**Brantingham Community Association Annual Meeting – July 11, 2020**

This meeting was presented via ZOOM Communications.

**Members Present:** Roger & Fran Abbey, Dave Adamsen, Pam Brewer, Penny Curtis, Tim Daggett, Gail Finn, Sam Hirshey, Martha Jenkins, Bob Hindman, Bob & Ellen Johanson, Steve & Dina Kushnir, John & Joanne Lomber, Ann & Sue Lorenzini, Karl & Pat Keiffer, Ken Martin, Karen Murphy, Bob McQueen, A. Palmer, Polly Peterson, Ann R., Gail Roes, Phil Stark, Gary & Dorothy White, Stephen Widrick, several members by phone.

President Stark called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

President Stark welcomed members to this year’s very unconventional BCA Annual Meeting. There will be 4 votes during the meeting: Secretary’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, Election of Officers and membership dues.

**SECRETARY REPORT:** The minutes to the BCA Annual Dinner meeting for July 12, 2019 was emailed along with the invitation and link to the meeting.

**Ken Martin motioned that the meeting minutes for July 12, 2019 be accepted as written. Bob McQueen seconded the motion and the motion was so approved by a voice vote.**

**TREASURER REPORT:** The treasurer’s report was emailed along with the invitation and link to the meeting. Please see separate document for detailed report. Arts Council account information was shared, with Gail reminding members, the Arts Council money is separate from the BCA money.

**INCOME**

$14,841.74

**EXPENSES**

$17,152,64

Gail Flynn ask what the fiscal year dates are for the BCA. Gail Roes responded that the fiscal year for the BCA begins on January 1 and ends on December 31st.

**Sue Lorenzini motioned that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted as presented. Bob McQueen seconded the motion and the motion was so approved by a voice vote.**

**2020 MEMBERSHIP POLL:** President Stark shared the results of the 2020 Membership Poll. Sharing his screen members on video could see the results of each question. 119 BCA members responded to the poll

**Question #1: Where is your house located?**

81% responded that they were on Brantingham Lake

**Question #2: How important is the Boat Washing Station and steward to you as a BCA Member?**

Very Important: 56.78%

Somewhat important: 32.20%

Not Important: 11.2%

**Question #3: How important is Black Fly and Mosquito spraying to you as a BCA member?**

Very Important: 93.22%

Somewhat Important: 5.08%

Not Important: 1.60%

**Question #4: What new projects or services would you like to see the BCA engage in?**

Question #5: Would you be willing to pay more in yearly membership dues to continue to fund the boat washing station and what increase in dues would you find acceptable?

Increase by $10: 29.41%

**Increase by $20: 36.13%**

**Increase by $30: 8.4%**

**Increase by $40: 20.17% 64.34%**

Not willing to pay an increase: 5.88%

President Stark reports that a majority answered the poll that they would support an increase in membership dues by at least $20

An increase in dues by $20 would generate an additional $6000.00 in revenue (this includes a projected 5% - 6% loss of dues from members not willing to pay. This additional revenue would fully cover the contract with Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) for the boat launch steward and provide for additional hours.

This year the contract with AWI was abbreviated to reduce the cost to $4312.00. This year, there is no steward at the boat launch on Friday afternoons and Saturday and Sunday hours were reduced by 2 hours.

Mr. Stark reminded members that at last years membership meeting, he reported the BCA would actively seek alternative methods of income to cover the cost of the steward. With the help of Lewis County Soil and Water, a grant application was submitted, but not chosen. This year the BCA submitted a member-item request to Assemblyman Blakenbush’s office. Letters of support were written by the Lewis County Sheriff’s Office and the Town of Greig Supervisor Marilyn Patterson. This would be a one-time only grant, not continuing support. The BCA will continue to look for a source of funds, but this would need to be an ongoing process to continue all BCA programs.

This past season 455 watercraft entered Brantingham Lake from the boat launch while the steward was present. 451 allowed the boat launch steward to conduct an inspect their watercraft. including 13 canoes, 17 kayaks, 283 motorboats, 138 personal watercraft, 3 rowboats and a sailboat. 2 watercrafts were identified as having an organism and 1 boat was found to have an aquatic invasive plant species on board and the steward removed it.

President Stark reminded members that if the lake were to become infected with an invasive aquatic species, it would be very costly and would directly affect property values. According to the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), the annual cost of treating the spread of these invasive plants is 51-56 million dollars annually.

*“Invasive species are non-native plants, animals, and insects that cause harm to the environment and human health and put economically important industries such as farming, forestry, and tourism at risk. According to a 2014 report commissioned by APIPP entitled ‘The Actual and Potential Economic Impact of Invasive Species on the Adirondack Park: A Preliminary Assessment,’ the potential direct economic impact of just eight invasive species, if allowed to spread throughout the Adirondacks, could be between $51 and $56 million annually”.(The Nature Conservancy, 2019)*

Many Adirondack lakes and ponds have already been infected. Brantingham Lake may be too small to be considered for grant monies. The BCA members voted to provide the service, but if we cannot increase dues, we cannot continue this program.

Mr. Stark reported that some members had commented on the member survey that the BCA should charge a fee for inspection by the boat launch steward. BCA does not own the boat launch (owned by the Town of Greig) and we do not have the authority to charge boat owners.

Mr. Stark reports the goal for the AWI trained and managed boat launch stewardship program is not just inspection of boats, but provide education regarding invasive aquatic species to watercraft owners.

BCA board is proposing 2 additional categories for membership.

Mr. Stark reports that the BCA board is proposing an increase in dues as follows:

$60 – Primary Membership

$30 – Associate Membership (Property owners with multiple camps)

$20 – Friends of the Brantingham Community Association

$20 – Tier I Business Membership

$60 – Tier II Business Membership which includes advertising on BCA directory/website/newsletter.

Pat Mooney-Loucks asks for clarification on the cost of the boat launch stewardship program. Mr. Stark reports that the cost is $4312.00 for this year which is a reduction of hours from last year by half from last year.

President Stark states he was hoping for a higher number of participants for the vote on increased dues, but feels comfortable moving forward knowing the poll results.

Pat Mooney-Loucks stated that she represents 5 members of her family and they fully support the increase in dues

**President Stark motioned the Brantingham Community Association increase dues starting in 2021 to $60 for a primary membership, $30 for Associate, $20 for Friends of the BCA, $20 for a Tier I Business membership and $60 for a Tier II Business Membership. Bob Hindman seconded the motion and the motion was so approved by a unanimous voice vote.**

**AERIAL INSECT SPRAYING:** President Stark reports that the poll demonstrated that members believe this service is important. Many support focusing on the sprays in the early part of the season. Mr. Roger Abbey recently met with Mr. Duflo of Duflo Chemical Spray to review the areas to be sprayed to allow Mr. Duflo to be more efficient in his flying patterns and options for expansion of spraying area. Mr. Stark will be speaking to Mr. Duflo about focusing the sprays to the first half of the black fly season which is the most critical time. The goal would be to have our 4th spray by the July 4th holiday weekend. We are contracted for 5 sprays, but in the past, we have not used more than 3 sprays. With the increase in income, we can ensure we have the coverage we need.

**BCA GOALS 2021:** President Stark reports that goals include:

* Bringing in more participants from around the community, including those off the lake, and providing activities for off-lake members. Looking at options to expand the membership districts to encompass those individuals and ways to attracts those individuals.
* Education of renters on the lake and enforcing the laws and rules of the lake. BCA does not have the authority to enforce laws
* Update sign at boat launch with current information. The sign is currently outdated. The town has expressed interest in helping us financially

Mr. Abbey states that he will be willing to print a sign for the boat launch on Coroplast or a different substrate.

Bob Hindman reports that there are several vehicles parked on town property at the boat launch. These vehicles have been parked there for several weeks to a month and are making it difficult for vehicles with boat trailers to back into the boat launch. Marilyn Patterson will be talking to Sheriff Carpinelli about issuing parking tickets. Mr. Hindman suggest to Marilyn Patterson, Town of Greig Supervisor, to widen the upper part of the boat launch. Bob Hindman suggests that the town needs to widen out the driveway at the top and the ramp needs to be corrected.

Mr. Stark responds that we will have to continue to work with town and communicate these issues. There have been continues concerns about the bottom of the ramp itself and that boats have been damaged with the large drop.

Kent Martin reports that the vehicles parked behind the A-frame at the top of the driveway to the boat launch are guest of the owners of Grant Island.

Bob Hindman reports that the town has to generate a ticket form that could be used by the Sheriff’s Department. The Sheriff’s Department does not have parking tickets of their own. Tickets would then be placed on the cars. Mr. Hindman states their used to be “No Parking” signs that have either fallen down or been removed.

Kent Martin states he does not know the differentiation of the property lines for the boat launch driveway and the property for the A-frame.

Stephen Widrick states that the Town of Greig will be paving North Shore Road this week and wonders if they will pave the boat launch driveway. This may help to identify which part of the road and driveway is town property.

Mr. Hindman responds that the boat launch property has been surveyed and it approximately the width of 2 cars side-by-side. The corner of the A-frame is on town property.

President Stark responds that these are Town of Greig issue and hopefully they can make some progress on these issues.

**SEPTIC SYSTEMS:** Final comment on survey was about addressing failed or failing septic systems on the lake. There has been a great deal of new construction and additions in the past decade. In the past few years there has been a noticeable increase in higher level of nutrients in the lake. It can happen naturally, but it can happen because of human cause. Leaking septic systems can also cause this increase in nutrients in the lake. In the last few newsletters, information has been included in the Water Quality Report information about this issue and encourage members of the perform dye testing. But we should do more from the education standpoint we need to increase education

Pat Mooney-Loucks stated she is concerned about children swimming in the channel between the lake and the pond. She reported close calls when their heads suddenly appear as they are swimming in the water in front of boaters. She states that this is very dangerous, especially at dusk when it is harder to see. She has witnessed incidents where boaters have had to beep at the children.

Karl and Pat Keiffer report that they have also seem children swimming in the channel.

Phil Stark responded he understands the concern, the BCA can provide a public service announcement that people should put themselves or their children in danger.

Sue Lorenzini reports that she has seen a car park at the bridge on Cottage Road so the children can go and swim in channel. Sue told the woman she could bring the children to her camp for swimming. She told sue that she lives nearby, but brings her kids here to swim.

Phillip Stark responded that the property owners on the channel would have to address this issue with the proper authorities. Again, we need to provide education people on rules and lake safety.

Steve and Dina Kushnir reported about several incidents that have occurred with people aggressively telling them not to be out in front of their place. Once incident involved their daughter paddle boarding and someone threw rocks at her. A second incident occurred in the shallow off of Dark Island when someone hopped on their personal watercraft and aggressively circled their boat and sprayed them with water while yelling, “Go back to your own place?” Mr. Kushnir stated that persons seem to think they own the lake water in front of their camp.

Phillip Stark responded by saying there is no room for this type of behavior and the Lewis County Sheriff’s Department should have been called.

Pat Mooney-Loucks states this is why people put rafts and floats out in front of their shoreline.

Bob Hindman reports the speed limit is 5mph within 100 feet from shore and the incident is a violation. Sue Lorenzini adds unless you are picking up or dropping a water-skier.

Pat Mooney Loucks states we need to education people that no one owns the lake. You own your own shoreline, but not the lake itself.

**RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS:** List of officers and directors up for re-election was emailed out to all BCA members along with a solicitation for nominees. The nomination period ended last evening and the only nominees are the incumbents that currently hold the positions

**OFFICERS**

Vice President: Sue Lorenzini

Treasurer: Gail Roes

**EVEN-NUMBERED AREA DIRECTORS**

Area 2 – Pam Brewer

Area 4 – Stephen Widrick

Area 6 – Kent Martin

Area 8 – Mary Lynn Schmandt

Area 10 – Roger and Fran Abbey

**Bob McQueen motioned that all nominees should be re-elected for a 2-year term as outlined in the BCA By-laws. Bob Hindman seconded the motion and the motion was so approved by a unanimous voice vote.**

**NEW BUSINESS/FINAL COMMENTS:** Karl Keiffer concerned about noise pollution from party barges with music playing especially at night. It would be good as a public service to remind people to be respectful with the timing and volume of the music on their party barges.

Phillip Stark reports that he has checked on this issue after prior complaints and there is no noise ordinance for the Town of Greig. We can express rules to follow or common courtesy to consider as good neighbors. We do have a lot of renters on the lake which poses a problem, but we can try to educate property owner and renters.

Sue Lorenzini asks if we could we put something in the newsletter that landlords could share with their renters.

Kent Martin states he does something like this for his renters. Phillip Stark ask if he could your provide a copy to see if we can craft something for the BCA newsletter

Mr. Kushnir reports that he recently found a document that was created and distributed by the BCA and would share a copy. Pam Brewer confirmed that there was a document created in the past.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Murphy

BCA Secretary