

BALLSTON LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting, January 05, 2016

Next BLIA Board Meeting will be on Tuesday March 01, 2016 at 7:00 pm at:

Carney's Tavern
Main Street
Ballston Lake, New York

Meeting called to order by President Pete Herman at 7:07 pm.

Members and Guests present: Greg Adams, Teresa Bashant, Bill Bashant, Judy Brodeur, Joanne DeVoe, Wes DeVoe, Dave Duglin, Bill Goslin, Drew Hamelink, Pete Herman, Scott Miller, Ann Pierce, Dave Pierce, Denise Thompson, Marty Thompson, and Nick Trotta

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the October 06, 2015 Board Meeting were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: Judy Brodeur

Treasurer Judy Brodeur reported the following and provided the Board with the 2016 Budget:

- Less expenditure was made in 2015 for chemistry testing. Dave Pierce noted that was due mainly because no major storms occurred during the summer.
- Balance in Checking Account as of December 31, 2015 \$743.15
- Balance in Savings Account as of December 31, 2015 \$10,013.42

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Presentation by Town of Ballston Board Member Bill Goslin

Bill thanked the BLIA membership and especially Drew Hamelink for all their help with the Sewer Project. Bill noted that receiving a low interest loan for the Project has been targeted for this coming spring.

Bill indicated that he would like to discuss the following items:

Visioning Committee

A committee headed by Mike Hale has been meeting for a few months on Thursdays at Villago's. The group is looking at things to do in the Town of Ballston to:

- Increase business

- Develop trails in the Town
- Development of the Route 50 corridor
- Farming

Bill expressed a desire to have BLIA represented at the Committee Meetings.

High Density Housing Development on the East Side of the Lake

Bill discussed the “high density development” that is presently occurring on the East side of the lake in the areas around Round Lake Road and East Line Road. Bill noted that developments are presently being built with a “high density bonus”, i.e., six (6) single family homes on an acre of land or twelve (12) multifamily homes on an acre. Bill noted that continued high density development in the Ballston Lake watershed is sure to have a negative impact on the lake.

Bill noted that significant development is occurring on the East side of the lake due to the “transfer of development rights”. More specifically, the desire of many individuals in the Town is to develop the East side of the lake while leaving the West side rural farm land. The future addition of sewers and water will only make the situation worse.

Bill indicated that he will be working to change the development zoning for the East side of the lake to remove the high density bonus. If unsuccessful, a building moratorium may be necessary.

Bill indicated that it is very important for the BLIA membership to attend Town Board Meetings when these zoning issues are discussed and voice their opinions. Meeting schedules can be found on the Town of Ballston Website.

Hawkwood Property

Bill noted that the conservation easement has been finalized at the former Hawkwood Estate. The park is 246-acres of land in the Town of Ballston that will be a “forever wild” publically-accessible preserve with trails. The park is located in the area of Midline Road and Route 50.

Committee Reports:

President’s Report: Pete Herman

Town Zoning Issue

Following discussion, it was agreed that BLIA would provide a position paper to the Town of Ballston on the subject of zoning and development in the water shed. The paper will be written by Scott Miller and provided to the BLIA Board via email for Board approval.

(Kindly note that a draft point paper, written by Scott Miller, was circulated by Pete Herman via email on January 11, 2016. The point paper was approved by the BLIA Board and presented to the Town Board on Tuesday night (January 12, 2016) by Dave Pierce. Dave

gave copies of the point paper to all the Town Board Members so they can think about it when they do the zoning updates. Dave also made another pitch for them to consider the stream buffer report that the Land Conservation Committee developed in 2005).

CSLAP Testing

Pete Herman noted that CSLAP testing will continue this year. Pete indicated that he was contacted by NYSFOLA with a donation request. It was agreed that the subject would be addressed by the BLIA Board under New Business.

Beaver Update

Pete reported that BLIA had received a report from trapper Jim Comstock on the Ballston Lake beaver situation. Jim reported that the lake is in pretty good shape. The beaver count is down. Jim did note however that “willow weed” was growing in the outlet and blocking off the channel.

Lake Buoys

Pete noted that he is still getting forms dealing with installing and removing buoys on the lake. BLIA is not using the forms any longer because the State Department of Parks and Recreation is handling the buoy installation and removal.

During discussion it was noted that a number of the buoys have been moved, probably not by nature. They have not been reset properly by Parks and Recreation. Dave Pierce volunteered to contact Parks and Recreation about the buoys that have been move. (Kindly note that on January 06, 2016 Dave Pierce emailed the BLIA Board to note that he had called Parks and Recreation and was informed that they would relocate the buoys in the spring).

Town of Ballston Emergency Operations Plan

Pete noted that he was contacted by Dennis Pokrzywka who is the co-chair of the Town of Ballston Local Emergency Management Committee. Dennis noted that the Committee is currently applying for a grant to support updating the Town’s Emergency Operations plan. The Committee would like a letter of support from BLIA.

Kindly note that Pete Herman signed the letter of support from BLIA. Dave Duglin will duplicate and forward the letter. (Copies of the letter were subsequently sent on January 06, 2016 by Dave Duglin to Karen DeAngelo, Town of Ballston Community Library and the Town of Ballston Supervisor.)

Lake Management Report: Dave Pierce

Since the last BLIA meeting we undertook the following activities:

1. Collected stream samples behind Stevens School to ascertain if their septic system added to the bacteria and phosphorous levels in the creek we sample on Main Street. Both the phosphorous and bacteria levels after a half inch rain fall that week were very low. Total phosphorous was 9.5 ppB and fecal coliform was 5 colonies/100ml. The levels at the

Main St. site for these tests were total phosphorous 29.4 ppB and fecal coliform 360 colonies/100ml/. This sampling was paid for by the Town of Ballston.

2. I attended the International Conference of North American Lake Management Society November 17-20 in Saratoga Springs. After BLIA voted to pay for the Wednesday thru Friday part, I added the all day workshop on the 17th which covered "Lake and Pond Phosphorous Inactivation and Interception. The whole conference was wonderful with exceptional speakers. The conference covered multiple topics from invasive species controls, to algae and phosphorous management techniques. The scientific community is getting a handle on the problems and mitigation techniques. It is our law makers and governments who are standing in the way of real progress with improving our watersheds.
3. By attending the conference, I was able to talk to many exhibitors and lake managers. I negotiated a 10% reduction in the price of a dissolved oxygen meter that BLIA needed to purchase.
4. I was able to discuss the sedimentation issue on the Sweet Road creek with the engineer from Princeton Hydro. They felt that there is a solution to this issue. I approached Joe Whalen and he agreed for the Town to fund \$500 for a preliminary study with the engineer. On December 9th Joe Whalen, Blue Niles, Bob Duncan and I spent 2 hours walking the creek to examine the sedimentation issue. A report will follow in January.
5. Scott Miller, Bill and Theresa Bashant and I have met a few times to develop a map of areas in the watershed that we feel the Town should include in a Master Plan of protected landscapes. The areas we want to protect are stream buffers, wildlife pass throughs and recreation connectors with other towns.
6. I have contacted Dr. Boyer to get the final report on our boat trip around Ballston Lake in August. The Summary of the report states:

Water tested negative to cyanobacteria toxin on August 25th.

The phosphorous levels are significantly higher at the north end of the lake.

The water is warmer at the north end.

Chlorophyll levels are higher at the north end.

Organic material is very high at the mouths of streams entering the lake.

Blue green algae levels are highest from the narrows northward on the east side of the lake, and on the west side from Saunders Lane to Powers Lane.

Probable septic leakage is highest on the east side of the lake along Eastside Drive, and from Pearce Lane northward to the input from Sweet Creek.

Membership and Social Media: Suzanne Bishop, Judy Brodeur, Joanne DeVoe, and Terry Harlow

FINAL MEMBERSHIP TOTAL FOR 2015 = 202

Kudos to Joanne DeVoe for arranging our membership with the Southern Saratoga Chamber this year. They are good partners!

We believe that our positive presence in the media (traditional and modern!) regarding our events and work on the Sewer Project generated support for our organization. We need to keep the momentum up and be sure that we are seen as a group of action, vision and problem-solving. It attracts members!

There was some discussion at our last membership/communications meeting to put a bit more sizzle into clean up day. Perhaps more advance publicity and a community beautification project added to the roadside clean up? Perhaps a community pot luck picnic lunch at the Firemen's Grove? (We have to take a look at resources) Hopefully, the membership mailing will pull in some new volunteers for this. It is interesting that some of our "sewer project" volunteers - especially from Buell Heights- think it would be nice to get together with lake folks to celebrate our joint success. Great idea! Let's do it!

2016 Membership

Letters and renewal forms have been mailed. We are encouraging payment by February 14th and we will again have a "Fly Over" drawing for the members who have paid by then.

This year we plan to publish paid members' names in the newsletters unless they indicate NOT to on the renewal form. We know that people like to see their name in print (and check up on others!) and we think it will help people to know if they are current.

FaceBook- 353 "Friends"

Joanne and Judy keep this site active. It is very popular - we co-promote events like the BLFD Santa Visit, Our Lady of Grace's blood drive, the acquisition of the new town park land, as well as our local businesses like Lake Side, Villago, and Carney's. Christmas was especially fun when we shared photos of Santa on a jet ski, a water skier and kids from East Side and Westside jumping into the lake on Christmas day. We get likes from beyond the "lake" area so it is a nice community communications vehicle.

Future

We would like to go ahead with the historic tour of the lake by boat that was replaced with last fall's castle tour. We are trying to get a date from Rick Reynolds and we believe we have solved the sound system issue.

Noteworthy

The "Hello Snow...Bye, Bye Birdies" party was a smashing success. Matt and Stephanie at Carney's put on an awesome tropical buffet for us. Thank you to Villago, Rocco's and

Carney's for generous gift certificates for our door prizes. And, again thanks, to our "pilot" for letting us have a "Fly Over" drawing!

Website

Not particularly active, but important for communications.

Newsletter: Greg Adams

Greg Adams reported that the last Newsletter was sent out in October prior to the Sewer Project vote and was well received. Greg suggested that the next Newsletters go out in the March/April time frame and prior to the June BLIA Annual Meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed that March 15 would be the deadline for input for the next Newsletter with submittal to the Membership April 01, 2016.

Old Business:

Sewer Committee Update: Drew Hamelink

Drew Hamelink reported the following:

- The next step after the Referendum was to apply to the Office of the Comptroller for the creation of a sewer district. The process typically takes three to four months with the Comptroller's Office asking questions about the Project. Delaware Engineering has answered all questions and has completed the final package. Approval is expected by the end of the month.
- Delaware Engineering will send a request to the "Clean Water Revolving Fund" in an effort to obtain a 50% reduction in loan rates. This year the Ballston Sewer Project does not make the approved list. However, some projects above us may not go forward and our project could move above the cutoff point (bypass project). Should know about bypass possibility by May.
- Nothing happening on Sewer Project engineering work at this time. Will begin hopefully next year when funding is approved.

Dolomite Asphalt Plant

Ann Pierce noted that Dolomite has made a proposal to change the design of the asphalt plant from a "batch mix" to a "drum mix" plant. A drum mix plant would not need a variance from the Town Of Ballston for the stack associated with the batch mix plant. Ann further noted that the Planning Board has not received a "site plan" from Dolomite for the "drum mix" plant. Subject expected to be discussed at the January 20, 2016 Planning Board Meeting.

BLIA Bylaws Review

Tabled. Agreed to be addressed at the March BLIA Board Meeting.

New Business:**BLIA Donation to Dr. Boyer's Laboratory**

Following a discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to donate \$250.00 to Dr. Boyer's Laboratory.

Town of Ballston Park and Recreation Committee

Following a discussion, it was agreed to solicit BLIA membership participation in on the Town Park and Recreation Committee in the next BLIA Newsletter.

BLIA Donation to the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA)

As Pete Herman noted in the President's Report, he was contacted by NYSFOLA with a donation request. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to donate \$200.00 to NYSFOLA in recognition of their continued support of water testing at Ballston Lake.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Dave Duglin

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**Carney's Tavern
Main Street
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