**BCA Directors & Officers Meeting – August 8, 2020**

This meeting was conducted using ZOOM Video Communications

**ATTENDANCE:** Fran Abbey, Pam Brewer, Mary Dixon, Karl & Pat Kieffer, Sue Lorenzini, Kent Martin, Karen Murphy, Polly Peterson, Gail Roes, Phillip Stark, Gary White, Stephen Widrick

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 am.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**: Members had access to the June 27, 2020 meeting minutes. Gary White stated his name was not listed in the attendance for the meeting. Karen Murphy acknowledged the amendment. **Phil Stark motioned to approved the minutes. The motion was so approved by voice vote.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** An updated Treasurer’s Report had been emailed the day prior to the meeting. Please see posted separately on website.

**Total income as of June 26, 2020: $11,510.00**

Main member dues are $575.00 less than the amount received on the final 2019 income statement. This represents approximately 17

memberships.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP: $20.00

**DONATIONS**

BOAT WASHING STATION: $1890

FISH FUND: $2710.00

MEMORIAL FUND: $465.00

UNDECLARED: 120.00

**Total expenses as of June 26, 2020: $10680.53**

Net Income: $1706.10

Total BCA operating Income as of August 6, 2020  16956.97

Total BCA operating expenses as of August 6, 2020 17158.08

Resulting in a BCA operating net loss of 201

ARTS COUNCIL: Income as of August 6, 2020: $5240.00

Expenses $240.00

Net income $5000.00

Gail reports she has not received a bill for the “Errors and Omissions” insurance.

President Stark responded that he had checked on this. BCA had agreed upon a 2-year renewal for the contract. This may be why we have not received a bill as of yet.

Gail Roes reports she is awaiting a bill from Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) for boat launch steward reimbursement.

Phil Stark reports that he will be requesting reimbursement for ZOOM Communications fees. However, the membership will be cancelled at the end of summer.

**Phil Stark motioned to approve Treasurer’s Report. Fran Abbey seconded the motion and the motion was so approved by voice vote.**

**BUOYS:** Kent Martin reports that one of the buoys for the “flats” has floated over toward the Gillen camp. The buoy was reportedly replaced using Cinderblocks and rope because the cement anchor and chain could not be found. Mr. Martin reports that the buoys have a more than adequate equipment to keep them in place. It appears that some boaters may be anchoring on the buoy chain

Diane Miller reported on the Brantingham Facebook page that the same buoy had again floated away. Mr. Martin reports he does not live on the lake. He is hoping for assistance from someone on the lake to replace the buoy. Mr. Martin states he may have to make a new anchor.

Phil Stark reminds members that the BCA had sent a member-item request for funds to Assemblyman Blackenbush’s for the cost of new buoys and installation equipment. The office reports they are no funds at this time to honor the request.

President Stark states the BCA may have to purchase a new buoy in the spring to replace a damaged buoy.

Kent Martin reminds the membership that several buoys have been replaced by orange markers for the season, but the Lewis County Recreational Officer is urging replacement of all marker with Coast Guard approved navigational buoys.

**MEMBERSHIP DINNER:** President Starkstates a date should be chosen for the 2021 BCA annual membership dinner. If we should go with the same weekend, the date would be Saturday July 10, 2021. Although we do not know at this time if we can have a dinner meeting, at least we can have the Brantingham Golf Course hold the date. The format would remain the same as the 2019 BCA Annual Dinner meeting: BCA Meeting at 5:00 pm followed by cocktails at 6:00 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm.

If we are unable to hold a dinner meeting because of the ongoing pandemic, then the meeting will be held virtually.

Mr. Stark states that Polly Peterson had suggested that a virtual meeting be held earlier in the day.

Ms. Peterson suggested 10:00 am.

Members present stated they were in agreement with this time.

**BOAT WASHING STATION:** Mr. Stark reports that at the previous meeting there was discussion about where to place the boat washing station if the new owners of “The Trailside” were not agreeable to having it located on their property. We will have to approach new members when possible.

Karen Murphy asks if there is maintenance that needs to be performed prior to the winter storage of the equipment such as removing the diesel from the tank.

Mr. White responded that he will use an additive to the gas for the winter.

Mr. White reported that the Town of Greig is requesting the equipment be held in cold storage this winter and not the in climate-controlled barn. Mr. White states he will “winterize” the equipment.

**BOAT LAUNCH STEWARD:** Gary White states that the hours for the boat launch steward should be changed to fewer hours on Sunday and more hours on Friday. Mr. White makes the point that there are more boats being launched on Friday. During Sunday, the launch is busier with boaters removing their boats from the lake.

Phil Stark reports that fortunately, thanks to the commitment of our membership, we will be able to resume the original contract which includes Friday next year.

Gary White stated that a SUNY ESF student who spends his summer on Branthingham at his family camp, and is currently a boat launch steward for Lake Bonaparte, has expressed interest in the boat launch steward position for Brantingham for the 2021 season.

Mr. Stark wonders if he is associated with Paul Smith’s AWI program. Karen Murphy responded that she was informed by Deputy Sheriff Mike Leviker that he is employed through a Town of Pulaski program.

Kent Martin asks if we could employ the boat launch steward through a temp agency. This would mean the BCA is not the direct employer.

Karen Murphy stated that the current steward has training and oversight through the Paul Smith’s AWI program.

Stephen Widrick asks if there is truly any oversight from AWI.

Phil Stark states that the current boat launch steward reports directly to the AWI program.

Gary White suggests we investigate the differing programs as we prepare for next years season.

**BOAT PARADE:** President Stark reports that the boat parade with a big success. BCA allocated $100.00 for prize money.

Membership agreed to allocate money for the 2021 boat parade.

President Stark reports there has been some feedback that the boat parade should always be on the 4th of July. There does not need to be a decision this year.

Gail Roes states that the 4th of July is a busy day on the lake, lots of family and friends on boats and docks and it makes sense to have the boat parade on the 4th of July.

Phil Stark suggested that we allocate $100.00 for the 2021 boat parade

**3-G FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Gail Roes states that she was not approached by the 3-G Fire Department for a donation to the 3-G Golf Tournament this year.

Gary White states that the Brantingham Golf Course is not hosting tournaments this season.

Gail Roes ask members present if the BCA should just donate $100 directly to the 3-G Fire Department. **All members present agreed to allocate the money annually donated to the 3-G Golf Tournament directly to the 3-G Fire Department.**

**LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN:** President Stark reports that John Droz shared a previously created lake management plan for Brantingham Lake. Mr. Stark reports that he is going to review the previous plan to see if it fits in the current BCA model. The lake management plan includes the procedure for dye testing for septic systems. Mr. Stark is going to evaluate if this is a program that should be revived.

Gary White reported that after Dave Meade retired as the Town of Greig Code Enforcements officer, that the town went through several different code enforcement officers. Now, Lewis County is going to take over the Town of Greig Code Enforcement.

**BCA 2021 OBJECTIVES:**

**Expand boat launch steward hours**

Need to revisit the boat launch steward servicing agent

Begin aerial insect spraying earlier in the season and perhaps add a spray

Change in membership dues will go live January 1, 2020

Polly Peterson asks about the procedure for businesses that are interested in advertising in the 2021 BCA directory, newsletter or website.

Kent Martin states that he is still working on how this program might work including charges for advertising, etc.

**2020 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:** Phil Stark reports the new BCA dues structure will go live on January 1, 2020. We will see how this increase will affect the membership. The increase in dues will make it possible for the BCA to run all of our programs

Gail Roes asks area directors how the drive has worked out during the pandemic. Did the directors just leave information on the door?

Steve Widrick states he left a note of door of property owners who had not paid dues and also left directories in a bag at the door.

Kent Martin reported that his experiences were in person and people were happy to chat.

Gary White reports positive feedback from members regarding the increase in dues

**AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES:** Polly Peterson reports that she will begin the annual invasive species survey of the lake. Polly extended her thanks to Judy Wilson and Sue Lorenzini who have agreed to survey the south shore of Brantingham Lake and Lily Pond.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Steve Widrick reports that Kovach Repair will not be accepting boats for storage after September 4, 2020 as the owner of the business will be on a medical leave.

Kent Martin states he cannot pull the buoys before September 4th.

Steve Widrick states that Dave Lambert in New Bremen accepts boats for shrink-wrapping for $11.00 a foot and $200 to store and will winterize for $125. He will service boats as well. Phone number 315.286.7120

Gary White state he heard that Craig Hunt has purchased land on Van Arnum Road and intends to service and store boats.

Sue Lorenzini suggested a request be placed in the next newsletter that those owners who have renters consider a $10 donation per occupancy to the boat wash station.

Phil Stark responds that the BCA raised dues to cover the cost of services so that we didn’t have to continue to solicit donations from members. Mr. Stark will consider the idea and determine the right language to add that to the membership form.

Gail Roes states that the boat launch steward program is so important because many lakes in the region have been infected with Eurasion Water Milfoil. Pleasant Lake near Carthage is infected and the cost for treatment is very high.

Gary White states he had shared an article in the Glens Falls newspaper that Lake George has spend approximately $500,000 to treat Milfoil and the annual cost is running $50,000 – $100,000 to treat Milfoil. (See article below)

Sue Lorenzini Eurasion Water Milfoil would affect fishing, skiing, boating, swimming.

Gail Roes states any infection in Brantingham Lake would spill over to Lake of the Pines

Pam Brewer reports that she sent letters home to property owners in her area encouraging them to pay their BCA dues. Pam states she included a list of all the BCA programs that are funded using BCA dues.

Gail reports that if all property owners paid the annual dues at the old dues rate of $40, it would generate $6,000.00.

**PAYPAL:** Mr. Stark asks what percentage of dues were paid via PayPal this year? It has been very little in the past.

Gail Roes responded that last years the fees were $2.92, which probably represents 1 person using PayPal to pay their BCA dues and/or donations. The PayPal fees for this year represent 9 or 10 people using the service. (Gail Roes corrected this number to 29 after the meeting in an email)

Gail Roes states some members really appreciate an in-person approach.

Phil Stark, I don’t think we need to put much effort into finding different online option if only a few people are using the service. We will keep the PayPal link.

**LAKE CONCERTS:** Mary Dixon reports there will be 2 concerts on Friday night at Pleasant Lake and 3 different concerts on Brantingham Lake Saturday. The concert information has been posted online and there are signs on the lake at the dock locations, flyers at the post office, and a sign at the 4 corners. Camp Aldersgate will be open for the concerts.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Murphy

BCA Secretary

**\*MORE THAN 20 TONS OF MILFOIL REMOVED FROM LAKE GEORGE**

The Post Star Newspaper: Chad Arnold, July 23, 2020

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

LAKE GEORGE — Crews this year have already removed more than 20 tons of Eurasian watermilfoil from Lake George, and thousands of pounds more of the invasive species are expected to be harvested before crews finish work in September.

A total of 42,500 pounds of watermilfoil had been removed throughout Lake George as of Wednesday, including Sawmill Bay, Gull Bay and near Million Dollar Beach, said Walt Lender, the executive director of the Lake George Association, a nonprofit organization that works to protect the lake.

“We’re quite a bit ahead of where we were last year,” Walt said. “We expect this to be one of our biggest years getting milfoil out of the lake.”

A total of 82,960 pounds of milfoil were removed from the lake last year.

Work to eradicate the plant from the Lake George basin has been ongoing since it was first discovered in Lake George more than 30 years ago. Eurasian milfoil is native to Europe, Asia and North Africa.

As the plant grows, it steals resources from native species, which negatively impacts the lake’s biodiversity. Once the plant reaches the surface, dense mats form, which jam boat propellers and make it difficult for paddle boat operators to navigate.

Lender said four crews from AE Commercial Diving have been working 40 hours a week to harvest milfoil in what is one of the biggest operations to remove the species from the lake’s waters to date.

The LGA is allocating $100,000 to the project, but is fronting $500,000 in diver costs. The organization expects to be reimbursed through a series of state grants awarded to Warren County and the Lake George Park Commission.

The Park Commission, as well as The Fund for Lake George, also are working on the project.

“It’s a team effort,” Lender said.

But eradicating the plant is no easy task.

Milfoil fragments break off because of the lake’s current and spawn new roots and plant elsewhere. Crews must ensure that not only the current roots are removed from the lake’s bed, but that no additional fragments are left behind.

Still, Lender believes significant progress has been made in fighting the invasive species.

“I think we’re beating it back quite successfully,” he said