogel and Kevin Wickert

President's update: John Nick

Aqualogic status- reviewed \$85,700 in invoices instead of the \$90,000 budget due to some discounts from contractor based on performance issues. Contractor Aqualogic removed 42,665 lbs of milfoil from the lake in 2017 season. This is a significant amount of harvesting – John Nick advised town board that poundage is impressive but quality of work will be more evident next Spring. John Nick recommended to town to stay with Aqualogic. Thinks process is superior and not necessarily the contractor. Contractor does a nice job – moving locally to Johnsbury after buying business from father. John Nick feels the Aqualogic “solution” is superior and wants to stay with them. Cost of around \$90,000 may be reduced to \$85k and contractor has agreed to same time on lake for reduced fee.

Third party review of invasive status in Loon Lake is being recommended. John Nick wants discussion on if budget for invasive removal is efficient and proper to determine if we are going in the right direction. Survey to review will be \$1,500 to \$2,000 – not sure that LLPDA should use their budget for this review. John Nick has discussed with Town officials and there are no additional funds from town at this time. Amount for review would come from invasive removal budget. Rich McCrum suggested giving the current contractor a 2nd year, this will give us year over year data with same contractor (lbs removed vs. gallons). Decision to table discussion to later date was agreed upon. LLPDA may research our neighbor lakes to see their review process in the meantime for comparison. John Nick has discussed this program with Matt Simpson Jr and Bob Bombard of Warren County Soil and Water.

Our program for milfoil removal is now 11 years old – we have a desire to analyze our progress and efficiency. The LLPDA is committed to the preservation of Loon Lake and the proper management of invasives. Original efforts were using volunteers. In 2007 The Town of Chester hired Adirondack Ecologists. In 2010 the contractor was Lycott. In 2015 the LLPDA hired Aim and the current contractor, Aqualogic, they are in their 2nd year.

Secretary minutes from 9/2/2017 BOD meeting

Discussion on tiered pricing – Kevin Wickert to research the ability of LLPDA tiered pricing for our ability to give members greater choice to contribute additional amounts to our efforts. We have gotten a great deal of input from members looking for ways to support our conservation, education and safety efforts beyond the annual \$20 membership fee. Kevin will return in the Spring with a recommendation that fits our current membership needs and future programs.

Treasurer's report – Mary Flynn: Report approved with one small accounting change to Golf Tournament line item.

Mary Flynn says LLPDA will pay Aqualogic the remaining \$19,475 for the milfoil harvesting bringing our total to over \$86k. Payments to date for 2017 are \$66,225.00

Accepting minutes motion by Glen Vogel, no opposition. Motion passed.

Old business:

501C3 update Doug and John have forwarded applications to Terry Griesmer Esq. who is working for LLPDA on a volunteer basis. This should complete the cycle which began several years ago. LLPDA reviewed the Southern Schroon Lake Association as a model. Application will go in to federal government in a month and may take until June 2018 approval.

John Nick suggests that we identify as a 501C3 “pending” organization and start planning. Expectation that we will complete this organization change in the next year.

Paypal – Mike Baumis suggests that we do not want to use Paypal until we complete the 501C3. Additionally, if we collect dollars PRIOR to 501C3 status approval it is not tax protected. More to follow on this.

George Greenwood wants discussion on what LLPDA might do with any extra money that is potentially donated. Ideas included greater focus on invasives removal and review. Rich McCrum also suggested that donations to organizations like “helper’s fund” can be directed to organizations like LLPDA for our efforts to protect and maintain the lake. Kevin Wickert suggested more constable hours, John Nick suggested greater education for boating safety, etc. Any funds or expenditures need to be true to our mission – safety, education and preservation on Loon Lake

Membership drive / Road captains – George Greenwood says we are at 317 paid members in 2017. Road captains are up to 22 volunteers. We hope to keep that level of involvement which has helped educate the residents about LLPDA and what we do. Membership increases in White Schoolhouse Road and the trailer/RV park areas. Setting 2018 goal at 350 paid members. This year’s paid total is highest ever. John Nick congratulated George on a job well done and reminded him that the RV park is expanding for more residents and potential contributors to the LLPDA.

Short discussion about who can qualify as a member of LLPDA? Our organization welcomes anyone who has an interest in Look Lake.

2017 Water testing - Jim Fregoe reviewed the Rensselaer Polytechnic Report report on bacteriological examination of Loon Lake areas. Lake is in very good shape. The highest bacteria count is near the beach and the results of 11ppm is still drinkable. Dangerous levels are at 150 ppm and would be areas of concern. One main reason for bacterial problems in lakes are old septic systems. Loon Lake is blessed with underwater springs that helps keep lake water clean. Lake George had a problem with ppm of 300-1000. Storm water runoff going into the lake can also be a contributing factor. Our Lake has improved and continues to be very clean. Jim is suggesting that we stay with Paul Smith’s testing – the RPI report was a 2nd report for comparison. Cost was \$285. Town pays for this testing. Paul Smith’s testing will come in January 2018. Jim completes 4 sets of samples during the season. For 2018, we will stay with one test.

Finalize 2018 events for spring newsletter. Rich McCrum presented proposed calendar of events for 2018 asking for suggestions to add/delete. Proposed the removal the sail fest due to poor attendance over the last few years. George Greenwood motioned to delete, carried unanimously.

Discussion on the success of the fishing derby despite awful weather last year. Has now become a generational event. Fourth of July weekend is the ideal time to schedule – proposed for June 30 or July 7th. Glen motioned for 7/7/18 and motion carried unanimously.

July public meeting of LLPDA proposed for Sunday 7/8 – agreed unanimously. John Nick needs to schedule with Town. Boating course for next year will be in the same timeframe. Competed calendar will be expected in Spring 2018 newsletter.

Consideration on keeping/eliminating LLPDA dinner dance due to poor attendance from 2017. Group decided to keep event and scheduled for Friday, August 17. Attendance has been 75-80 in previous years, last year was under 60. We have some new volunteers to manage and organize the event. Glen and George have managed the event over the past few years.

Golf Tournament thank you notes all have been sent to Arnold, with exception of one. John Nick has and will forward. The LLPDA greatly appreciates everyone's participation and generosity for this important, annual event.

Financial audit - Sue Martin contacted John Nick saying that she cannot participate this year. Sue has done audits in the past. LLPDA requests a financial review of our books each year. This year we will be seeking a new volunteer. Anthony Capobianco has offered to help and John will speak to him about helping this year. Anthony is currently the Treasurer for Chester Shores.

List of topics to discuss with Town regarding issues on Loon Lake?

John Nick has created a list of outstanding issues brought to our attention from members over the past year. This list is accumulated from our membership over the last year on items that have brought complaints. Our plan is to bring the highest priorities on the list to the attention to the Town.

Our lake constable has decided to retire and the town will be seeking a new constable for 2018 year. Town will be deciding to advertise for the Constable position over the coming months. The annual cost of the constable each year for 100 hours if \$3,500. This amount includes cost of the Constable boat and costs. Town Supervisor Craig Leggett has proposed increasing the hours to 150 hours for 2018.

John Nick is asking 2 volunteers to sit with Town Board to discuss this issue. Rich McCrum and Rob have volunteered to participate along with John. The purpose of the envoy will be to create a conduit of information and concerns from LLPDA members to the proper Town Authorities for the betterment, education and safety for residents.

New business:

John Nick suggests LLPDA consider joining the North Warren Chamber of Commerce. Kevin Wickert suggested that we be active in the Chamber if we join. Doug O'Brien motioned that we join the Chamber for \$40. Motion carried unanimously. Rich McCrum will advise the community of our participation.

LLPDA has asked the municipalities to use brine instead of pure road salt during the winter. The salt ends up in the lake through snow plowing and run off. The use of salt water brine is friendlier to the lake and we thank the municipalities for testing the brine usage.

The speed limit on White Schoolhouse Road has been reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph. A LLPDA member, Tom Sliva has complained that the speed is excessive on that road and there are many walkers and hikers on the roadside.

From the floor:

Kevin Wickert asked about new board members. Group agreed that our board limits are 11 but are open to new members at the discretion of the President. We are free to open up the membership with agreement based on current and future by-laws. Kevin Wickert will propose new member at next meeting if allowed. Quorum is 5 members to agree to changes to by laws. Additionally, we are reminded that the meetings are open to the public.

Meeting adjourned by John Nick at 10:50am.