



## SLPID **APPROVED** MINUTES

September 17, 2020, 6:30 pm, Malta Community Center, Malta NY. Meeting was also made available via Zoom.

SLPID Lake Administrator: Cristina Connolly. SLPID Commissioners: Town of Saratoga: Tom Carringi, Commissioner at Large: Victor Mazzotti (via Zoom) City of Saratoga: Kathy Simmonds, Town of Malta: Walter Supley. Assistant Treasurer: Michael VanPatten. Weed Harvesting Supervisor. Lake Consultants: (via Zoom) Tracey Clothier, Dean Long. Excused: Commissioner, Town of Stillwater: Karl Hardcastle.  
Public attended: Jim DeMasi.

**Call to Order:** The monthly meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at the town by Chair, Kathy Simmonds. Kathy requested all comments be held until after each report is presented. The Agenda was presented for review. COVID attendance sheet and questions was presented to all present, which all verbally agreed to no symptoms of COVID-19. Kathy noted there is referendum vote tonight for the purpose of a new truck not to exceed \$75,000.00. Voting will end at 8:00 pm tonight at which time all votes will be counted and announced by Recording Secretary.

### **Public Comments:**

Jim DeMasi, representing SLA publicly thanked Dean Long for the presentation at their annual meeting. Jim questioned whether the annual boat count included kayaks. He noted there is an increase in docks. Jim also questioned when the count takes place. Tom Carringi stated it is done at peak. Cristina Connolly responded that it is typically done at the same time each year. Jim also offered his support and assistance from SLA to SLPID. Jim also noted the excessive amount of weeds on shore and he wonders if this is because of an increase in boats, docks. Kathy questioned whether the boat count was posted on the website. Cristina stated, not yet as there is more to add to the boat count to make it complete.

Pat Tuz, lake resident was not at the meeting but forwarded an email with concerns. She would like to have a sign displayed in her yard saying she took the Lake pledge, boating survey was well done. An observation since the Lake is quietened down, her resident muskrat has come back out. She is wondering if the fish have been hiding as well from the increase in lake usage this summer. Tom Carringi stated there is an issue with muskrats.

### **Secretary's Report: (Debbie Curto)**

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

A review of the August minutes was presented, Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION to accept the minutes as noted, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Walter Supley. MOTION CARRIED. (typo waiters to waders)

Updates to website were completed.

Worked on newsletter and mail notifications. Will be attending webinar for mailermate.

Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION to approve Secretary's Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Walter Supley, MOTION CARRIED.

The following documents/exhibits used at the meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes
3. Public Notice

### **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 \$42,794.00 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vic Mazotti, MOTION CARRIED.

Mike indicated there is an increase this years in expenses. It was noted \$175,000 paid out to Solitude which was \$100,000 more than was budgeted for 2020. SLPID will be in the déficit at the end of the year. Dean Long commented the reason this was much higher was because the board approved additional acreage to be treated. Walter noted that we spent \$100,000 more than anticipated but the residents dont know we actually spent and we still get beat up by them. Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION to ACCEPT the Assistant treasurer's report 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)**

Boat Wash station continues to be very busy.

Took course at Paul Smith's College on Aquatic Invasive identification.

Last day for Lake Stewards will be October 12<sup>th</sup>. We are down to a staff of 3. Sheriff Marine Patrol pulled their boats out last Monday.

2 / 911 calls- calls on Wednesday. A drowning and a second for an overturned kayak which not one was hurt. The city of Saratoga Springs responded to both and had to wait for volunteers from Malta to come with the boat, there needs to be a better plan. The Sergeant ask Cristina to open up discussion with the Police and Fire Captain as well as other law and emergency response teams on the lake.

Attended a webinar on OGS vehicle marketplace procurement.

Elliott Cresswell has been elected as the next SLA President. Had a good discussion with him on what SLPID is and does, made a deal to keep in touch monthly and attend SLA meetings when possible for open communication.

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

### **Lake Level: (Tom Carringi)**

202.54

**CSLAP:** (Kathy Simmonds for Karl Hardcastle)

Karl was unable to attend the meeting this evening. CSLAP Reports have concluded for this year.

### **Weed Harvesting:** (Supervisor)

Working on the North end for 3 weeks (Fitch Rd to Nelson Rd). 31 days have been for cleanup which includes 10 days of water chestnut harvesting. Eel grass is mixed in the Celery grass. Need to find out if there is other ways to get rid of the weeds. Walter commented he cleaned an area of 400 feet along his shoreline. Following day, weeds were in front of his property – this was not from the weed harvesters. Its from the wind. Walter noted the water is clear. Lonnie reported 128 truckloads taken out of lake which equates 320 tons. Need to review for next year.

Cristina noted some residents are using fences to not have weeds on their property. Dean did not recommend them. Cristina suggested giving property owners options to get rid of weeds. Tom asked Lonnie what would be on the wish list. Lonnie stated another harvester. Issues continue to arise as to where we can dump weeds. Jim DeMasi suggested to Lonnie to send him the information for the SLA newsletter.

Question arose if DEC or ECON can provide direction or guidance for weed control. Response was SLPID has Dean Long, Solitude to put together a plan. Dean will look at methods to control the celery weed. Victor Mazzotti asked if we could do any more cutting.

### **Aquatic Weed Control: (Dean Long)**

BioBase reporting should be complete next week. Sample data is computerized. Weeds started out later this year. Far few algae blooms regionally in area lakes. Dean obtained mapping from EDP showing the navigation channels and buoys. Shows that the Saratoga Marina has more docks and extended out than on initial plans and will ask DEC to re investigate. DEC approved without documenting where the navigation channel is. With the combination of 2 marinas, docks are producing constriction. NYS Marine Services have pulled out buoys already, which creates more confusion.

Cristina Connolly met with Marine Services – placement of buoys changes every year. They asked if SLPID had any suggestions on placing the buoys.

### **Communications Report: (Walter Supley)**

Walter boosted the facebook site costing only \$10.00 reaching over 700 people. Walter felt this was an easy method to build awareness. Cristina asked about submitting articles and regular press releases to the newspaper. Lake George does and receives positive response from that. Walter commented, Newspaper and radio advertising is not a feasible option. Social media is the way to go. Facebook is very targeted. Digital technology is a powerful tool to increase communication. Money should be focused on these areas. It should be noted, Walter used his own funds to boost the awareness.

### **Old Business:**

Watershed management plan– (Tracey Clothier)

Articles for newspaper –Tracey reached out for topics of interest and requests them to keep coming. Short report showing cleanup of lake by Lonnie.

Boat Count - 706 boat slips in the area south of bridge to Fish Creek Marina. 223 boats were out from marina (32%). Boat launch is limited by parking. It is estimated that no more than 1/3 boats are out on the lake.

Updating the management plan. Meeting with Dean. Updated water quality, weed data updating maps. Next year reach out to the towns for their support. Look for what are the strengths, get feedback, then write a recommendation and plan. Present our findings. Kathy asked for time submissions so that we can be ready to reach out to the towns. Kathy asked about pricing. All background work will be done this fall. Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION to authorize Dean Long and Tracey Clothier to update the 2021 Stormwater Management Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Walter Supley, MOTION CARRIED.

Cristina Connolly spoke with Sergeant Gurney in the Sheriff's office about funding from SLPID for more law enforcement on the lake, which is needed. SLPID could go into contract with marine patrol

for a certain amount of money for more hours. SLPID could then state wanting law enforcement on specific days and times. The cost for man power is approximately \$41- %0 per hour. Example, \$5000 would be approximately an extra 100 hours.

Kathy asked Walter for the minutes to be unlocked on the website and the draft minutes to be available within 2 weeks.

### **New Business:**

Walter Supley – Walter suggested that it be noted we had discussions on fish stocking. Stock fish in Kaydeross (Trout) We should have discussion of opportunity to restock lake with fish. Dean stated they used to stock walleye. He thought the number was 300,000. Dean is unaware if this has been done in the last 5 years. It was asked that Cristina look into this with DEC Fisheries.

Dean Long – contacted EDP to get pricing to use drone to map 23 miles of shoreline. Cost for project is approximately \$7500. EDP concerned about privacy issues. Walter questioned how this would be any different any the google mapping. Dean stated it gets down to 1”.

Kathy Simmonds requested a list of projects for future considerations from Cristina which include: Update the watershed management plan, mapping the entire lake shoreline, contracting with marine patrol for more law enforcement, purchase a pontoon boat for lake surveys and floating classrooms (current boat is not safe or easy), floating demo island, demo shoreline buffer and rain garden, contest for property owners on “Take the Pledge” for the best shoreline buffer, dredging project with towns to clean the streams and run-off in the lake. Kathy stated is sounds like we are already making progress on most of these.

With no other business presented, Walter Supley MADE A MOTION to Adjourn at, 7:55 pm<sup>2nd</sup> by Tom Carringi. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deborah Curto  
SLPID Recording Secretary