

BALLSTON LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting, June 17, 2014

**(Next BLIA Annual Meeting to be Held on Tuesday June 16, 2015
At the Ballston Lake Fire House at 7:00 pm)**

The 2014 BLIA Annual Meeting was called to order by President Pete Herman at 7:10 pm.

Members Present: Seventy five (75) members and guests were in attendance, including Town of Clifton Park Supervisor Phil Barrett and Town of Ballston Board Member Bill Goslin.

Speakers**Phil Barrett – Town of Clifton Park Supervisor**

Phil Barrett provided an excellent discussion dealing with the issues of drinking water and sewers. His discussion noted the following:

- A joint committee, tied to the issues, has been formed with the Town of Ballston.
- Studies were previously performed for East Side Drive twelve to thirteen years ago. The drinking water portion of the study was recently updated.
- The Town of Ballston has an earlier start on the sewer issue.
- Clifton Park is willing to bring in a larger audience with respect to drinking water.
- Clifton Park wants to be part of the program for water and sewers.
- The formation of “special districts” is possible.
- Would like to apply for Grant Money. Phil noted that New York State likes municipalities working together on projects.

Phil provided the following insight into how fast such a project could be completed:

- Studies need to be completed.
- Need to get “buy in” from residents in district.
- Need State Comptroller approval.
- Need DOT approval.

- Need DOH approval.
- A public hearing would be required.
- A very smooth process would optimistically take approximately one year to complete.

BLIA Lake Management Committee – Bob Duncan, Scott Miller, and Dave Pierce

Bob Duncan presented the results of:

A Study of Phosphorous Loading of Ballston Lake by Tributary Inflow

- Over the last 10 years, average phosphorous levels increased from 25 to 40 parts per billion (ppb).
- Three suspected sources:
 1. Reintroduction of natural sources through lake level changes and lake ecology changes.
 2. Septic and fertilizer from shoreline residential development.
 3. Inflow from the watershed. (**This Study**)
- Three different tributaries were sampled:
 1. Saunders Road
 2. Sweet Road
 3. Buell Heights
- Seven (7) storms were sampled.
- Buell Height's phosphorous was 4 to 6 times more concentrated and contributed more total phosphorous than the other two creeks.
- Weekly lake samples show seasonality of phosphorous measurements.
- Temperature impact via dissolved oxygen may cause the summer increase of phosphorous.
- Conclusions:

- Phosphorous enters the lake from creeks 3 times (80 – 140 ppb) more concentrated than it leaves the lake (40 ppb).
- Buell Height's creek has a mean concentration of 140 ppb with spikes up to 250 ppb (vs. EPA guidelines of 35 to 40 ppb for creeks).
- Buell Height's creek contributes 4 to 6 times more phosphorous per acre of water shed than the rural tributaries.
- There is a seasonal component for lake phosphorous observations that correlates with temperature.
- Recommendations:
 - In 2012 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) listed Ballston Lake as an impaired water way requiring a remediation plan.
 - Enhance practices to reduce flow, such as wooded stream buffers, storm retention basins, and artificial wetlands.
 - Consider sedimentation basins for Sweet Road and Buell Heights.
 - Roadside ditch cleanouts should be immediately seeded.
 - Further Study
 - Measure lake phosphorous to verify seasonality.
 - Study dissolved oxygen profiles to verify biological transport. – In Process.
 - Measure contribution of phosphorous by lake residents.
 - Measure tributary temperatures to determine temperature stratification, impacting measurements.
 - Bacteria tests for Buell Heights.
 - Follow up stream tests in 5 years to measure changes and impact from banned phosphorous in lawn fertilizer.
- Encourage the development of a municipal sewer system in the Ballston Lake watershed.

Drew Hamelink – BLIA Board Member and Town Sewer Committee

Drew Hamelink presented the following:

Ballston Lake & Watershed in Crisis – A Call for Action

A Lake in Crisis

- Phosphorous levels steadily rising
- Well above “eutrophic” (dying lake) threshold
- Phosphorous is the limiting chemical in plant growth. When it increases, growth explodes
- There have been documented cases of toxic blue-green algae each of the last two years
- This resulted in “No Swimming” warnings
- Exposure to these cyanobacteria can cause health problems!

A Watershed in Trouble

- Coliform contamination found in several streams in the watershed
- This contamination can cause a number of serious health issues

A Community in Trouble

- In 2012 Ballston Lake was officially listed on the ENCON 303d list of “Impaired Water Bodies”
- This means that under the Federal Clean Water Act, New York State is **required** to develop a plan to remediate
- It’s not a question of “IF” just “WHEN”
- If the Town acts now it can control the solution, if it waits until the State acts, the solution can be dictated
- Why do we have this problem? – Failing septic systems
- Why do septic systems fail?

- Poor geology – This area is underlain with shale which means no septic system can work well!
- Poor maintenance
- Age – Inevitable consequence of age, regardless of how well maintained Typical life expectancy ~ 30 years
- Even well designed, well maintained systems don't control phosphorous

This Isn't New News!

Multiple studies have come to the same conclusion:

- Years of BLIA data
- 2012 Bender Study
- 2005 CT Male
- 2001 Watershed Protection and Management Plan

Benefits of Sewers

- Reduce coliform in area streams
- Reduce toxic algae / plant growth in the lake
- Interest rates will never be lower, if we wait and have a solution dictated by New York State it will likely cost more
- Protects property value
- Potential home buyers generally prefer sewers
- For those who also want water the mapping and archeology studies will be done

Ballston Clear Water Initiative

- In response to concerns from the community members of the Town of Ballston chartered a committee of interested citizens in July of 2013 to review the watershed issues and make a recommendation to the town
- Bill Goslin – Town Board representative

Bill Goslin – Town of Ballston Board Member

Bill Goslin noted that Ballston Lake resident and BLIA Member Joe Pollard introduced him to the “need for sewers”. Bill further noted the following:

- The problem is failed septic systems.
- Town of Ballston organized a study for:
 - Ballston Lake
 - Buell Heights
 - The Route 50 Corridor
 - North end of town
- Will start with sewer system around the lake.
- Going to introduce a resolution to Town Board to go into more detail. Will discuss with Town Attorney about how to proceed.
- Need support from the people in Buell Heights and Ballston Lake.
- Cost projections at this time are only estimates.

Secretary’s Report: Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting were accepted as written.

Treasurer’s Report and Budget - Frank Shipp and Judy Brodeur

Judy Brodeur provided a discussion of the BLIA financial reports. Judy noted that copies of the report were available to attendees.

Bank balance as of June 17, 2014 - \$7469.97

Saving account balance as of June 17, 2014 - \$3000.42.

Judy discussed the 2014 Budget and noted that copies were available.

The Treasurer’s Report was accepted as presented.

President's Report – Pete Herman

Beaver Situation

Pete Herman noted that the beaver situation still exists. BLIA initiated a program to control the issue. Pete noted that three (3) beaver had been caught in the south end of the lake.

Geese Situation

Pete reported that the United States Department of Agriculture has already been on the lake to estimate the number of geese in residence. Pete was informed that Agriculture personnel would return during the first week in July and remove the geese. Pete noted that the meat is donated to food pantries to feed the needy. Pete noted the geese are removed because of the lake's proximity (within five miles) to Schenectady Airport.

New York State Boating Law

Pete Herman noted that children between the ages of 10 to 18 must complete a boating safety course and must have card with them when operating a boat. Pete further noted that he had just taught a safety course which started on May 03, 2014.

Committee Reports

Lake Management Report - Dave Pierce

Dave Pierce outlined the following plans for the coming year:

- CSLAP water testing, 8 tests a summer.
- Bacteria testing of lake water for fecal coliform, and total coliform. Town pays for this.
- Lake wide testing of shoreline septic issues.
- Stream walk of Sweet Creek to evaluate erosion.
- Application to SUNY Oneonta to develop a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan.
- Work with Dave Decker to apply for a grant from the Environmental Protection Fund.
- Run a water sample profile of Sweet Creek for Total Phosphorous, Soluble Phosphorous, and Total Suspended Solids for a major rain event.

- Lake study of Total Phosphorous and Dissolved Oxygen twice a day for 10-14 days.
- Work with town to develop a sediment reduction plan for the watershed.
- Report any algae blooms to the membership and send algae samples to DEC.

Membership – Frank Shipp and Sue Bishop and **Website** – Sue Bishop

The Membership Committee reported the following:

137 paid members paid as of June 17, 2014

A Membership Committee was formed with Sue Bishop, Judy Brodeur, Joanne DeVoe and Terry Harlow. The Committee plans to use social media (Facebook and the Website) to establish relationships.

A date of July 19, 2014 has been established for the annual neighbor to neighbor membership campaign.

Newsletter – Greg Adams

Greg Adams noted that in the past BLIA would issue one Newsletter per year. The number has now grown to 3 to 4 per year. A great deal of effort has been expended trying to make the Newsletter more interesting. Greg requested that BLIA Members contact him with any information that would be appropriate for the Newsletter.

Old Business

BLIA Summer Picnic

Greg Adams noted that the Annual BLIA Summer Picnic would be held on July 19, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Lakeside Farm Barn.

BLIA Efforts to Become a 501(c) (3) Tax Exempt Organization

Frank Shipp led a discussion dealing with his efforts to get a 501(c) (3) tax exempt designation for BLIA. Frank noted that the filing cost will be \$460.00. Frank noted the following advantages of being a 501(c) (3) organization:

- Contributions to BLIA would be a legal tax deduction for individuals.
- Will enable BLIA to solicit businesses.
- Assist with applying for grant money. Presently BLIA must pay a 10% fee to a surrogate when applying for grant funding.

- Will be able to obtain free software.

New Business

Recognition of Efforts by BLIA Board Member Frank Shipp

BLIA President Pete Herman presented outgoing BLIA Board Member Frank Shipp with a plaque for the outstanding contributions Frank has been to BLIA. Pete specifically noted the following significant Frank Shipp contributions to BLIA:

- While serving as Membership Chairman, BLIA membership has tripled.
- Put BLIA on a sound financial basis while serving as Treasurer.
- Involved with Saratoga Water Quality Committee – got grant money.
- Involved with getting BLIA in the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA).
- Updated Membership data.
- Successfully looked for individuals to serve on the BLIA Board of Directors.
- Became a good friend and encouragement to BLIA President Pete Herman.

Election of Officers

The following individuals were elected to serve on the BLIA Board of Directors:

Peter Herman, President
 Judy Brodeur, Treasurer
 Sue Bishop, Membership Chairman and Website
 Dave Pierce, VP Lake Management
 Greg Adams, VP Newsletter
 Pete Voss, VP
 Drew Hamelink, VP
 Paul Troidle, Director
 Scott Miller, Director
 Ann Pierce, Director
 John Gill, Director
 Gini Whetten, Director
 Dave Duglin, Secretary

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Dave Duglin

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