**BCA Directors & Officers Meeting – May 1, 2021**

This meeting was conducted using ZOOM Video Communications

**ATTENDANCE:** Fran & Roger Abbey, Pam Brewer, Mary Dixon, Karl & Pat Kieffer, Kent Martin, Karen Murphy, Polly Peterson, Gail Roes, Mary Lee Schmandt, Phillip Stark, Gary White, Stephen Widrick, Bob Hindman, Martha Powers, Chris and Darlene Sorell, Audrey Drake, Catherine Smith, Bruce & Robin Baynes , Betty Sawyer, Mary Lee O’Brien, Doug Hunt, Gary White, Jerry Menter, Liz Jones, Don & Linda Higgins, Vicky Fisher, Andy Hochreiter, Karen Rudar, Mary Lee Barrett

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**: BCA Board Members were given access to the August 8, 2020 meeting minutes by email. Minutes to all BCA meetings are posted on the BCA website. **Kent Martin motion to approve minutes as presented. Gary White seconded the motion and the motion was so approved by a voice vote.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Gail Roes emailed report to board members prior to BCA meeting. Gail reports income as follows:

**Income 2020**

Member Dues: $13010.00

Fish Fund: $3112.00 (Fish have been purchased and stock for 2021)

Boat Washing Donations: $2235.00

Other Income: $673.00

Total: $19020.00

**Expense 2020**

Aerial Insect Spraying $4238.00

Boat Washing/Depreciation $5780.00

Insurance $3718.00

Fish Fund Expenses $2202.00

Water Quality $1045.00

Publication/Postage $726.00

Other Expense $667.00

Total $18376.00

**NET INCOME $654.00**

ARTS COUNCIL Net Income: $5000.00 (This is separate from BCA money)

**Polly Peterson motioned that the treasurer’s report be approved as presented. Phillip Stark seconded the motion. The motion was so approved by a voice vote.**

**BCA DINNER MEETING 2021:** Gail Roes reports that she has spoken with Kim at the Brantingham Golf Course about hosting the BCA Annual dinner meeting. Kim reported that still needs to speak with Mike Bradish and follow any local or state regulations.

Phil Stark states that a decision will need to be made in a timely matter so we can prepare for whatever format is chosen. President Stark states he wonders if members will feel comfortable participating in an in-person meeting this year or if we should wait until next year.

Kent Martin suggests an online survey to assess comfort level for an in-person dinner meeting.

Mr. Stark voices concerns over cost of an online survey and both Kent Martin and Polly Peterson responded with free alternatives.

Gail Roes states that the Brantingham Golf Banquet was held in-person at the Golf Course.

Gail Roes reports that she is vaccinated and many members present raised their hand indicating that they were vaccinated as well.

Phil Stark states we still need to check with the Brantingham Golf Course is willing to host the event.

Bob Hindman, Karl and Pat Kieffer, Liz Jones, Pam Brewer, Gary White, Karen Murphy all stated they are in favor of an in-person BCA annual meeting. Gary White states we could offer restrictions such as wearing a mask.

**Phil Stark requests Gail to please check with the venue since the membership present offers no opposition to an in-person annual BCA meeting.**

Mr. Stark suggest the same format as last year with the business meeting beginning at 5:00 pm and the dinner beginning at 7:00 pm. There was no objection to continuing with that format.

**PROPOSED BRANTINGHAM CAMPGROUND:** Mr. Stark reports that there is a scheduled public hearing on May 6, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the Greig Fire Hall to accept comments regarding the proposed Brantingham Campground.

Mary Lee Barrett asks about invasive species.

Mr. Stark reports that the BCA has contracted with the Paul Smiths Adirondack Watershed Institute to provide and oversee a boat launch steward to inspect watercraft launched into the lake for invasive species. This year’s schedule has been expanded from last year thanks to the BCA membership agreeing to increased annual dues. The boat launch steward is scheduled to be on duty Friday from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm, Saturday from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm.

Mr. Don Higgins addresses the membership stating that he sent a letter to the BCA board in April. “Looking at the last minutes of the Town of Greig Planning Board meeting, there is no mention of impact on Brantingham Lake.” Mr. Higgins suggest that there should be BCA membership at the public hearing on May 6th. He would like to be informed about the expectations of the visitors to the campground. Will the owner advertise that the renters will have access to the lake? Should we require an expansion of hours for the boat launch stewardship, who will pay for it?

Mary Lee Barrett agrees it is important to have BCA representation at the public hearing on May 6th.

After several questions, Mr. Stark clarifies that property surrounding the lake is owned by the individual property owners, the boat launch is owned by the Town of Greig and Brantingham Lake is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Bob Hindman states that Marilyn Patterson suggested to him that there was a deed showing the Brantingham Lake Boat Launch is deeded to the Town of Greig residents.

Karen Murphy reports that Fran Abbey sent an email stating she has “just talked to Tom Gunn. The boat ramp is on the town tax rolls belonging to them as part of the town roads. “

Mary Lynn Schmandt asks if the BCA could buy the boat launch

President Stark responded that this is a complex topic and out of the scope of the BCA. A committee would need to be identified to investigate this and see if it is even possible.

Bob Hindman asks if the boat washing station can be viable if placed at the Trailside since the business is currently closed.

Gary White responded that the equipment does not require electricity. (It is run on diesel and propane)

Steve Widrick reports he see lights on at the property at night.

Mr. Stark reports the equipment will be placed once the boat launch steward begins his contract.

Bob Hindman states that the main thing about the proposed campground besides the lake water quality and the possibility of invasive species is the impact on area residents.

Pam Brewer asks about water supplies. Will they put in a well?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reports Carl Rizzo (?) states that if the campground is approved, and there is a increase in the use of the boat launch, there may be funds available through watershed money taxed and allocated for operation of the dam. There is an annual surplus and perhaps the money could be used to protect the lake. Options of use of the money is being investigated.

Mr. Stark reminds the membership that prior to a few years ago there was no monitoring of boats going in and out of the lake. BCA arranged for the boat launch stewardship program and purchased the boat washing station. The number of hours the boat launch steward is posted is limited because of the cost. 240 hours for the season costs the BCA $6720.00. Expanding the hours may be far beyond the scope of the BCA.

Gal Roes states that an online GIS maps show the boat launch as an extension of North Shore Road

Pat Dowling reports that he tried to address a way to allow the lake to have free access but at the same time prevent invasive species. The Town of Greig was hesitant to put in a fence or restrict hours. What are some measures we can incorporate at the boat launch?

Steve Widrick asks if there has been talk about property across from the boat launch becoming a parking lot for vehicles that have launched their boat.

Bob Hindman reports that that report is untrue and will not happen.

Chris Sorrell asks if there a dock near the boat launch for use by those launching boats.

Don Higgins states at some point, the BCA needs to pass a motion or statement of issues that the Campground developer needs to address. “It is a dilemma that no one understands the expectations of the campground.” Is the campground suggesting renters use the lake to swim and put in their boat? How will they have access? If something happens to the water quality, the property values will drop.

Mr. Widrick reports that the Town of Greig has reported no decrease in property value at Lake Bonaparte despite an invasive Eurasian milfoil infection. However, he believes there has been an approximate 18% drop.

Kent Martin asks if we can request the Town of Greig take some financial responsibility.

Steve Widrick suggests that the boat washing station be placed at the campgrounds.

Dottie White states that the most important concern has to be the quality of the lake water.

Gail Roes state that not everyone renting at the campgrounds is going to be interested in accessing the lake. Some will be interested in other waterways. There are many logistical issues with the BCA boat launch

Gary White asks if Bob McQueen would allow us to put the boat washing station in across from the boat launch.

Polly Peterson makes the point that the boat washing station cannot be placed this close to the boat launch because of the potential for invasive plants to “run off” from the boat launch and into the lake.

Bob Hindman states than Marilyn Patterson informed him that the boat launch is going to be widened and altered to create a better taper to make it easier to back into the boat launch. The town may be installing a concrete barrier between boat launch and the adjoining property (A-frame camp)

Pam Brewer states that the boat launch property needs to be clarified

Bob Hindman reports the land around the boat launch has been surveyed in the past, but the stakes disappear.

Pat Dowling asks if the tree limbs overhanging the boat launch could be trimmed. The limbs make it difficult for him to launch his sailboat.

Bob Hindman suggests Mr. Dowling speak to the highway superintendent.

Phil Stark – We don’t know how our membership feels. The BCA should not be taking a side, but we do need to establish our concern regarding boat traffic and the concern regarding invasive species. This concern does fit in with the objectives and mission statement of the BCA.

Kent Martin reports that Mike Dolhof, the owner of the property proposing the campgrounds, grew up in Brantingham and has spent his life on the lake. He may be open to suggestion and we should open a dialogue with him.

Don Higgins states it is a great idea to have a meeting that includes Mr. Dolhof and Town Supervisor Marilyn Patterson. Perhaps we can develop a plan to keep his campers happy and make sure we are all on the same page

Mary Lynn Schmandt and Tim Daggett both offer to participate in a discussion with Mr. Dolhof. Mr. Daggett reports he knows Mr. Dolhof and used to work for his Dad.

Mary Lynn Schmandt suggests the meeting be held before May 6th.

Mr. Stark states that people who are available to speak with Mr. Dolhof are welcome to try to arrange a meeting before May 6th. The role of the BCA remains the same and we do not have to money to cover the cost of additional boat launch stewardship coverage.

Interested persons are welcome to email comments to Steve Olmstead at the planning board.

Don Higgins states that the BCA Board needs to go on the record and send the letter regarding issues of concern including potential cost implications of increasing coverage at the boat launch.

Mr. Stark states we can draft what we desire, but we can’t say we are going to hold the town responsible.

Pam Brewer suggests that we ask the Town of Greig Planning Board to table the discussion until we can have more representation from the seasonal members.

Vicky Fisher states that we need to partner with the township. We both need each other. We should listen to them and see what they have to say. We need to list the items that are of concern such as water quality, traffic and wildlife.

Mr. Stark responds that this is a wise approach to perhaps identify a committee of individuals would be interested in crafting a letter to the Town of Greig Planning Board.

Kent Martin, Roger Abbey, Don Higgins, Steve Widrick, Gary While and Phil Stark state they are willing to be on the committee. It was suggested Kent Martin be the committee chair.

President Starks reminds members present that we must be sure not to overextend ourselves, we are residents and visitors to the lake.

Roger Abbey applauds the statements. We want to go on record as saying whatever your endeavors are, we want to keep the water clean and the community safe.

Kent Martin states the BCA is not for or against the proposal, but concerned about water quality in regards to invasive plants.

Mary Lee O’Brien states her main concern is how he is going to advertise the campgrounds. Will the marketing include the lake as part of the experience?

Kent Martin responds that anyone marketing this would include lake access.

Kent Martin states he will call Mr. Dolhof and speak to him.

Karen Murphy asks if we should consider how to monitor the census of boats entering the lake on a daily basis. Mr. Stark suggested a vehicle sensing device.

Mary Lee O Brien – main concern is how he is going to advertise it. If the lake is included as part of their experience, it will affect the patrons

Bob Hindman suggests that we place a sign-in sheet at the boat launch.

Steve Widrick and Bob Hindman both state they plan to attend the public hearing on May 6th.

**President Stark motions that the BCA write a formal letter to the Town of Greig Planning Board, Supervisor Marilyn Patterson and Mr. Dolhof to ask question and present concerns regarding the proposed Brantingham Campground project.**

**Kent Martin seconded the motion and the motion was so approved by a voice vote.**

Mr. Stark states that he will need assistance to ensure he has proper contact information for all parties. He asked that comments be sent to him today.

Several members echo the idea that the letter should not be for or against, but instead outline concerns for lake water impact.

**AERIAL INSECT SPRAYING CONTRACT 2021:** Mr. Stark reports that he has signed a contract with Duflo Chemical Spray for up to 6 sprays or the 2021 season. First spray should occur, weather permitting, prior to Memorial Day.

Phil Stark reminds the membership of a prior discussion to extend the area for the insect spraying. This new district would need to be approved before a discussion. Mr. Stark states this topic should be presented at the annual BCA meeting. If approved, then we can work on funding. We would need to check with Mr. Duflo on an estimate for the increase in cost to spray the additional district.

Roger Abbey reports that we would have to determine what areas the district would encompass before Duflo could give an estimate. The onus needs to be on the new district to raise money this year and prepare to fund spraying for the 2022 season.

Don Higgins asks if there might be a future expectation for the campgrounds to be sprayed. Mr. Stark responded that that area is not currently covered in the territory sprayed

**BOAT LAUNCH STEWARD AWI CONTRACT:** Contract has been signed for the dates and time mentioned earlier in the meeting; Friday from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm, Saturday from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm.

**BUOYS:** Kent Martin did get a quote on a new buoy. One of the buoys is listing and has taken on water. Buoys will be installed in the weekend before Memorial Day weekend.

Bob Hindman states that Carl Rizzo (?) spoke to him regarding the water district for Brantingham Property Owners. The water district mainly pertains to the raising and lowering of the dam. Wondering if the fund could be used toward the purchase and maintenance of the buoys.

Kent Martin states that the buoys are in good shape and are very resilient with a life expectancy of 10 years.

**BCA NEWSLETTER 2021:** Kent Martin has agreed to design the newsletter and is still awaiting information from some committees.

**ARTS COUNCIL:** Roger Abbey reports that the Arts Council has ample funds to run the entire program this year, but are still determining what programs can and cannot be presented. Mr. Abbey reports that he spoke with Lewis County who indicated that the Arts Council can go forward with the concert series.

Country Fair is planned to happen on July 3, 2021

Mr. Abbey reports that the Arts Council is looking for someone to take over the 5K run for this year. Bob McQueen is unable to help this year, but will most likely coordinate the run for 2022.

Gary White informs the membership regarding information he found entitled the “New York State Septic System Replacement Fund Program”. According to the state website, the grant provides funds to property owners to reimburse up to 50% of the cost to replace a septic system or upgrade a septic system. However, Brantingham Lake is not listed as a body of water included in the grant.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jan Markum (?) ask if there is a noise ordinance for the lake. Pat Dowling responded that Lewis County has an 11:00 pm curfew for loud noises. Jan Markin states boats with extremely loud sound systems have been parking on the lake near their camp and it is very disruptive.

Mr. Stark reminds the membership to contact the Lewis County Sheriff’s Office if there is a problem on the lake.

**BOAT SAFETY COURSE:** Mr. Hindman reports that the Lewis County Sheriff’s Office is looking into hosting a New York State Safe Boating Course this June. They have secured a conference room at the Glenfield BOCES More information to come.

**NEXT BCA MEETING:** Mr. Stark reports the meeting will be in June.

**BCA ANNUAL DINNER MEETING:** July 10th, 5:00 pm if Brantingham Golf Course feels they can host the event.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Murphy

BCA Recording Secretary