

Lincoln Pond Association Annual Meeting Minutes Saturday, July 15th, 2023

Introductions: We met on the morning of July 15th, at Jeff and Nancy Sienkiewicz's camp at 39 Lower Pond Way. The meeting was called to order by the Association president, Gerry Zahavi, at 9:35am. As in past years, the meeting began with all those present introducing themselves and identifying their camps. The attendance & address/email update sheet was circulated.

Minutes: Last year's meeting minutes were presented (hard copies were available at the meeting; a copy was sent along with the meeting notice to all members -- and also posted on our Web site). The minutes were approved by the members present.

Treasurer's Report: Our Treasurer, Jeff Sienkiewicz, reviewed his report for the group (copies were circulated). He stated that we were in good shape. Dues have been ok, better than last year -- but he would like to see that increase. Jeff reviewed main expenses of the past year. There are still many camps that do not contribute dues. Most of our income has come from the merchandise sales over the years. In addition, the town has been helpful with water testing expense reimbursements -- covering supplies and testing costs paid to Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), a volunteer lake monitoring and education program managed cooperatively by DEC and New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA). The treasurer's report, after being moved and seconded, was approved by the members present.

Elections: Jeff ran this portion of the meeting since Gerry is under consideration for re-election and thus recused himself from that task. Jeff reviewed the current positions for the group: Gerry Zahavi is President and up for re-election this year; Jeff Sienkiewicz is the Treasurer (elected last year to his current 2-year term), Karin DeMuro, who was elected to a one-year term to replace Debbie Maxwell who passed away in February of 2022, is the Secretary and up for re-election. Dave Myers and Ron Husner, current Board members (both not able to attend this meeting) are also running for re-election. Director Bill Martin has sold his camp and has left the Pond, so is not running this year; we need a new candidate to fill his position. Board members April Spilling and Christy Lill (Lill was unable to be present today) are also up for re-election this year, as is Wayne Johnson. It was noted that Ron Husner is in the process of selling his camp so may need to be replaced next year. Jordan Speshock-Slattery was nominated from the floor to replace Martin on the Board. A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate as presented: Myers, Husner, Spilling, Lill, Johnson, Zahavi (President), DeMuro (Secretary), and Speshock-Slattery. With no additional nominations from the floor, Jeff moved to accept the slate as presented. Before the vote, however, a point was made that we used to have rotating terms and not so many vacancies in any one year. We discussed adjusting the terms to re-establish that pattern. After a brief discussion, the terms were adjusted with approval of the members: Ron, Wayne, and Jordan's terms were reduced to 1-year terms. A motion was made and seconded to accept the modified motion, and all were elected by acclamation. Jeff noted in summary -- looking forward -- that next year he, Wayne, Jordan, and Ron, if he is still a resident on the Pond, would be up for re-election.

Road Reports and Road Conditions: Road condition reports were reviewed first. Since Ron Husner could not attend the meeting, Gerry read his forwarded written report on Twin Brooks' road:

The Twin Brooks Road Fund had 21 camps participate last year totaling \$3761.00. There is currently \$3733.36 in the account (had to buy checks). We will be purchasing one culvert this summer -- it should be delivered this week -- for the end of the road near Bill Shave. We will also be buying material for that end of the road and to fill any other pot holes. Big thanks to Tony Fernandez and Rich Carroll who have the equipment and continue to manicure the road as needed. If anyone has questions regarding the contributions or bank records they can feel free to reach out or come see me. Myself and Rich Carroll will be asking for road donations again soon. Thank you. RH

Wayne Johnson gave his report on Lower Pond Way and noted that they still need to repair a couple of culverts -- as well as keep up with the constant repair of pot holes. He sent out letters to owners on the road (around 35-36) hoping they can all help out financially for the repairs that need to get made. Wayne spoke about prices and costs for different material.

Gerry made a few comments about conditions on Lincoln Pond Road. He discussed the road clean-up efforts. He talked about having to re-schedule the road clean-up twice now due to bad weather. We then discussed other options/methods of getting the road clean-up done, since it was too difficult to coordinate everyone for this summer. Gerry suggested a different model for our clean-up efforts -- perhaps making the schedule more flexible with groups taking on different sections of the road and dropping off bags for him to deliver to the transfer station, or developing a hybrid system of a single group clean-up day early AND group clean-up teams picking up along "adopted" sections at various times during the summer. One suggestion made was to clean the road early in the season before we would need to wade through tall weeds. Gerry informed us that the weeds this season were especially high because the County road crew hadn't been able to mow the sides of the road due to short staff and poor weather conditions. After he contacted them, they had assured him they would get to it ASAP. After some discussion, we decided on adopting a hybrid approach -- one scheduled all-member group morning clean-up session early in the season, followed by (or preceded) by small group/family clean up teams adopting various sections of the road and scheduling their work when most convenient. Gerry said he will develop and share a sectional map of the clean-up road zones (six were suggested); groups can contact him about their preferred sections and dates of clean-up.

Gerry also noted a couple of dump sites along the upper part of Lincoln Pond Road (where the road has multiple curves, adjacent to Brandy Brook). Gerry will contact DEC and the local ranger about the sites.

We then discussed the road speeding issue. Gerry informed the group about John Vadney's attempts to lobby for a reduction of the speed limit along the most congested part of Lincoln Pond Road (from the campsite, across the causeway, along the camps, and slightly up the hill toward Mineville), reducing the local speed limit to 25 from its current 35. He has been in contact with Assemblyman Matt Simpson about this matter. Gerry wrote a letter to Simpson as well, and is waiting to hear back..

We also discussed other options -- like rumble strips (not permitted), additional private signage, and encouraging a more frequent and visible sheriff or state police presence along the road.

We then discussed the purchase of a radar sign, and how much the group wanted to budget for it. After discussion, a motion was made to allot up to \$4000 from our budget to put towards renting or buying speed control signs. It was seconded and passed by the members. Gerry also planned on approaching the town about partnering with us on the sign.

Annual Picnic- This year's annual picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 12th at 11:30 am at the DEC campsite. Members were encouraged to come -- and bring a side dish to pass. The usual hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken, and drinks will be provided. Gerry reminded everyone that if you drive over, make sure NOT TO PAY. Just let them know that you are with the Lincoln Pond Association, and they will note it. Our treasurer will pay them later for everyone. Since we pay by the car, carpooling will save us money.

LPA Logo Merch: Susan has put in an order, it is not in yet- but she is hoping it'll all be in by the annual Picnic. Susan couldn't be here today, so April & Karin will be selling what merch we do have available today after the meeting.

Water Testing: Wayne reviewed for the group what it is we do test for, and that all the info is updated on our LPA site. He noted that we have had no signs of algae blooms so far -- which is a good thing. He said that the Ph was getting a little higher now, but was still perfectly fine. One other thing he noted was that we only have to test four times a season now instead of our previous eight.

Aquatic Invasive Project: Gerry reviewed and updated the group about where we are at this year. After a few years of us monitoring the Pond, it seems that it continues to be fairly stable, so we have not needed to do any extensive survey in regards to the milfoil. We only needed to do a once a year 'check' in August, and we did not check the 200 survey GPS points this year.

Water Safety : The group then had some discussion regarding the Upper Pond beach area and causeway culvert bridge problem. We discussed the safety issues associated with the narrow opening and shallow water level of the culvert. Essex County DPW is aware of the issue but does not have the resources to address it at this time. We are not slated to have the causeway bridge rebuilt until the mid-2030s. When it is replaced, Gerry was informed by the DPW, it will be 40 feet wide. We will keep an eye on the Culvert and re-discuss.

One member also noted that the safety gate on the re-built Kingdom Dam was broken into. Gerry will notify DEC to have it repaired. Gerry also announced that he (and Wayne) have put out 4-5 buoys now. (All locations previously discussed by us, and approved ahead of time by DEC) . They seem to be helping. We can make more in case we need more. There was also a brief discussion of obstacle markers; please let Gerry know if there are any obstacles in the lake that we need to mark for safety -- or take a plastic milk bottle painted red/orange and install it yourself.

Broadband Report: Doug Spilling reviewed to everyone what we have available now (SLIC/ Verizon), and the various options for us to choose from. He also reminded us that SLIC does

have seasonal rates available too. Some discussion took place about how the fiber lines are installed by SLIC (often with minimal conduit protection). Anyone with questions and/or looking for more info on any of this, please feel free to contact Doug.

Wildlife Sightings: Wayne reported on a swimming female moose sighting around the 4th of July weekend. The annual Loon count was held earlier today and one member of the counting group called it "the most exciting yet." They saw four adults and one baby all on Lower Pond -- along with a Bald Eagle, an Osprey, and a Blue Heron!

New Business: No new business was stated.

There was a Motion to adjourn, it was seconded and voted on. The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karin DeMuro, Secretary