

DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AND CHAIRPERSONS MEETING  
August 25, 2007  
BRANTINGHAM GOLF CLUB

President Bill Brunscheen called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

In attendance were: Bill Brunscheen, John Nagy, Tom Gunn, Carolyn Gaylord, Dorothy Armstrong, Dan Brewer, Ed Cousin, Marie Duink, Tony Dzwonkas, Carole Gunn, Susan Gyore, Jon Korber, Tony LaGatta, Eric Martin, Collette Vanyo, Judy Wilson, and Ned Wilson.

The minutes of the May 26, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Tony LaGatta asked for clarification on the discussion about Assessment and Taxes, specifically as to whether President Brunscheen was asking if there was interest from the Directors or the constituents in pursuing assessment issues as an association. President Brunscheen responded that his intent was to determine the Directors' interest in this issue. Tony LaGatta offered to head a team which will pursue items of interest as related to assessment. President Brunscheen agreed to introduce this under New Business. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented by Judy Wilson, seconded by Dottie Armstrong. Approved.

John Nagy presented the Treasurer's Report (please see attached). We had a substantial savings this year due to only one insect spraying. Our balance is currently \$15,259.80. Tom Gunn made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Tony Dzwonkas. Approved.

**TEAM REPORTS:**

- **Water Quality:** Ed Cousin reported that the Water Quality Team, consisting of Ed Cousin, Dave Gaylord, and Francis Buckingham, continues to take and submit samples for testing. The Water Sampling Programs consist of CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program), Fecal Coliform, and a new program proposed for next year.
  - The purpose of the CSLAP is to monitor and evaluate the chemical characteristics of our lake water. The analysis involves 3 organizations: DEC, NYS Federation of Lakes (NYSFOLA), and the Upstate Freshwater Institute (UFI). NYSFOLA coordinates the day-to-day needs and inputs the field data to the DEC, who then writes the final report and handles the key technical issues. The UFI is subcontracted to do all the lab work and process the samples which are sent to Syracuse. There are 131 sites enrolled in NYSFOLA. This is our 6<sup>th</sup> year in the CSLAP program. Samples are taken at the same site 8 times during the year, about every 2 weeks. Six samples have been completed this year. The 2006 Summary was included in the Spring Newsletter and a complete report is available in the Library. The water quality conditions and recreational assessments for Brantingham Lake have been consistently reported by the DEC to be highly favorable during the past 5 years.
  - The purpose of the fecal coliform testing is to detect septic leakage entering the lake. Samples are taken near the shoreline as close as possible to where septic leakage might occur. Sites with high activity and cottages close to the shoreline are selected, but the high duck and geese populations now complicate the tasks. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, eight fecal coliform samples were taken at various locations on

Brantingham Lake. Results (parts/100 ML) were: 10, 20, 10, 16, 04, 10, 32, and 32. The two highest readings were taken at the far end of bays in very shallow water. These two locations were retested on August 15<sup>th</sup> and the results for both sites were 12 parts per 100 ML. No problem sites were found this year.

- Brantingham Lake Water Quality Assessment Plan for 2008: On August 24<sup>th</sup> a group of residents met with Nichelle Billhardt from Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District to discuss their proposal for assessing the water quality of Brantingham Lake. A tour of the lake was conducted with several BCA volunteers to give Nichelle an understanding of the lake (bays, inlets, outlet, depths, etc.). The proposal will involve taking bacteriological samples every two weeks, at five specific sites on the lake during the 2008 summer season. Those sites will be determined by Nichelle in a return visit after Labor Day. The analysis will include a total fecal coliform and coliform count. The program will tentatively begin in May of 2008 and will conclude in late fall. The current fecal coliform program will continue next year. This program will help to evaluate the appropriate PWL (Priority Waterbodies List) status for Brantingham Lake. Additional volunteers will be needed.
- **Invasive Plants:** Judy Wilson reported that, once again, volunteers will be needed during the next couple of weeks to conduct the samplings. She also reported that the sign at the boat launch, which was donated by the Martin brothers, is no longer hanging.
- **Boat Launch:** There will be a boat washing station demonstration at the boat launch today at 1:00. Dave Decker, who will conduct the demonstration, will also be the guest speaker at the Fall Dinner Meeting this evening. Mr. Decker has indicated that grant money may be available. Nichelle Billhardt, who is a grant writer, will be available to assist us in writing a grant.
- **Signs:** John Nagy reported that the signs should be ready to be posted by the end of next week.
- **Government:**
  - **Cell Tower:** Tom Gunn reported that the cell tower construction is under way. There were several reasons for the delay, one of which was that Verizon could not construct on the former dump property. The tower will be 250 feet high and will have a light to warn aircraft of its position. The service area will include Chase's Lake and the horse trails. The town paid \$50,000 for power to be provided to the tower, for which they will be reimbursed. The BCA will send an email to its members when the cell tower is functioning.
  - **Tax Issue:** Assessments place a value on our property. We should ask ourselves the following question: "Is the value that the Assessor put on my property what I consider to be full value?" Use the Town of Greig website to find 5 comparables to determine if your value is in line with other similar properties. The current assessment is the value used for School Tax due in September and County/Town Tax due in January. Values are established by the first of March. The next opportunity to grieve the assessment is during March, 2008. The Assessor is attempting to maintain property assessments at 100%. Sales trends are reviewed in order to monitor these values. The taxing entities are the South Lewis School District and the Town of Greig and Lewis Countys. It is very important to attend

the public hearings for these budgets. The School Budget should be on file at the District Office.

- **Boating Course:** The course was held at the Jefferson-Lewis BOCES in Glenfield, with about 40 people taking the test. A big thank you goes out to the volunteers who helped grade them.
- **Lake Patrol:** We have not had as many patrols this year as in past years. It is very important that we call the Sheriff at 376-3511 to report disturbances.
- **Town Elections:** The positions of Highway Superintendent, Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, 3 Town Council seats, and Town Justice will be voted on this year. Please exercise your right to vote.
- **Water District:** Mr. Gunn explained that the residents of Brantingham Lake belong to a water district, the purpose of which is to give the Town the ability to maintain the dam. This is an extra taxing district. It will be a state requirement that all dams be inspected by a certified inspector, and this will be added to the district's expenses.
- **Welcome Team:** Ned Wilson reported that he would like clarification on a few items before completing the Welcome Packet, such as, should the Directory contain information about local businesses, political contacts, trash collection, mission statement, green dump, website information, church services, and list of organizations, etc. Discussion focused on how we draw the line on what should be included. The question was posed as to whether we should ask local businesses for coupons as welcome gifts. The general consensus was that we should not. Also discussed was how to contact the 3G Fire Department when there is a medical emergency. Tom Gunn reported that when we dial 911 and give our location, the dispatcher alerts the Brantingham 3G members, who then assist in locating the residence, provide ambulance guidance and pre-ambulance assistance where appropriate.
- **Renters Rules:** Randy Anderson and David Rider developed a document which was laminated and included in the directories. Since then, other concerns have been voiced, including notifying everyone that the Lily Pond is a no-wake area, and asking people to pick up the waste after walking their dogs along the lakes and roads. The document will be reviewed and changes will be made for the Spring Directors' Meeting.
- **Fall Dinner:** The dinner will be held this evening at Trailside. We have 64 reservations. The BCA would like to thank John Nagy for all his work in taking the reservations and payments.
- **Cemetery:** Susan Gyore reported that there was an information booth at the Olde Tyme Country Faire, where many people made donations. The cemetery now has an "Adopt a Family" program, where volunteers agree to care for areas where there might not be family members to do so. The Memorial Garden is being developed.
- **Arts Council:** Judy Wilson reported that the Arts Council would like to thank everyone who bought raffle tickets for their fund-raising event and made donations throughout the season. The Council took in \$2,655 and had expenses totaling \$2,455. A special thanks to Dan Brewer, who coordinated setting up the chairs for the events. Felicia Birgenheier is the new Treasurer. The Council welcomes suggestions for programs for the upcoming year. Dottie Armstrong thanked everyone involved in the program for their time and effort. The winner of the kayak in this year's raffle was Marion Lowe.

- **Library:** The Library should be able to continue in its present location for another year. Due to a grant through the Pratt Northam Workship program, a high school student was hired to keep the Library open until 7:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 9:00 – 11:00 AM on Saturdays.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Water Patrol:** It is estimated that the lake was patrolled three times this year by the Sheriff's Department. It was not determined if the DEC, whose officers have the same authority as a State Trooper, patrolled Brantingham Lake this summer. There is currently a bill at the State level to allow Recreational Peace Officers to patrol in Lewis County.
- **Spraying:** President Brunscheen has spoken with another contractor in Clayton, Paddock Airways. They have been approved by the DEC and are a smaller operation than Duflo. They currently spray Sylvan Beach, from where a positive recommendation was received. President Brunscheen will send a packet of our needs and past spraying information so that they may make a bid. Questions were asked as to when they should begin spraying and will they spray when it's not needed? Bill agreed to get answers to these questions.
- **Information Team:** An e-mail group has been developed, from the addresses given to us on the Dues Letters. Approximately 150 people responded on those letters that they would like to receive email from us, and about 50 more people have sent requests to be included since.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Shoal Markers:** Carl Lawendowski has contacted President Brunscheen to request that the BCA provide shoal markers for the shallow areas of Brantingham Lake. Mr. Lawendowski has been marking them himself, but the markers keep disappearing. Questions were asked about the permit process for floating structures and boat houses. A Water Safety Team will be developed, consisting of Eric Martin, Carolyn Gaylord, and Tom Gunn to research these issues and develop a plan for informing residents and boaters of the law. They will present a proposed budget for providing shoal markers in designated areas of the lake.
- **Lake Management:** President Brunscheen is looking for assistance in updating the plan to help us get off the PWL. Judy Wilson volunteered to assist in revising the current plan, but we need someone to take the lead.
- **Membership/Dues:** Directors have been informed of the residents in their respective areas who have not paid their dues. It was suggested that post cards could be sent to them as a reminder.
- **Community Center:** Jack Kieffer has suggested that the BCA determine if there is interest in creating a Community Center for the Brantingham area. It was suggested that perhaps this building could also house the Library. President Brunscheen will speak with Mr. Kieffer to clarify his ideas for its use.
- **Other:**
  - Judy Wilson asked for clarification on how new owners are informed of alterations they are permitted and not permitted to make to their property. She received a report of someone who took down trees and added sand to their beach,

which could cause water quality problems. It was suggested that something be included in the Newsletter to that effect.

- Newsletter: The deadline for newsletter articles is September 15<sup>th</sup>. Judy Wilson will ask George Vergilis if he will be able to duplicate the Fall Newsletters. Since he is retiring in December, we will need to find another way to print them. It has been recommended that we look into purchasing a printer, which will duplex and make color copies. Mrs. Wilson will also ask Mr. Vergilis if he could recommend a machine to meet our needs.
- Grievance Procedures: Tony LaGatta requested that the BCA provide a forum to give interested members advice on the property tax grievance procedure. Possible forums include the BCA Newsletter, a flyer in the Library, and/or a workshop. Mr. LaGatta will continue to address this area of concern and will present a written proposal at the next Directors' Meeting.
- Microphone: Secretary Carolyn Gaylord suggested that we purchase a microphone and amplifier to use for our Dinner Meetings. She will research systems which include 2 microphones to accommodate questions from the audience.
- It was recommended that we provide recognition for people who have left our community. Judy Wilson made a motion, seconded by Ned Wilson, that a letter be sent. Secretary Carolyn Gaylord will develop a letter and send it out.
- Treasurer: Since John Nagy will be resigning his position as Treasurer in August, 2008, it is hoped that someone will agree to fill that position and spend some time learning the job requirements before Mr. Nagy leaves. A request will be included in the Newsletter for interested parties to contact Mr. Nagy.
- Directors: Because this year ends in an odd number, Directors in the odd-numbered districts are up for re-election. Since no one has come forward, the BCA Secretary will cast one vote for the current slate of Directors at the Fall Dinner Meeting.
- The next meeting of the Directors, Officers, and Chairpersons will be held on September 29, 2007 at 9:00 AM at the Golf Course.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Nagy, seconded by Tony Dzwonkas, carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 AM.