

LOON LAKE PARK DISTRICT ASSOCIATION, Inc.
ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2016
TOWN OF CHESTER MUNICIPAL CENTER

Ed Griesmer, President, called the meeting to order and thanked all for coming.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Terri Thomas made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes since they are posted on the web, seconded by Glen Vogel. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mary Flynn, Treasurer, presented the financial statement covering the period from January 1 through present day. She pointed out it is broken into 5 categories: General – which includes membership dues and is used to fund events, mailings, beautification, etc. The next three – Golf Tournament, Dinner Dance and Lake Management are specific and set aside for those functions. They are break even after the events or at the end of the year. AIM category is funded by property owners in the Loon Lake Water Shed and is specific to the removal of milfoil. The General category has a balance of \$3,807.64. This is the only money that is liquid as the other money is earmarked for specific purposes. Kathy Lauritzen made a motion to accept the report as submitted, Joanne Nick seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

It was pointed out that the AIM funds seem lower this year. This is due to the Loon Lake Park District taxes being cut by 50% this year. This was done by the Town of Chester due to a 2% cap that is mandated by the State. Supervisor Craig Leggett said that there are 2 different budgets. The LLPDA is a voluntary association which works closely with the Town Board. The AIM contract passes through the LLPDA and is earmarked for milfoil remediation. We received \$42,000 from the county for control of invasive species. The remainder came from park district taxes which includes all property owners in the watershed – not just lake property.

Friends Lake is now trying to establish a district to face this problem.

Supervisor Leggett said the town tries not to tax any more than they have to. If there is a need and consensus from owners to raise the tax they will consider raising it. They cannot raise taxes more than 2% or the rate of inflation. The Town Board is committed to taking care of the lake. When asked "What can we do?" he said to work through the LLPDA board to advocate for the increase. Joanne Nick pointed out that we requested the increase a few years ago and now it is back to what it was previously.

The LLPD (taxing district) also has \$50,000 set aside for future dam repairs. Right now the dam is OK. The engineers report came back indicating that it is safe.

Supervisor Leggett also talked about the Chester Challenge. It is a great program that was instituted this year and builds assets for the whole community and visitors. The 8 trails are family friendly and able to be completed by all ages.

He also thanked Arnold Jensen for all his years of service as Constable. The new Constable, Dave Cavanaugh, is a retired Warren County Sheriff and is a Constable in the town as well as on Loon Lake. He said he sees the position as an ambassador job as well as boating safety. He is contracted for 100 hours on the lake for the season. To reach him call Supervisor Leggett at 518-275-5484 and he will contact the Constable. For immediate needs dial 911. Don Martin expressed concern that by the time the Constable gets to the lake the problem has disappeared. Supervisor Leggett suggested we get the boat registration numbers and it will be investigated.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ed said that this is the 75th Anniversary of the Loon Lake Park District. In 1941 the State Legislature created the Loon Lake Park District in an effort to provide oversight for Loon Lake. Of particular concern was the ever changing water level and the dam was subsequently built. In an effort to support this action, the lake owners followed suit and created the Loon Lake Park District Association. The primary mission for our association has been protecting and preserving our beautiful lake for present and future generations. The primary focus for our board has been good stewardship. We have worked closely with former Supervisor Monroe and present Supervisor Leggett and the Town Board in our mutual interest in protecting and preserving our lake.

Recently milfoil has been our major challenge. Our Board of Directors and many volunteers have worked tirelessly to control invasive species. We also monitor the quality of our water and participate in Adirondack regional programs aimed at curbing the introduction and spread of invasive species. Eurasian milfoil continues to be our major challenge but there are more than 50 invasives in the Adirondack region and we need to do everything we can to prevent them from entering our lake. Our friends at Lake George are spending millions to combat 5 invasive species!

Ed said we have also emphasized the importance of lake community activities which help in providing an atmosphere that is enjoyable for young and old. He gave a special thanks to all those who help provide these opportunities for fun on our lake. In concluding this report he said it has been a privilege to work with such wonderful people around the lake. He said he is personally indebted to the Board of Directors for the leadership they have provided and will always recall his tenure as President with fond memories. He will continue to be active on the lake.

LAKE MANAGEMENT-INVASIVES SPECIES UPDATE

John Nick said that unfortunately milfoil loves our lake since it is shallow and gets lots of sun. LLPDA Directors sit with AIM and the Town Board and work out schedule. This year we are contracted for 6 weeks. Ed reported that AIM has already pulled 428 bags of milfoil from the lake – equaling 10,700 pounds. They were on the lake for two weeks at the end of May/beginning of June and will be back the weeks of July 5, July 11, August 1, August 8, and September 5. They have discovered new areas that they need to look at when they return. There is no bottle drop program this year but if you see any spots that need attention call John Nick. He will meet with AIM this Tuesday to reassess their focus. Meg asked what a volunteer could do to help. Marilyn suggested if you are out in a kayak bring a net and scoop up any milfoil that is floating. John said there are still 30 mats and rebars on the bottom of the lake that the APA requires us to remove. He and Rob are going to pull them and they could use some help doing this.

John said the growth of milfoil is effected by many factors and he is concerned this year since we only had 2 feet of ice and little snow fall. This means less winter kill this year and our warm summer increases the growth of milfoil. The number of boats chopping up milfoil also contributes to its spread. Almost 100 boats were launched July 4th weekend and larger boats are on the lake.

Ed said we remain active in our fight and are partnering with the NYS Fed of Lakes and the Adirondack Lakes Alliance. We also work closely with the Warren County Soil and Water District. The state has not addressed remediation and these associations are active in asking the state for additional resources and funds. Ed will continue to attend these meetings and represent Loon Lake.

John said a Board member goes to all town board meetings and will encourage the town to reinstitute the increased LLPD tax.

It was suggested we raise the dues to cover additional weeks of AIM on the lake. Rob said he felt that would be counterproductive and may decrease membership. Glen suggested a voluntary \$10 assessment. It was asked what is the optimum number of weeks we need AIM. John said he felt 10-14 weeks would be ideal but that cost would be better covered by the LL Tax District.

WATER QUALITY TESTING PROGRAM

Jim Fregoe said we are now performing testing through the Adirondack Lake Assessment program run by Paul Smith's. It compares our lake to 75 other lakes. Our lake is in good shape with salt coming off the road being our major problem. This kills the oxygen in the lake. We are testing higher than we would like in acid rain. The information we are receiving is helpful in seeing the direction the lake is going in. Ed thanked Jim and Nancy for their time. The reports are available on line.

BOAT INSPECTION PROGRAM-ADIRONDACK REGIONWIDE EFFORTS

The boat attendants say thanks to area residents for their compliance. Clean, drain and dry is now a state law. There are 122 invasives in upstate NY. The attendants are great and are washing boats for our lake and others. The tagging system is effective and is used by 55 other stations. Thanks also to the Highway Department for putting up the building. Ed said the Highway Department has been very cooperative and also did work on Kingsley Lane this year to help stop run off into the lake.

BUOYS, WATER LEVEL

The LLPDA maintain the water levels and buoys. The buoys go in before Memorial Day and out after Columbus Day. John said we need younger volunteers. The Town pays for the buoys.

HOMEOWNERS/PERSONAL STEWARDSHIP

We all have personal responsibility for the quality of the lake. Run off, faulty septic tanks, and fertilizer all pollute the lake. We can all play a roll. The Homeowners Guide has good tips on what we can do.

RECYCLING REPORT

Linda Saunders thanked Supervisor Leggett and Supervisor Monroe for their cooperation and said we are making great progress in recycling. The Landfill now takes glass, all plastics, flattened cardboard, and mixed paper.

LLPDA ROAD CLEAN UP

Roxy Griesmer said it is going well but they can always use more volunteers

LAKE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

JULY 15TH-75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE

Glen Vogel reported they have 67 reservations and room for a few more.

JULY 16-LOON CENSUS COUNT

Eric Lauritzen will perform the count the third Saturday of the month. Kathy said last weekend they saw 5 in their bay.

JULY 30-WATER CARNIVAL

This is always a lot of fun. Bring your children or grandchildren.

JULY 30-BOAT PARADE-4:30-LOON LAKE MARINA

Glen said to meet at the Marina and proceed counterclockwise around the lake. He said everyone gets a gift but some boats do not go back to the starting point to get theirs. He encouraged all to join in the parade or watch from the shore and cheer them on.

AUG.6-FAMILY HIKE DAY

Roxy Griesmer and Marti Townley will lead a hike up Mead Mountain. It is an easy hike for all ages and has a great view of the lake. It is on the Chester Challenge list. They had 50 participants last year.

AUG.12-MARV COLE LLPDA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Barbara Smith said it is filling up fast but at this time there is room for more. The cut off is 144 golfers. Sign up soon. All the proceeds go back to the town for scholarships, charities, etc

AUG. 13-SAIL FEST-2PM-ROCK ISLAND

Roy said last year they either had no wind or lightening so no races were held. This year it is just for fun and boats of all sizes are encouraged to join them.

BOATING SAFETY COURSE

Ed thanked Barbara VanVoorhies for teaching the class and said there were 16-19 enrolled.

TRI LAKES FUNCTIONS

They sponsor some great events which are listed in our Newsletter.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Eric Lauritzen presented the following nominations:

President – John Nick

Vice President – Rich McCrum

Secretary – Kevin Wickert

Directors – Beth Cole, Glen Vogel, Rob Freligh, Eric Lauritzen and Brian Bosan

Ed asked Brian and Kevin to tell us a little about themselves. Kevin said he is a small business owner from Saratoga and has been coming to the lake for 15years. He has been on Kingsley Lane since 2010. Brian said he has been coming to the lake since he was a teenager. He owns on East Shore Drive, has two children, and wants to preserve the lake for generations to come. Terri Thomas moved that nominations be closed and the slate be elected as presented. Nancy Fregoe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ed thanked the outgoing board members: Roy Layton who has served in capacities too numerous to list and has given generously of his time over the years; and Susan Jensen who has co-chaired the golf tournament and water carnival for many years as well as serving as a Director.

Glen Vogel thanked Ed for his many years of service as President and a standing round of applause followed. John Nick presented a plaque to Roy with thanks and appreciation for 25 years of service and to Ed for his many years as President.

FROM THE FLOOR-OPEN COMMENT

Al Muench thanked the LLPDA for their contribution to the Food Pantry Birthday Club.

Jim Fregoe expressed his thanks on behalf of the Helpers' Fund for our donation.

It was asked if there is a noise ordinance. There were complaints of fireworks after 11:00. Supervisor Leggett said yes but fireworks are now legal so enforcement is a new problem.

There were also complaints of barking dogs.

It was suggested that renters need to be advised of rules. Next year we will put a rules list in the newsletter and ask all those who rent to post it at all rentals.

Ed adjourned the meeting at 11:22 and said he hoped those present gained some useful information.