

## **Lamoka-Waneta Lakes Association – Board of Directors Meeting**

**April 17, 2021—Tyrone Town Hall & Zoom**

Meeting was called to order at 10:07 A.M. by President Jay White. The following members were present: Terry Allison, Calvin Barnstead, Cartha Conklin, Dennis Fagan, Rick Game, Gary Gray, Bill Hassoldt,, Kevin Morris, Gordon Shafer, Ed Sharpe, Mary Kay Tucker, Tom Webb, Jay White, Paula Wright

The following Board Members joined the meeting via ZOOM: Terry Fisk, Claud Gingrich, Corinne Julian,

Guests: Alan and Patricia Ferrara (Lamoka CSLAP Members)

Jay welcomed everyone back to the 2021 LWLA season!

The meeting opened with Martha Droge, Community Planner, Park & Planning Special Studies, National Park Service on the feasibility study of designating the Finger Lakes area as a National Heritage area. Martha shared her power point and answered questions from the LWLA Board Members. A National Heritage Area is a place designated by Congress where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape. It is a community-driven, partnership-based conservation model with a multi-disciplinary approach—engaged in preservation, conservation, recreation, education, and economic development. The deadline to notify our interest is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Paula asked how many areas were designated as a National Heritage Study under the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. Martha was unable to give an exact number but did give the example of the Kentucky Wild Lands. Paula asked if she knew of any examples and kinds of organizations that she talked about in her presentation that would have the financial and organizational capability to aid with the study. Martha replied that the group that advocated for the studies were normally grass roots based.
- Corinne asked what they were expecting back from our organization. Martha explained that at this point they were just giving presentations to get a feel from the areas if there was an interest from the group to pursue the idea of our area being designated as a National Heritage Area or the group had no interest or opinion. If our area does receive approval there are no regulations, and no authority of the NHA in any of the projects that are undertaken. The one benefit Martha mentioned was that the NHA may give some money towards some of our programs.  
Corinne also mentioned that on the Interactive Maps Waneta Lake was missing, but Lamoka Lake was listed. Martha will mention that to the technical group to correct the error.
- Calvin asked if the preservation would include water quality which could help stop the migration of items into the lake or the dredging of our lake. Martha said their money is limited, and encouraged organizations to seek other types of funding and they could be a contributor toward the project if approved.

- Dennis reminded the Board that since 2018 the Lake Protection Agency cost us \$100,000 for the environmental impact study of invasive species. He sees the NHA as a pass-through program. Martha recommended we reach out to the State Grant Program Personnel.
- Gary asked if the coordinating contributors to the NHA was funded by the National Park Service. Martha explained that the NHA does its own fundraising and must match the National Parks Service funding given to them. She also recommended that we check on the Erie and Niagara area for suggestions, ideas, and guidance.

Jay thanked Martha for her time and presentation and would be getting back to her before June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **President's Report:**

Jay commended Terry Allison on the excellent job she did on the Spring Newsletter. He has received many compliments from lake association members. Bill also echoed Jay's message as he too has received numerous compliments on the LWLA Spring Newsletter.

Jay read a note from Board Member Barry Pappas that he no longer would be able to devote the time to the association as a board member and therefore must resign his position effective April 2021. Jay thanked Barry for his service to the Board and appreciated all he did as a member of the LWLA Board of Directors.

Jay shared that he receives many phone calls regarding the level of the lake and reminded people that the Spring Newsletter addresses the issue along with the LWLA Website. He also recently received a phone call from a lake member asking him to come to his cottage and look at the erosion to his front lawn and how DEC was asking him to remove dirt adjacent to his property that he paid to have filled in. Jay has also received calls regarding the speed limit on the lake roads. He is looking for suggestions on how to let people know we do not control the DEC, the road speed limits, nor help with permits.

**Approval of the October 17, 2020 minutes** were approved via e-mail so they could be placed on the LWLA website prior to April 2021.

**Vice President/Membership Report:** There are 981 property owners on the two lakes and to date we have 588 LWLA members (60%) and 3 complimentary members, 197 donations. They had 159 address changes this year. Bill reminded everyone if you received the Spring LWLA Newsletter your \$20 dues for this year is paid!

**Treasurer's Report:** Corinne sent the Profit & Loss Statement October 17, 2020-April 17, 2021, along with the Balance Sheet Detail as of April 17, 2021.

Checking Account Balance-- \$1,266.62      Total Savings: \$53,289.51

Total Checking/Savings--\$54,556.13

She will be paying the Charity Status fee in May along with our annual \$400 donation to the Tyrone Fire Department for the use of their facilities in storing our clothing inventory and public meetings.

Treasurer's Report accepted as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Board discussed the LWLA Spring Public Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 29th at the Tyrone Fire Hall at 10:00 a.m. After much discussion, the LWLA Board of Directors voted to move forward with the LWLA Spring Public Meeting outside at the Tyrone Fire Hall (weather permitting). Everyone is encouraged to bring a chair, wear a mask, and maintain a safe distance. If the event needs to be moved inside, there will be a limit of how many can safely enter the Tyrone Fire Hall. As the date gets closer, the exact number of inside participants will be posted on the website and announced on Facebook.

Dennis recommended that we invite Darrel Sturgis to attend the public meeting to update everyone on the Repair and Replace Grant for Septic Systems in Schuyler County.

First Flare Night will be held Saturday, May 29, 2021 at 9:00 p.m.

Terry Allison thanked everyone who contributed to the LWLA Spring Newsletter and Horseheads Printing for putting everything together, printing and mailing it to the members.

**Lake Treatment:** Dennis reported that the plans for treatment were submitted early March. We will be treating 173.6 acres on Lamoka with 80% Mill Pond and the channel along with 116 acres on Waneta with 50% in the North end in Steuben County.

They are having problems with DEC permit renewals. The woman who has taken care of the permits and worked with Dennis over the years has retired and her replacement is requesting items that have already been submitted upon which has been agreed. Dennis said it is like starting from scratch as if this were our first year of treatment.

Treatment is scheduled for June 14 and 15 with a rain date of June 16. This is 2-3 weeks earlier than previous treatments. Last year we dropped the lake level to 1098.5 where in the past we have dropped to 1098.0 and the drought hit and we never recovered.

Having two years of data we have discovered that the chemical is gone within a week so we can easily treat at 1098.7, which is our summer level. We will be asking NYSEG to close the gates and add a stop log so we can maintain a level at 1099 prior to treatment in June. If a major storm is forecasted, we will go with the rain date.

Our only concern is NYSEG being upset with the wording from DEC. NYSEG now has a consultant and attorneys involved which makes communication difficult. Dennis has contacted them five times since last July up to last month and has not heard from them. Dennis has responded to all of their concerns. The only responsibility of NYSEG is to monitor the dam. Again, the problem is new people at NYSEG and DEC and again we are starting from scratch.

**NYSEG Update:** Kevin reported that the Lake Level Plan reached an agreement and submitted the plan to the DEC for review. The only change was to lower the lake in October as opposed to the NYSEG December date. Kevin will continue to keep us updated.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Bill shared that some people will not join the LWLA because of the use of chemicals used to treat the lake. Some of these people are proposing a Weed Harvester. Bill explained that the LWLA has discussed a Weed Harvester, but it is not feasible nor effective. The Weed Harvester may cut the weeds, but not all of the weeds end up on the conveyer end and fall back into the lake and cause more weeds.

Dennis explained that we are currently treating the lake with 23 gallons of ProcellaCOR, as opposed to the 1,000 gallons of Renovate that we formerly used.

Facebook has also had comments asking why the LWLA does not pick up the weeds? Al mentioned that on Loon Lake there was an organic farmer that would take the weeds, but he would inspect it before it could be left with him. Terry mentioned that perhaps someone would like to start a business picking up the weeds from people or even offering to rake their lake frontage for a fee.

## **Committee Reports**

- **Clothing:** No Report
- **CSLAP:** Bill introduced Al & Patricia Ferrara two new members from Lamoka Lake.
- **Environmental Impacts:** Jay reminded the Board with Barry's resignation we are looking for someone to fill the vacancy.
- **Golf Tournament:** Gary reported the tournament is scheduled for Saturday, July 17 at Arrowhead
- **Goose Control:** No Report (Kevin needed to leave the meeting early.)
- **Lake Level:** Rick reported the lake level is currently at 1098.8 with both gates open 6" and holding. Jay and the Board thanked Rick for his continuous updates on Facebook along with his photos.
- **Pancake Breakfast:** Ed reported the breakfast is scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup> which he discovered is in conflict with the races at Watkins Glen. Originally Watkins Glen had scheduled the race for the following weekend, but with COVID switched to August 4-8<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss keeping or moving the date at the May Board meeting.
- **Steuben/Schuyler Water Quality:** Cartha reported that the Schuyler County meeting was cancelled. The Steuben County meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Dennis reminded the Board that we have the best Lake Association and what we have been doing for the last 18 years has become the model for the state. The Board agreed and also added it was due to the dedication of Dennis and Gordon.

Next meeting is Saturday, May 15, 2021 Tyrone Town Hall.

Their being no further business, the meeting closed at 11:55 a.m.

*Mary Tucker*

Secretary, LWLA