



**SLPID Meeting Minutes
Malta Town Hall
October 20, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.**

Call to Order: Chair Kathy Simmonds, 2:55 p.m.

Roll Call Commissioners present: Simmonds, Mazzotti, Baker, Carringi

Staff present: Lonnie, Weed Harvesting Supervisor. Cristina Connolly (Via Zoom), Lake District Administrator. Consultant, Dean Long.

Public present: Dan Buckley.

Public Comment: limited to three minutes. Not intended for commissioners or staff to answer questions or speak, only to listen. The Board of Commissioners will not take action on an item presented during the public comment period.

PRESENTATIONS:

Secretary Report (SLPID Chair)

***Present August 2022 minutes.**

No Comments.

Motion to accept August 2022 minutes

First: Baker Second: Mazzotti All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

Treasurer report (Commissioner Mazzotti)

August Financial Report:

There was no change in income in August except for the \$14.89 received in interest income. Year-to-date (January to August) operating expenses total \$230,814.53. The remaining budget for expenses for the year is \$196,095.47. An additional \$325.00 was charged to miscellaneous expenses, which has a budget of \$8,000.00 for the year. Total assets at the end of August are \$1,117,309.99. This is a decrease from July 2022 of \$53,071.83. Total Liabilities show a balance of \$2,355.99 due to the outstanding balance for the credit cards.

Motion to accept August Financial Report

First: Baker Second: Mazzotti All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

Motion to accept the August bills. Invoices were emailed to the commissioners.

First: Baker Second: Simmonds All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

September Financial Report:

The September Financial Report shows no change in income except \$12.48 in interest. Year-to-date (January to September) operating expenses total \$307,946.53. The remaining budget for expenses for the year is \$118,963.47. An additional \$547.32 was charged to miscellaneous expenses, which has a budget of \$8,000.00 for the year. September operating expenses total \$77,132.00, which included \$14,204.07 for insurance (paid to Amsure) and \$10,730.00 for aquatic plant assessment (paid to Lawrence Eichler).

Total assets at the end of September are \$1,042,621.42. This is a decrease from August 2022 of \$74,688.57.

Total Liabilities show a balance of \$5,009.26 due to the outstanding balance for the credit cards and a balance in accounts payable of \$600.00 (September invoice for Clothier Planning paid in October).

There were no further questions from the board.

Motion to accept the September treasurer's report

First: Simmonds

Second: Baker

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

Motion to accept the September bills. Invoices were emailed to the commissioners.

First: Baker

Second: Simmonds

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

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

Safety – No accidents to report for SLPID

Lake Steward Report:

Boats inspected were over 3000

Boats decontaminated were approximately 133. The numbers were from Memorial day weekend until August 20. Most visiting boaters refused a wash. In previous years the bulk of washes occurred after Labor day of local boats coming out and taking advantage of a free boat wash.

Administrator Report:

Cristina sent a letter with all the SLPID information for a .gov domain. It was accepted. Apparently, the old slpid.gov domain was never canceled, so the website address should be an easy switchover. Then Cristina will get a new email address. Going back to a .gov domain will make SLPID easier to find and adds an extra layer of security. With a .gov email, SLPID will be recognized as a credible agency.

Cristina completed an informational trifold about SLPID that she forwarded to everyone for any changes and is waiting for the domain change to finalize the email and website address.

The Malta town board advanced the South Shore marina development to go straight to workshops. The first workshop is scheduled for tonight at 6 p.m. This workshop is open to the public to view, not a public hearing. It is a workshop for the town board and developer. Cristina communicated input to the Supervisor and developer on the idea of taking advantage to better manage the stormwater coming down Dunning/Plains Road.

The town of Malta's acquisition of Mangino's for a town waterfront park is moving forward. There has been primarily positive input from the public.

There was no county water quality meeting this month.

The Buoy permits are finalized. SLPID is all set and has permit stickers. The information was forwarded to Sarah to keep in the file.

New buoy labels were ordered and received for next year. The others are getting roughed up. New winter buoys were ordered and received, and Lonnie and the crew placed them.

Cristina put a hold on the GPS subscription and steward telephone until next year.

The Hannaford program is in effect. A couple of local papers published it. We have at least one dollar so far, as Cristina purchased a bag. We need four more dollars, and they send a check.

Cristina said she attended the DEC Plant camp. It was 2.5 days of learning aquatic plants straight through the day, 8 am.-7 pm. On top of plant identification, we reviewed boat inspections, data collection with ArcGIS, and information on HABs. She gained much knowledge. She knew some people from the area and met many others.

Cristina also participated in the Adirondack Park invasive plant webinar yesterday and will have two seminars she is attending next week. One is a HAB seminar that Commissioner Simmonds made her aware of. The other is a DEC webinar also on HABS.

The end-of-the-year lake steward and data meetings are scheduled for November and early December.

She reached out to Larry Eichler about conducting next year's lake assessment, and he will send a 2023 proposal for review and approval.

The SLPID Insurance for 2023 is all set and paid for. Copies of the binder were emailed to the commissioners.

As Commissioner Mazzotti reported, other large paid items were the worker's compensation insurance, fuel bill, truck repair, and lake assessment. Large bills to be paid are slowing down.

An update on the 2022 projected plan was emailed to the commissioners. We have been successful so far in seeing the goals achieved.

Cristina will have a new projected plan for 2023 next month.

The Overlay District meeting minutes were emailed to the commissioners. We went a little in the backward direction as far as everyone agreeing on one unified set of standards for an Overlay District. However, everyone seems to be aware now of the issues on the lake and agrees that more regulations are needed. The town of Saratoga's hesitation may change as we continue to move forward with more information to them. Dean and I have discussed the following steps, which Dean can discuss further in his report.

Cristina put together some educational material the Supervisors requested on stormwater and other zoning around the lake and will be finalizing it along with other ideas. Dean has given his input, and when completed, it will be forwarded to the commissioners to review for their input.

She also put together a new survey for property owners. The survey will be helpful for the Supervisors and Mayor to get an idea of the public's perception of what is needed for the lake. So far, we have had seventy-five respondents in one day, and the comments have been very strongly worded. Mandatory boat inspections are favored by over 70% of the respondents, and special zoning for homes within the District for Stormwater Regulations is preferred by 60%. Also, there is a section on this survey for anonymous comments; the strongly worded comments have been favorable for needed changes on the lake and SLPID.

Lastly, the Global Foundry/ town of Malta grant is due at the end of October. Cristina is proposing an application asking for money toward a used boat for SLPID. The current SLPID boat is a rowboat with a motor. This is ok for small in-shore projects of pulling water chestnuts. However, it is not very safe or practical for other needs. Thankfully this year, we had a personal boat to use for boat counts, the thermistor strings, etc. The boat rentals are too pricey to rent, which is why we did not do any floating classrooms this year. In other years, Di Donnas have volunteered to provide a boat and gas at no cost to SLPID. This year they did not have boat rentals.

Cristina proposed asking for \$10,000. She spoke with some people on the grant committee and the Malta Parks and Recreation Director, who think it is a good idea to try. This needs to show it will be a benefit to the town of Malta, and it would be.

As a benefit for the town of Malta, we could offer floating classrooms to Malta residents and the town summer recreation camp first. Plus, commissioner Simmonds pointed out that the town of Malta covers the most shoreline on the lake of any municipality benefiting the most from SLPID's work.

She investigated area boats for sale and spoke with commissioner Carrangi asking for his advice. SLPID could purchase a decent used boat for \$15- \$20,000. She spoke with several other lakes and with Paul Smiths College, which has boats they use for public floating classrooms, and all said a 24-foot pontoon works the best.

Most lakes do not charge for their education. Lake George does. Charging a small fee is a future option to cover the basic costs.

SLPID's insurance company would not increase the premium if a fee were to be charged if the boat had the proper safety gear and a yearly independent inspection of the boat.

To charge a fee or any type of compensation received would classify it as a public vessel. The driver must have a public vessel permit through Marine Park Services, and they would inspect the boat at the same time as the test. This is yearly. I believe the test is easy, and it is in-person.

If SLPID does not charge a fee, as in the past, anyone can then drive the boat. Insurance would be extra, estimating around \$600. Cristina said this is information and options. I want to give you all the information to decide if I should move forward and see if the grant works out.

Commissioner Simmonds asked, did Malta say they would do a Resolution? This is on the schedule. Cristina said yes, it is on the Malta town board meeting schedule for the stormwater regulations. Not a Resolution for the boat. That is just SLPID.

Commissioner Simmonds said she thinks we should pursue the application toward purchasing a boat.

Commissioner Baker said, Cristina, sometimes you can get around the fee by saying donations are appreciated. Is this something you can look at? Cristina replied that she did check with Marine Services on this, and any compensation that includes donations is considered a fee.

***Weed Harvesting Report (Lonnie)**

The 2022 harvesting season is over. There was a total of 836 truckloads of weeds. The cutting period was from June 15-September 29th. The buoys are out. All the water testing and 5-MPH buoys except the one closest to SRA. This buoy is in their regatta lanes. Every year they move our buoy.

Lonnie said that if we could move this one out of the lane in the future, it would be helpful, so they do not have to move them.

Dean said we could still shift it and place a new position for the permit.

Lonnie continued that he would contact Eric at SRA to place the winter buoy and go out with him if they still have a boat in the water. I believe Cristina said the last regatta would be on October 31st. Cristina said yes.

Besides that, the harvesters came out on October 12, and we are currently doing the year-end maintenance.

***Water Quality Report (Dean Long)**

Water quality-wise, we pulled up the south set of thermistor strings last Sunday and reset the north string for the winter. Dean has another monitor string for the winter to place. This has never been done before on Saratoga Lake.

Dean commented that CSLAP is changing the next two years to eight samples per season, then going down to four. NYSFOLA is still trying to figure out if they will continue doing eight with a graduated fee. Dean said four samples a year, along with our last fifteen-odd years of data, the water thermistor data, and SLPID owning a dissolved oxygen meter and other equipment. We can monitor the lake with our own equipment when CSLAP drops to four.

The bloom on the 14th was quite big but not as big as last year's bloom. What is interesting is that they happen before the lake turns over. This is theoretically odd but part of learning how a lake behaves.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked if putting aerators between docks would help.

Dean said they would help break it up, or agitation devices would as long as they start early in the season but again, it depends on other big-picture items that are going on in the lake. Other opportunities are that we have the fluorometer, which gives a reading on a HAB, which was used a couple of times this year. Dean continued that there is a company that has perfected a means of a digital microscope device that will scan a sample. You send them six images of a water sample that goes to their computer system, which counts and identifies the HAB. This is less expensive than an immunoassay kit. The cost is listed at \$1,000. They have been discounting them to perfect the data. There is a subscription fee.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked where we stood with the Dam. Dean said he tried contacting Carl Zeilman again but was unsuccessful.

Commissioner Simmonds asked when the deadline is for County Emergency Management to decide.

Dean said that for parts of it, it is an information update. The town of Saratoga plan has not been updated as far as showing a discussion of Fish Creek, so it has not been pushed into the plan yet.

Commissioner Simmonds asked if it could be a year or two out.

Dean replied, hopefully, over the next couple of months, we should know if it is eligible and then which sight for funding.

Commissioner Baker asked where we were dredging. Dean said it is at the end of Sucker Brook and where the county has its sandpit.

Commissioner Simmonds asked, going back to CSLAP and the four vs. the eight samples, do we want four or push continuing with the eight.

Dean said that the cost structure for the next two years doesn't change. After that, given our data and capabilities, four is sufficient. Or we can do our own things in other ways.

Commissioner Simmonds said she also read that CSLAP will no longer be involved with HAB testing.

Dean said that was correct. We have Cristina, who has been running out with the fluoroprobe, and if we have the microscope, she can run out with that. We are in good shape and staying on top of it.

Grants (Tracey Clothier. Cristina Connolly reported)

***Opportunity with Hudson River Valley Greenway to Fund the development of the Saratoga Lake Special Stormwater Regulations.**

Cristina reported that Tracey sent out a Resolution on the agenda to fund special stormwater regulations and a copy of the town of Malta Resolution. If we can get the SLPID Resolution passed today and see if the municipalities follow through with their Resolutions, then the timing is good, and it will be filed by November 4th. If the municipality Resolutions are not passed on time, the February deadline will be met.

The boat count numbers will be emailed out after today's meeting. The 2022 boat count yielded 543 boats active on Sunday, July 3, 2022, from 1:15 -2:45 p.m. This year was the highest number of boats counted over the past seven-year period. The lower number in 2021 is due to the count being conducted in August because of bad weather weekends last summer. The Highest number of jet skis was also recorded, including moored boats at Sandy Bay.

The standing boat count numbers are not included. Cristina will ask Tracey to update this count. The standing boat count consisted of docked and beached boats and was substantially higher. The Sheriff's department also commented on the large increase in docked boats.

Commissioner Simmonds asked whether we were going to talk about the stormwater regulations.

Cristina said that the item on the agenda was the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant filing. Unless Dean would like to add anything further to the Overlay discussion?

Dean said, as Crissy said, something needs to be in place to give the lake protection for lots under one-acre or as homesites are being developed. The communities are uncertain about the workload and taking on additional workloads. Trying to get an assessment of workload, in his view, is looking around the lake. It is probably a dozen or so a year sites. Spread out amongst the four communities. This doesn't seem to be a huge workload. It is a matter of trying to get them to focus on this and deal with this approach.

Dean noted that the Sheriff presented that the lake is a lot busier, and there is much more boating traffic. The Sheriff issued tickets now that they have clarity of the 5-MPH zone laws.

Dean said that as far as docks, everyone is afraid of over-regulating docks, and there is confusion over community docks. The majority of community docks are where the harvesters park at Riley Cove. The entire frontage is a commonly held strip, and Crissy knows of one or two other places on the lake of commonly held strips. We need to look closely at the magnitude of the problem. It is hard to understand why someone needs three pontoon boats. It is okay if it's a shared dock, but if it is one property, it tells me it is being rented. The town doesn't want to register boats. Registering with SLPID would be a special administration handled by the State. The communities don't want us going down that path. However, everyone agrees that the lake is too crowded.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked Cristina, can you put together a do and do not list on dock rentals?

Cristina said yes, this is something she is currently working on that the Supervisors requested. It is a handout with stormwater and other regulations typical of lakes. However, it pretty much goes that there is not anything in place for Saratoga Lake. She said that, hopefully, the trend with the survey would continue with proactive comments, and the municipalities would take those into account.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked if there was anything in the books that could be used for mini marinas.

Dean replied that communities couldn't use commercial docks in a residential zone. However, the towns don't want to get involved.

Commissioner Mazzotti said we should put this on our website.

Commissioner Carrangi said there are a lot of people participating in Airbnb and boat rentals.

Dean said this is one of the things the Sheriff said is inexperienced boaters attributing to boat rental and Airbnb houses with boat rental.

Commissioner Carrangi said most of the boats he rents; he makes sure the boat is back at 6 p.m. for safety.

Commissioner Simmonds asked commissioner Carrangi do you check for boater certification or give a course with every boat rental.

Commissioner Carrangi said you have to be sixteen years old to operate a boat.

Cristina said the minimum age is fourteen for a boating certificate, and a boating certificate does not apply if you rent a boat. It is up to the boat rental owner to give instructions.

Commissioner Mazzotti said going back to dock rental is this not a clear violation of zoning.

Dean said he believed so and would look up the municipality law on it.

Commissioner Baker said another problem is the commercial marinas that keep expanding.

***Lake Level (Commissioner Carrangi)**

Discussion: Lake level is 202.95

New business: Commissioner Simmonds asked if everyone received and reviewed the prepared wage analysis. The Commissioner's commented that they agreed it looked reasonable. Commissioner Carrangi said he did not review it.

Old business: None

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION #38-2022

A Resolution Approving the Filing of a Grant Application with the Hudson River Valley Greenway to Fund the development of the Saratoga Lake Overlay District for Special Stormwater and Docks through the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Grant

WHEREAS SLPID is applying to the Hudson River Valley Greenway for a \$30,000 grant through its Communities Grant Program during the November 4, 2022, funding round for a project entitled *Saratoga Lake Overlay District for Special Stormwater and Docks*.

WHEREAS SLPID wants to contract with a professional grant writer/planner to prepare and submit the grant application.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that SLPID hereby does approve contracting with Clothier Planning & Consulting at an hourly rate of \$65/hour up to a maximum of \$1,500 to conduct this work.

Resolution No. 38 of 2022 was adopted at a meeting of SLPID duly conducted on October 20, 2022.

WHEREAS the SLPID commissioners agree to contract with Clothier Planning & Consultants, Tracey M. Clothier, AICP, CEP, to prepare and submit a grant application by November 4, 2022, to the Hudson River Valley Greenway for a \$15,000 grant entitled **Saratoga Lake Special Stormwater Protection Standards** at the hourly rate of \$65 per hour not to exceed \$1,500 total.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioners direct the action of the Lake District Administrator to approve and sign the final contract with Clothier Planning & Consulting, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: Mazzotti Second: Simmonds All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

RESOLUTION #39-2022

A Resolution supporting the town of Malta to be the sponsoring municipality to file a grant application with the Hudson River Valley Greenway to fund Saratoga Lake Special Stormwater Protection Standards.

WHEREAS Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District supports the findings of the ad hoc committee comprised of Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District and the towns of Malta, Stillwater, Saratoga, and the city of Saratoga Springs, to develop a standardized set of standards for stormwater control for certain projects on lots under one acre that are not within current permit review authority, that individual municipalities can adopt for lands within the SLPID District; and

WHEREAS on behalf of Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District, the Town of Malta is applying to the Hudson River Valley Greenway for a grant under the Hudson River Valley Greenway Planning Grant Program during the November 4, 2022, funding round for a project entitled *Saratoga Lake Special Stormwater Protection Standards* to be located in the towns of Malta, Stillwater, Saratoga, and City of Saratoga Springs; and

