



SLPID **APPROVED** MINUTES  
December 17, 2020, 6:30 pm, Via Zoom

SLPID Lake Administrator: Cristina Connolly. SLPID Commissioners: Town of Stillwater-Karl Hardcastle, Town of Saratoga-Tom Carringi, Commissioner at Large-Victor Mazzotti, City of Saratoga- Kathy Simmonds, Town of Malta- Walter Supley. Lake Consultant- Tracey Clothier. Assistant Treasurer- Michael VanPatten.  
**Excused:** Weed Harvesting Supervisor: Lonnie VanBuren. Lake Consultants- Dean Long.

**Call to Order:** The monthly meeting was called to order via ZOOM at 6:34 pm by Chair, Kathy Simmonds.

**Public Comments:**

John Cashin (sent package of material) in response to SLPID Fall Newsletter article relative to a proposed subdivision. The proposed project is located in the Town of Saratoga. Town has been working closely with the developer with SEQR issues. Kathy stated a Public hearing was held 2 years ago, and the town has been doing their due diligence. Kathy Simmonds reiterated SLPID is not involved with land use issues. SLPID will monitor the project as it pertains to the lake. John Cashin feels the board should become more engaged, not just read the planning board minutes. He further encouraged the board to visit the site, see how it impacts the lake. (Sediment and erosion) Victor suggested Dean go over and take a look at the project. Tracey stated that Dean has taken a look and it has morphed. Still working on the storm water runoff, Tracey and Dean could advise the town on anything they might have missed. It is a major subdivision. We (SLPID) are not a land use agency. We can only give comments on where they can make improvements. Tom mentioned the stream on that property goes directly into the lake. Vic asked that Dean and Tracey take a look and get back to us. John hopes there will be an environmental impact statement. Walter questioned what percentage of trees were to be taken. 56 acres was the answer given by John Cashin. Total project is 110 acres. Total number of homes will be 32. Walter asked if there is a number of acres that can be cleared. Kathy stated they are in a conservation zone and they are in compliance. SEQR has not yet been completed. Vic asked for the name and phone # of the environmental attorney that the town has hired. He is located out of Glens Falls (Mark Schachner). Victor will reach out to him. Walter stated he has given his 3 minutes of comments to John Cashin for additional public comment. John stated he has been following the project closely. He has all the planning board minutes. He would like to see more involvement from SLPID with this project.

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

Secretary addressed the board regarding the position of recording secretary. Since legislation in 1986 the SLPID recording Secretary was paid a salary on a monthly basis, with no benefits of retirement, vacation, etc accrued in the County government system. In June of 2020, for reason that were not fully explained, the secretary position was transferred to become an employee of SLPID and paid hourly. Time sheets requested documenting 15 minute increments. I have held this position for almost 20 years and have always acted in a professional manner. NEVER has a commissioner approached me to indicate I was not doing any service that was asked of me or performing inadequately. Throughout all the years, a landline was maintained by the secretary. The landline line was cancelled and a cellphone issued to both the lake administrator and the secretary (documented in approved minutes). After your Executive Session last month, you called me in to explain why I have a phone and insinuate that none of you have the knowledge that I have one and further I am to surrender the phone. All SLPID employees have a phone. (Lake Administrator, Weed Harvesting and another one at the boat launch station). Secondly, pay increases have been approved for all

employees effective January 2021 with all staff receiving pay increases, with the exception of the Secretary. I demand to know why I am treated so unjustly and harassed by this board.

Secretary requested copy of packet sent by John Cashin to commissioners for official record. Kathy will send to secretary.

A review of the November minutes was presented, Tom Carrangi MADE A MOTION to accept the minutes as noted, 2<sup>nd</sup> by vic Mazzotti, MOTION CARRIED.

The following documents/exhibits used at the meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes

### **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. Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION to pay bills in the amount of \$10669.51, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Carrangi, MOTION CARRIED.

\$5000 Deposit on new truck was sent.

Working on NYS Sick Leave Policy.(is it paid or unpaid) NYS rules less than 1 million dollars in revenue and less than 5 employees, no paid sick leave is required. If more than 5 employees they must be paid. 1 hour sick leave for every 30 hours worked. Mike will be writing a letter to NYS Dept of Labor for clarification based on our unique circumstance. Walter asked if unused sick time would be carried over year after year. Cristina answered yes, the hours do accrue and carry over. Cristina is working on manual for employees identifying sick time and vacation time.

Victor stated he contacted Public Sector HR Consultants. (Jeff Travers) Their fee is \$175 hourly. We may also consider a labor attorney opinion. They did state no pay is required for federal holiday and it is up to the discretion of the board. Victor stated it could be further discussed in executive session. They could also review the Human resources / personnel manual to ensure it is in compliance. SLPID is considered a special purpose unit (of government). Walter Supley MADE A MOTION to pursue Victor's suggestion to contact HR Consultants and labor attorney consultation, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karl Hardcastle, MOTION CARRIED. Victor will report back and Cristina will reach out to Jeff Travers.

Mike requested the printout of all lake steward employee payroll hours/time sheets. Detailed time sheets were not submitted because of COVID. Cristina will go through her records and complete the time sheets and reach out to Mark, if needed. (Lake Steward Supervisor) for the reports.

Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION to ACCEPT the Assistant treasurer's report 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vic Mazzotti, MOTION CARRIED.

The following documents/exhibits used at the meeting

1. Financial Statements: Balance Sheet, Income Statement.
2. Monthly Bank Reconciliations
3. Weekly Payroll Reports
4. Monthly Vendor and Invoices

### **Lake Administrator: (Cristina Connolly)**

Safety Issues: No report

Lake Stewards: Preliminary report is out. Final report not yet filed. Short review: 29,000 boaters (2020 season) vs. 17,000 last year. Very, very busy.

AquaMarine (conveyor) should have a final price in the next few days. \$65,000 – approximate cost. Will cost additional for delivery

EverBlue Lakes - They are still working on recommendation on aeration.

**Harvestor:** Karl Hardcastle asked on the order status. Cristina stated it has not been ordered. Looking at a date in January to finalize. Cost estimate \$300,000. Mike questioned the costs to review for the reserved funds. Karl questioned how much cash we have in reserve. Vic questioned when the contracts are up with the municipalities. Kathy stated the contracts will be up in 2022. Karl was concerned using all the reserved funds. Mike stated 2020, SLPID paid double the amount of money budgeted for treatment. Karl stated the results were good in the south end. Walter questioned what the annual budget is. Mike stated \$400,000 through tax payments, \$5000 from City, \$3000 from the 3 towns. No grants in 2020. Vic asked if there are any other grants to pursue. Mike stated Tracey looks for the grants.

**Weed Harvesting:** (Cristina Connolly for Lonnie Van Buren)

No report.

**Lake Level:** (Tom Carringi)

201.55

**CSLAP (Karl Hardcastle):**

Membership for 2021 is due in January. Fees: \$175 + Deep Sampling \$470. Karl will obtain the 2 waivers for the volunteers (as well as himself). Karl will complete application, then send to Mike. Mike will issue check and then mail out application. Walter Supley MADE A MOTION to authorize payment for membership and deep sampling, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Carringi, MOTION CARRIED

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

Sent via email. Vic was pleased with information received and potential benefits of the islands. Dean suggested building them in house by the lake stewards. They do offer a list of benefits including absorbing phosphorous keeps water clean; serving as fish reef. Probably should have some type of beacon or warning signs, reflective flags on them. Likely order 4 of them. Sounds beneficial. Sucker Brook usually high in phosphorous. Karl mentioned that its likely high because of the fertilizer. Browns Beach (Cold Spring), Mouth of Kaydeross, Nielson Road. Golf Course (large sediment) Walter Supley MADE A MOTION to pursue 4 islands. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vic Mazzotti, MOTION CARRIED. Kathy interjected and stated she would like to see 2. Tracey stated there may be a grant program Capital District Prism. Grant Program through DEC – they will administer. 4 different parts to it. This may be a fit for one of the priority sections. Tracey would need a yes from the board to pursue. Top amount to apply for is \$25,000 and it is not a match. Walter is interested in getting corporate sponsors for the islands. Vic also stated we should approach SLA. Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION to authorize Tracey to apply for grants, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Carringi, MOTION CARRIED. Tracey would like to have Dean make a formal proposal for the islands. Grant is due January 28.

**Water Shed Management Plan (Tracey Clothier)**

Grants are restricted right now, very few. Tracey monitors them very carefully. Tracey should have a good amount of the report by the end of the year and will submit to board for review. (parts and pieces as they are completed). Tracey asked when the next newsletter should be. It was determined February for Spring would be a good time.

**Communications Report: (Walter Supley)**

Up to 406 followers on facebook page. 347 likes on the publication.

**Old Business:**

Bylaws, Executive Session and Conflicts of Interest. Cristina forwarded corrected bylaws. Cristina advised reviewing the bylaws annually and changes can be amended at anytime. Tom Carringi

suggested having a standard time and date for each meeting. Kathy stated we had flexibility during the year because of Covid and suggested today at 3 pm because of the snowstorm. Tom also questioned the award recognition night and bonuses paid to weed harvesting crew. Kathy stated it was illegal to have a party. Tom said its not a party. Every year they have an award recognition night. Kathy respectfully disagreed. Tom stated it has been done for several years. It was discussed that no bonuses were to be given out. Cristina suggested the discussion be carried into executive session.

Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION to accept 3 sets of bylaws to state what SLPID is, executive Session and Conflict of Interest, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victor Mazzotti, MOTION CARRIED.

**New Business:**

None

Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION to enter into Executive Session at 7:40, for the purpose of personnel matter, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vic Mazzotti. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting reconvened at 8:41. MOTION was made by Kathy Simmonds, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vic Mazzotti, to solicit an audit to be conducted on the books for 2020. MOTION CARRIED

With no other business presented, by common consent the meeting ended at 8:43 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deborah Curto  
SLPID Recording Secretary