

Brantingham Community Association Dinner Meeting

July 8, 2023

President Stephen Widrick called the meeting to order at 5:52 pm. 85 members present.

Mr. Widrick thanked some of the many critical volunteers of the BCA including the area directors which allow the BCA to function. Mr Widrick announced that Gary White retired from his position of long-time area director.

Mr. Widrick recognized Dan Brewer who is responsible for installing signage and Vicky Fisher who facilitated the craft fair along with the Arts Council.

Mr. Widrick thanked Kent Martin for his many important roles within the BCA including the website, the construction of the newsletter and installing and removing the buoys each year.

Mr. Widrick thanked Doug Hunt who moved the boat washing station into place. When it wouldn't start, Mr. Hunt moved the station for repair and paid for the repairs on his own.

Mr. Widrick thanked Mary Dixon for her work on the boat parade and announced she had retired from the committee position.

All these announcements were met with a round of applause from the membership.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes available on BCA website, paper copies were placed at each table. **Dave Fisher motioned to approve meeting minutes as presented, Mr. Dixon seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gail Roes presented a summary of the annual BCA finances.

INCOME

Member Dues: \$14,280.00

Fish Fund: \$2,466.00, fish stocked in April

Boat Washing Donations: \$1308.00

Other Income: \$1787.14

TOTAL: \$19844.48

EXPENSE – 2022

Aerial Insect Spraying – Golf Course Reimbursement: \$3055.48 (roughly \$1800 a spray
BEFORE REIMBURSEMENT FROM GOLF COURSE

Boat Washing Expense including Depreciation: \$7168.00

Liability Insurance: \$3064.54

Errors and Omissions Insurance: Coming

Fish Fund Expense: \$4,677.40

Water Quality Expense/Dues: \$475.00

Publications/Post Office: \$618.81

Other Expense: \$72.41

TOTAL: \$19,132.04

Mr. Schantz asks about the expense related to the boat launch steward.

Mr. Widrick reported that the annual cost for the boat launch steward program is \$6400.00. That fee is paid directly to Paul Smith’s Adirondack Watershed Institute program. They are responsible for training and oversight of the boat launch steward. From the \$6400, the steward is paid approximately \$20 an hour and will be continuing his part-time position until mid-August. The steward is posted at the Brantingham Boat Launch on Friday’s from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm, Saturday’s from 9:00 am – 5:30 pm and Sundays from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Bruce Buckingham motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Doug Hunt seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ARTS COUNCIL: Fran Abbey reports that the Arts council account currently has a \$21,500 balance. Fran thanked Georgia LaBarge for her work with the Arts Council including securing contracts for musical groups and events. Fran also thanked Mary Dixon for her leadership with the boat parade. Fran also recognized the Fisher’s for their work with the annual craft fair.

The 2023 Annual Old Tyme craft fair generated \$975 in income

Sponsorship Donations- \$3,435.20

Craft Fair Vendor Fees \$975.00

Total Income- \$4,410.20

Total Expenses- \$640.27

Net Income this year- \$3,769.93

Roger Abbey reminds the membership that he and Fran are the logistics people and with the Dixons retired, the Arts Council workload has become even bigger. Mr. Abbey stated, “We want to spend the money, in a responsible manner. We are looking to add

to what we are doing, but we need support for set-up and looking to expand to other programs.” Murder Mystery was a big success, but an enormous amount of work. The Arts Council is looking for persons who would like to champion another idea. Abbey’s will help with any logistics but need people who can do the work. Please contact Roger and Fran Abbey to offer your assistance.

Mr. Widrick asks Fran Abbey when contracts are signed for the bands. Mrs. Abbey reported that grant money is being used to pay for the band, the contract must be signed in the fall.

Pat Dowling reports that the Summer Trash Band will be playing from his camp for free this summer.

Mr. Widrick questioned the access to the lake for the concerts. Those off the lake may find it difficult to attend. Is the plan moving forward to keep a balance of concerts on and off the lake?

Mr. Abbey reports that there are 2 concerts scheduled on the lake and one concert at Camp Aldersgate.

Mr. Abbey states that his vision for the Arts Council is for contributors to possibly purchase a dedicated space or land that could be adapted for events such as a tent. Location is important and must be large enough. Mr. Abbey also recognized the value of having an event that provides an indoor space such as the Brantingham Golf Course so there is access to drinks.

Pat Dowling suggests that the Arts Council might approach Scott Guillaume about using the land behind The Pine Tree.

AERIAL INSECT SPRAYING: David Fisher offers an initial pest report of a bear sighting on Partridgeville Road!

Mr. Fisher reports there have been two sprays so far this season. The first spray was requested just prior to Memorial Day. Because of a mechanical issue with the plane and weather limitations, there was a short delay. The second spray was applied on the 4th of July.

Because of recent heavy rainfall, Mr. Fisher and Mr. Duflo anticipate a large increase in mosquitoes in the next 5 days or so. Weather permitting, Mr. Duflo will spray to contain the outbreak. Because District 12 receives only one application per season, it is critical that it is delivered at a time in which the spray will be the most effective. Therefore, District 12 will also receive an application during this next spray.

Mr. Fisher reminds the membership that part of his job is education and informs the membership that the focus of the applications is mosquitos and black flies. It does not control deer flies, gnats or midges. Anything that flies in the middle of the day will not be affected.

Mr. Fisher reports that BCA has contracted again with Duflo Spray Chemical Company for 4 sprays with an option for a fifth spray. Mr. Fisher reports that he places a request with Duflo for a treatment, but the decision for timing on an application rests with Mr. Duflo and is based on weather conditions, other jobs and equipment.

BOAT WASHING STATION: Karin Hennigan reports that the BCA has again secured a boat launch steward through Paul Smith's Adirondack Watershed Institute. As stated before, Carson is assigned to the boat launch on Friday's from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm, Saturday's from 9:00 pm to 5:30 pm and Sunday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Karin reports that one week ago Carson identified an aquatic invasive species, Curly Pond Leaf attached to the trailer of a boat that was about to be launched into Brantingham Lake. Carson took a photograph of the plant, sent it to his supervisor and collected the plant according to protocol. The boat trailer was cleaned.



“Invasive species cause recreational, economic and ecological damage

Curly-leaf pondweed impacts:

- *Dense mats at the water’s surface inhibit water recreationists.*
- *Overtakes habitat and outcompetes native aquatic plants, potentially lowering diversity.*
- *Provides unsuitable shelter, food, and nesting habitat for native animals.*
- *Midsummer die-offs can litter the shoreline with dead plants.”*

[Curly-leaf pondweed \(Potamogeton crispus\) | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us)

Ms. Hennigan reports that we are fortunate to have a part-time Paul Smith's trained steward who lives locally. It is critical to keep invasive plants out of the lake because of the potential damage and expense to control. Carson endures some difficult boat owners and it is important to note that he does not have the authority to mandate the boat/trailer inspection for invasive species. However, even with a refusal, he tries to "eyeball" the trailer and exterior of the boat.

President Widrick informs the membership that as many as 90% of the boats on the lake remain on the lake for the summer. Ideally, the boat washing station should be located on Brantingham Road so that boat owners can wash their boat before they reach the lake.

CITIZEN STATEWIDE LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (CSLAP): Karen Murphy reports on behalf of Chris Murphy. Because our lake chemistry has remained healthy and stable, the New York State Federation of Lake Associations has allowed us to opt for 4 samplings instead of 8 for 2024. A sampling was collected in June. The other samples will be collected in July, August and September.

INVASIVE SPECIES: Polly Peterson thanked her team, Sue Lorenzini and Judy Wilson, for their assistance in "tossing the rake" to assess for evidence of invasive species in the lake. Ms. Peterson reports that there is a proliferation of Broad Leaf Pondweed. This is a native plant. If it is a nuisance, you are allowed to clear or "pull" the plants.

BUOYS: President Widrick reported on behalf of Kent Martin. Ken, along with helpers, installed the buoys using GPS coordinates. One buoy was reported out of place and was relocated using a chain used to attach to the anchor.

FISH STOCKING: Karen Murphy reported on behalf of Chris Murphy. All of the money donated toward the fish fund was used for the fish stocking order. The fish were delivered in April. Over 250 12-14" rainbow trout and an allotment of fathead minnows were stocked into Brantingham Lake. The minnows are provided as a food source for our trout and other species residing in our lake. Pleasant Lake received 115 rainbow trout, a big increase from last year. Thank you to those who donated to the fish fund.

Roger Abbey asks how much money was donated to the Pleasant Lake Fish Fund.

Gail Roes reports that Pleasant Lake received donations of \$555 last year and \$350 for this year.

President Widrick reminds the membership that Lake of Pines is not stocked because there is no permit for stocking. A member reported that they are no longer stocking carp in Lake of the Pines.

BCA DISTRICT 12: President Widrick reports that the commitment to join the BCA from District 12 has not been huge. Based on what was collected from last year and this year, the district will be able to provide one insect spray for them this year. The

challenge for the district is the size of the geography. Mr. Tom Gunn, area director for District 12, is working hard to grow the membership base.

LOON FRIENDLY LAKE CERTIFICATION: Karin Hennigan reports that the loon couple on the lake has generated much discussion. Last year, Brantingham Lake met the requirements for the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation's (ACLC) "Loon Friendly Lake Certification". Ms. Hennigan read the certificate and thank you note to the membership.

Karin reports that in 2021, a loon chick was successfully hatched by the loon couple, but the loon was killed by a dog. This is when the ACLC was contacted for counsel and education on keeping the loons safe. Last year, a loon chick successfully hatched and survived the summer on the lake, but may not have migrated before the lake froze. This year, the couple hatched two chicks which have been closely monitored by the loon rangers on the lake, otherwise known as the "loonatics" '. Ms. Hennigan thanked Doug Hunt, Chris Markam and Chris Vallenti. Currently one loon appears to be struggling possibly due to injury after a strike by a personal watercraft. Ms. Hennigan reports that the ACLC advises monitoring the loon chick, but that there is little more that can be done.

OFFICER & AREA DIRECTOR ANNUAL ELECTIONS: An odd year means that odd numbered area directors are up for re-election as well as the President and Treasurer

President Widrick reports that Jen McClain-Bove Has agreed to represent District #1 replacing Gary White. There is a continued need for an additional area director.

President Widrick asked for nominations, and none were offered.

Bruce Buckingham motioned that all officers and area directors up for re-election for the year 2023 be re-elected. The motion was seconded by Lauren Sauter and the motion was so approved by a unanimous voice vote.

DE-ICING BUBBLERS: Robert Johnson, Council Member for the Town of Greig addressed the membership. Mr. Johnson began by reminding members present that they are always welcome to attend the Town of Greig Board meetings in-person or via Zoom on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm. Minutes to the meetings are posted on the Town of Greig website.

Mr. Johnson reports that a proposal has been brought forth regarding "bubblers" on the lake.

Town of Greig Meeting Minutes, May 17, 2023, page 1

"Attorney informed the Board of her research into regulation and control of "bubblers" ' used by people living along water shores. These devices keep the water open to protect docks and other structures from damage when the ice retreats in the spring. No state agency has taken responsibility for control. Lakeside owners have complained about

“open waters” caused by some method of ice control because it creates danger for others using the ice surface for recreation. Suggestions have been made to create a “permitting process” for users of this equipment. This might mean posted notice that ice thickness might be unsafe and to ensure the power of the ice control is limited to just the dock or structure intended through an inspection process. No decision made on what will be done.”

Mr. Johnson reports that the board has received complaints about safety issues with bubblers. The concern is that it may be difficult to determine where there is thin ice. Complaints have also been reported about the inability to use waterfront for recreation in the winter because of neighboring bubblers keeping the ice “open”.

Mr. Johnson reports that bubblers are not regulated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, therefore, the towns are allowed to regulate them. The town has been researching how other towns have addressed the issue.

One approach would be to require a permit for the use of a bubbler. In addition, the town may regulate what type of bubbler can be used (bubbler type rather than a propeller de-icer) and the horsepower of the motor. For example, the town could only allow ½ horsepower motors. Bubblers with tubing open a more narrow section of the lake. Those who seek a permit might be provided signage to post warning recreational users of the thin ice. Currently, the town is considering \$30 for the cost of the permit. The town may also recommend use of timers and a thermostat for safety.

Mr. Johnson welcomes the membership to provide feedback to the Town of Greig board by letter, email or attending a board meeting. The goal is for everyone to be able to enjoy the lake and be safe.

John Dixon responded to Mr. Johnson explaining that damage to a boat house or dock is an out-of-pocket expense and not covered by insurance. Last year, his boat house required over \$7000 in repairs and this year the costs are more than \$30,000. Massive sheets of ice move across the lake and the bubbler helps the homeowner to protect their property. Mr. Dixon states he was advised to use a bubbler to protect his property and that the Adirondack Park Agency does not allow the removal of the dock.

Gary White reports that he has a 250 feet shoreline on the lake. He suggests that the power of the bubbler should be regulated and agrees that ½ horsepower should be the maximum. Mr. White states that his bubbler runs for 7 hours a day and he has never had any damage to his boat house.

Pat Dowling responded that his house is over the water. There must be a method to protect property on the lake.

Mr. Dowling also reminds the membership that you can go to the zoning board to get a waiver for issues related to dock length, etc.

SHORT TERM RENTALS: Mr. Johnson reports the Town of Greig has received complaints about people renting to large numbers of people, noise complaints, and complaints of smell secondary to septic overflow. The Town of Greig is looking into what other towns have been doing about this. An example could be that the town might inspect property and septic size and establish a limit on how many renters can allowed. The annual fee in one town was \$800 a year to provide this appraisal.

Mr. Johnson encourages property owners who are renting to be mindful of your neighbors and consider how they might feel with an increase in noise and potential smell of an overflowing septic.

2024 DATES:

President Widrick reports:

July 13, 2024 – BCA Annual Dinner Meeting

July 9th, 2024 – Old Tyme Country Fair

BRANTINGHAM GOLF COURSE AED: Scott Virkler reports the Brantingham Golf Course pro shop now has an Automated External Defibrillator*. It is removed from the building in the off season. It is easy to use and can save a life.

*“An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It's a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use, medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.: www.redcross.org

Roger Abbey motioned the meeting be adjourned. Polly Peterson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Murphy