



**SLPID Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2021
Malta Town Hall - noon**

Call to Order: Presiding Chair: Kathleen Simmonds at noon.

Commissioners present: Kathleen Simmonds- City of Saratoga Springs, Karl Hardcastle,-Town of Stillwater, Walter Supley-Town of Malta

Commissioners Absent: Tom Carringi-Town of Stillwater, Victor Mazzotti- At Large

Staff present: Lonnie Van Buren-Weed Harvesting Supervisor, Cristina Connolly-Administrator

Others: Tracey Clothier-Consultant, Dustin Lewis-Saratoga County Soil, and Water. Henry Philips, a property owner

Public Comment: Dustin Lewis will be doing the drone photos sometime next week at the mouth of the Kaydeross to document before and after work of the water chestnut harvest. Dustin commented he is attending the meeting today because it is during the day, evening hours are not convenient to attend, and he appreciated the time change.

PRESENTATIONS:

Secretary report (Chair)

***Present June 2021 minutes.**

Discussion: none

Motion to accept June 2021 minutes:

First: K. Hardcastle

Second: W. Supley

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

Treasurer report (Mike VanPatten)

***Present monthly bills to be paid.**

Discussion: Mike changed the format of the Treasurer's report for the bills to show what is coming and going with the cash flow. The total income as of today is \$421,000. Bills paid before the meeting - \$2,607.05, to be paid - \$51,646.44 for a total of \$54,253.54

Motion to accept to pay the monthly bills:

First: W. Supley

Second: K. Simmonds

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

***Present monthly treasurer report: 2022 Budget presentation**

Discussion: Mike presented the draft 2022 budget again from last month. Explained the Real Property Tax Cap and the maximum amount to raise budget funds which are 2.4%. Discussion ensued if it is necessary to have a yearly audit. Mike VanPatten commented that he is the Chief

Financial Officer and the CPA doing the audit, should be working with him. Mike has not had contact with her.

Commissioner Supley would not like to have an annual audit and to remove it from the budget. Per the SLPID legislation, an annual audit is required. Commissioner Supley would like to change that line item to zero. Commissioner Simmonds suggested keeping a holder at \$5,000 for the audit and increase the professional expenses \$5,000 more to cover any upcoming legal costs depending on future projects and Mike grouped his pay in that category.

The August meeting will be the Public Hearing on the budget. Commissioners made a motion for the August Public hearing date August 19, 2021. The location and time of the meeting will be determined.

First: K. Simmonds Second. – K. Hardcastle Commissioner Present: YEAH

Motion to accept Treasurer's report:

First: W. Supley Second: K. Simmonds All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

Lake Administrator (Cristina Connolly) *Safety Report:

Nothing to report

***Lake Steward Report:**

Discussion: The steward program is going very well. Cristina increased the time at the launch and Lee's to inspect the fishing tournaments. The tournaments see about 20-25 boats, and a good amount does get washed. Some boats are docked at Lee's. We have seen a couple of boats come from nearby lakes just to be cleaned. Cristina has instructed the stewards to tell all boaters that there is a boat wash available, increasing awareness on AIS. We are beginning to see weeds come out on trailers and engines.

***Lake Admin. Report:**

Discussion: The truck delay is because the dealership has a new owner and is now Greenwich Ford. The paperwork needed to be rewritten. The owner has said he will be in touch shortly to arrange delivery.

The delay in the audit is due to Sarah Dorsey has opened her own firm. Cristina did not know this when asking Mike, Mike VanPatten informed her of the new contact information he received in the mail. This would explain why she has not heard back from calling the old contact information. Cristina put a deadline for completion on the audit of July 30, 2021. Sarah called and said that is ample time, and she will have a draft sometime next week.

Cristina reached out to Jason Kemper, County planner, to arrange a round table discussion with all four municipality planners, Dean Long, Tracey Clothier, Jason Kemper, and herself, to discuss lake and stormwater issues. Tracey Clothier will chair the meeting.

As Dustin Lewis said, he will come to take drone photos of the water chestnut progress next week. The following week the weedoo will be on the lake for removal of chestnuts with a rain date of the first week of August. After the weedoo, any remaining chestnuts will be handpulled.

Cristina has also been checking regularly on frogbit and pulling any found.

Professor Dan Buckley, an Ecologist from Maine who now lives in Saratoga and is a contributor to the Buffer book, reached out to discuss the current data and possibly add more testing to gather data on the thermal stratification of the lake. Cristina will reach out to Professor Buckley for further discussion.

Cristina and Dean Long met with Mr. Parillo and Mr. Behan of the Saratoga Lake Marina to discuss the dock layout within the navigation zone. They are very cooperative and want to do what is right for the safety of the lake. They will be moving several dock spaces on the North T section to the corner facing the Creekside. They have also placed several signs to enhance safety precautions for non-motorized watercraft to watch for boats and motorized boats exiting to watch for non-motorized watercraft. Both Mr. Parillo and Behan would like to continue to work with SLPID on any future projects. She has also contacted the owners of the 550 Waterfront to meet with them regarding their dock placement.

The Dam operator called this week to report that the flood gates are at maximum discharge and the water is still rising. We had more rain yesterday, so anticipating it to rise a bit more.

Weed Harvesting (Lonnie Van Buren)

Discussion: Both harvesters have completed one trip around the lake. Some weeds are topped out, some growing still. Completing the second round at Silver beach now. The end of this week, they will be on the North end of the lake and ready to assist with water chestnut removal

Lake Level (Commissioner Simmonds)

Discussion: 203.93 and going down

Water testing CSLAP (Commissioner Hardcastle)

Discussion: Commissioner Hardcastle took CSLAP samples in July and will do more at the end of July. Visibility is good at 4.3 meters. Next week Commissioner Hardcastle will take dissolved Oxygen samples at both deep holes. Commissioner Hardcastle retook Water samples of the streams, and Cold Spring was high because he double-dipped and stirred the water up.

Aquatic Weed Control (Commissioner Simmonds):

Discussion: Dean contacted the NYS Natural Resource Conservation Service in Delaware County. They provided a web link for the application, and the sediment removal may fit into the stream wetland rehabilitation project category. The local group is responsible for permits. One of the criteria is that before in-stream work, sources of sediment need to be controlled. It has been assumed that the sediment came from the sandpit and farm fields adjacent to Fish Creek. The steps to be taken are to determine that soil erosion from the sandpit (Saratoga County) and the agricultural area has been abated. This segment of Fish Creek is identified as both State and Federal wetlands. Removing sediment will not change the water level, but the dam's operation to reach lower water elevations will impact wetlands. This will have to be managed by limiting

the period for low water elevation. We will need the support of the Town of Saratoga and the County for a grant

Grants, Watershed Management plan (Tracey Clothier)

***Watershed management plan update:**

Discussion: The boat count may be done the week after next. A lot has been completed on the Land Use section of the watershed management update. After the Roundtable discussion on July 28, we will be able to decide if there are problems? What are the issues? Determine a distance around the lake if the municipalities are in favor of an overlay district. Tracey is currently analyzing all four municipalities and what they have as far as stormwater regulations and which towns are weak and then talk about it further.

Communications (Commissioner Supley)

Discussion: Commissioner Supley boosted the Facebook post on The Buffer Book. Three hundred forty-six people viewed the post; seventy-nine people read the Buffer book. The SLPID Facebook page has been viewed twelve thousand times.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Motion to Adjourn at 12:48 p.m.

First: W. Supley

Second: K. Hardcastle

All Commissioners present: YEAH

K.A. Ammons 8/19/21