

Brantingham Community Association
Annual Dinner Meeting
August 1, 2014

Meeting called to order by President Pat Dowling at 7:58pm

President Dowling opened the meeting by stating that his focus for the meeting was to “have a dialogue of where we are and where we want to go from here”

SECRETARY REPORT: President Dowling informed members present that the minutes to the BCA Annual Dinner Meeting 2013 were on the table for member to review prior to vote to approve minutes

TREASURER REPORT: Financial summaries were placed at tables prior to the start of the meeting. Gail provided a review of the statements.

Income:

Including member dues, fish fund money, Brantingham Golf Club reimbursement for their part of the insect spraying and interest income totaled \$13,295.97.

Gail reminds members that the income for the fish fund (\$2,374.00) is used solely by the fish committee

Expense:

Expenses included office expense, bank fees, cost of printing directory, dinner expense, donations, Fish fund expense, New York State Federation of Lakes Membership Dues, Postage and printing for newsletter, Spraying for insect control, Water Quality Testing (ALAP and CSLAP) totaled \$10843.53

Net Income: \$2452.44

Total in Checking/Savings: \$31,107.55

MEMORIAL FUND: Gail listed the individuals who had been honored through donations to the memorial fund. Gail pointed out that we have never declared a specific way to use the money in the fund. In the past we have used it to purchase a Personal Flotation Device for the Sheriff Patrol and last year used money for repairs to the Brantingham Welcome Sign at the four corners.

Newsletter cost: Gail points out that the BCA has reduced the cost of distributing the newsletter thanks to the many families who are accepting the newsletter by email and printing it at home. We get a reasonable printing rate at a UPS store, but we still pay for postage.

Polly Peterson motioned that the Treasurer Report be approved as presented, the motion was seconded by Judy Wilson, the motion was approved by a raised-hand vote.

President Dowling makes the point that although our balance seems considerable, Bonaparte Lake Association is spending approximately \$50,000/yr on lake treatment and measures to stem their invasion of Eurasian Water Milfoil.

BUOYS: President Pat Dowling speaks to the membership about the buoys on the lake and question of liability. Mr. Dowling reports that he and Vice President Eric Martin met with members of the town board and proposed that they take ownership and in event the liability of the lake buoys. The town states they will not take ownership of the buoys. Therefore, general liability for the buoys rests with the BCA board members

President Dowling states that the Town of Greig controls the dam and the boat launch through the Town of Greig Water Management District. Pat feels that the buoys should fall under this management and encouraged members present to sign a petition to the town asking them to take ownership of the buoys and with it, the liability.

Pat explains that the BCA investigated insurance to protect BCA board members. The insurance quote was for Director and Officer insurance at a cost of \$800 annually. The cost of general liability is \$2600.00.

Again, Pat declares that we need to get the town to take ownership of the buoys and remove the liability from the BCA board members who are volunteers.

A member present erroneously stated that Brantingham is a private lake. President Dowling responded that Brantingham Lake is a public lake with free access. The Boat launch was deeded to the Town of Greig residents and all residents have the same right to use the lake. The bottom of the lake is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Dowling points out that we are fortunate that our boat ramp is small and has limited parking. Therefore, it does not encourage many transient boaters to place their boats in the lake which has lowered the risk for AIS contamination in Brantingham Lake. On the other hand, Lake Bonaparte has a high number of transient boat traffic that uses the DEC boat ramp with associated parking for 40 cars and trailers. The increased transient boat traffic increases the risk

of AIS contamination and may be a significant reason for Bonaparte's Aquatic Invasive Plant Species problems.

(LAKE LEVEL): Pat Mooney addressed the membership regarding the water lake level. She states that the lake is not being managed and controlled during the season as the weather changes. She reports that in the past, a property owner on the lake used to adjust the dam accordingly. People on the pond are complaining that the Lily Pond is too high and needs to be adjusted to prevent property damage.

Gail Roes reports that the amount of water that flows out is controlled and can take a while to adjust to heavy rainfall. She states that the water level is above the dam and is going out, but it takes time for the level to adjust

Jon Korber addressed the membership stating that there used to be boards at the dam that were removed or replaced as needed by a property owner near the dam. Now there is a metal box with a handle on top. This change was an agreement between the Town of Greig and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Mr. Korber states he measured the depth of water above the box and the water level above the box is currently just over 3 inches.

Pat Mooney responded by saying again the high level of water is causing property damage and may result in members bringing lawsuits secondary to the water damage to property and land erosion.

Mr. Korber suggested that Pat could go to the DEC and request a variance.

Pat Dowling responded that he will go to the town and talk about the Water Management System and ask to be educated about the process and look into what actions can be taken at this point.

A member present suggested that properties will normally settle into the lake and shore erosion may be secondary to boat wakes

Sue Lorenzini addressed the membership regarding the size of the boats appearing on the lake that seem to be too big. She asks if there is any way to restrict the size of boat being put onto the lake.

President Dowling stated that there is no way to restrict the size of the boats. He also stated that the larger and significantly heavier wake board boats are generating larger wakes and can account for more shoreline erosion than the slightly higher water level.

Dave Fisher addressed the membership asking if the Town of Greig should take ownership of the buoys, does the BCA then lose control over positioning of the buoys

President Dowling responded that the buoys have been permitted though the DEC and GPS coordinates are declared on the permit. However, recently the buoys have not been placed according to GPS coordinates. We need to have them placed properly. Mr. Dowling reports that the ropes have been replaced by chains and extra length was added to allow the buoys to handle the waves.

Jennifer McClean-Bove asked: Does the Town supporting Lake Bonaparte pay to have the buoys placed in the lake?

Pat Dowling responded that a significant majority of Lake Bonaparte and the Fulton Chain of Lakes Buoys are handled by the DEC because they are the larger navigational buoys with lights on them. Lake Bonaparte's Lake Association decided to augment the DEC Buoys with 5 purchased buoys and placed them on their own. Lake Bonaparte's Lake Association indicated that they are not concerned with potential liability for the 5 small additional buoys.

Jennifer McLean-Bove asks if the BCA is using GPS to position the buoys, do they shift the position of the buoys at the sand bar every year. Jennifer states that the sand bar migrates each year and the buoys must be adjusted accordingly.

Mr. Dowling responded that shallow water markers are positioned as required

(?)**Joe Giardi** addressed the membership. Mr. Giardi states that he works in the insurance industry. He stated that the BCA should not purchase insurance as it indicates the BCA is acknowledging responsibility and liability for the buoys. The cost for the Directors and Officers insurance is negligible, but again represents responsibility. If the BCA is responsible for the buoys going into the lake, then we are directly taking on the liability associated with the buoys

Jon Korber addressed the membership stating that he was in a similar position several years ago. Mr. Korber indicates that any accident on the lake that resulted in a lawsuit could potentially be for a very large sum of money.

Pat Mooney asked: what is the goal of having the buoys on the lake?

President Dowling responded that the goal is boating safety on the lake. Pat reports that he and Vice President Eric Martin met with Marilyn Patterson to request the town take ownership of the buoys. It is the BCA's most time sensitive matter. Mr. Dowling reports he is very pleased that

the new dialog and relationship with the town and is encouraged about future cooperation and coordination.

David Rider addressed the membership regarding the purpose of the buoys. Mr. Riders states that he has a camp in a cove. He states that the boats speeding into the cove has caused a loss of shoreline due to erosion. The buoys have slowed traffic into the bay. It also allows the sheriff to respond to boats that are speeding into coves.

VOTING: President Dowling presents the membership with the issue of voting in our region. The impact of voting in the Town of Greig and Lewis County may have more impact than a vote in the town of primary residence (for seasonal residents). Mr. Dowling states you can choose to vote in the Town of Greig. The votes of our seasonal residents will strengthen the BCA and may be powerful enough to influence future town board decisions.

Pat Dowling reminds us that we need to protect our vote on the lake. He suggested an alternative option for seasonal residents is to have one family member register and vote in the Town or Greig and another vote in their home district.

Bob Hindman's primary residence is Chicago but his family elected to vote in the Town of Greig. He addressed the membership stating that members should remember that we are not just taking about the town, but also the county and the schools. South Lewis school district spends in excess of \$22,000 per student. He suggests we may want to understand how our tax money is being spent.

Mr Sam Villanti reminded other members to keep in mind that once you are registered here, you may be called for jury duty, etc.

Pat Dowling encouraged members take a voter registration form.

INVASIVE PLANTS: President Dowling reports that our number one challenge is the prevention of invasive plants. Mr. Dowling offered accolades to Polly Peterson for her hard work surveying the lake and educating members. Polly Peterson recently took over the position and had the leading state AIS expert survey the lake on 30 July. No AIS were detected.

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN: SUNY Oneonta is offering a new masters degree in Lake Management. This program is seeking lake communities to sponsor a student to intern on the lake and develop a lake management plan specific to the watershed. Sponsorship of a student is an opportunity partner with the Town to integrate a lake management plan into the future Town of Greig strategic plan. Mr Dowling raised this initiative with the Town Board in July and requested the Town partner with the BCA to sponsor a student. The cost for each organization is

\$2,500 per year for 2 years. Mr Dowling will formally request to partner with the Town of Greig to share the cost of a student intern. President Dowling proposes that if the BCA donates \$2500 and the Town of Greig matches the \$2,500 per year for the next two years, Oneonta college in turn will also provide the student with a matching \$5,000 grant. The Lake Management plan developed by the intern will give us a detailed scientific analysis of our watershed and will provide recommendations and protective options to preserve or improve the area waters.

Bernie Kahn motioned to approve the BCA spend of \$2500.00 per year for the next 2 years and to coordinate with the Town of Greig to match the donation in order to sponsor a lake management degree student from SUNY Oneonta to research and develop a detailed lake management plan for the Brantingham area lakes and ponds. Polly Peterson seconded the motion and the motion was approved with a majority raised-hand vote. There were a number of “no” votes and no abstentions

BOAT LAUNCH: President Dowling expresses his concern over Brantingham, the Lily Pond, lake of the Pines and Pleasant Lake becoming infected with an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) because they are interconnected. He identified the unsecured public boat launch as the highest risk point of AIS vulnerability. Mr. Dowling states he would advocate with the Town for securing the gate, establishing boat launch operating hours, establish inspections by boat launch monitors, and increase AIS education. Additionally, Mr Dowling recommends we coordinate with the Town of Greig to establish a boat washing station capability to clean boats before they are launched as needed. Mr. Dowling states that there is an AIS bill that was recently passed by the New York State Legislation

Reference:

“What this bill does is effectively prohibits the transport of AIS in New York. Dirty boats can be fined. This is the first, and vital, step in building a comprehensive statewide program for the prevention, management and control of AIS. This gives many organizations, local governments, lake associations, among others, an important tool for stopping the spread of AIS. This law is an important building block for a strong, comprehensive statewide AIS control program....”

*Lake George has built a comprehensive boat control program. It is fortunate to have a **state commission** for the lake that has authority to regulate boats. In Chester, Loon Lake now has a comprehensive boat control program too. **In these places, boats are inspected and if a boat fails inspection it must go through a decontamination process, which involves power washing and cleaning. The communities around lake George and Loon Lake have built systems for inspection and decontamination, which minimize interference for boaters while preserving the beauty of the Loon Lake and Lake George experiences and ecological health of those lakes.***

These programs show the future of boating in New York and protective programs to prevent the spread of AIS.

*In a related effort, Senator Betty Little **passed a bill** to require the DEC to place signs at all boat launches warning the public about the dangers of AIS and the importance of boat cleaning. This bill would have been a big deal 10 years ago. It was also passed by the Assembly.*

The AIS transport bill will likely take a year to fully put in place. The 2014 boating season will see the status quo, but many will work to make sure that the new law is fully operationalized by spring 2015.

This new state law that prohibits the launching of dirty boats on New York State waters and will necessitate replication of the Lake George and Loon Lake models across the Adirondacks and across the state. This law is a step change in AIS management and control and marks a badly needed greater investment in the protection of New York lakes, ponds and rivers – vital natural resources that in many ways underwrite and define the Adirondack Park experience.

- See more at: <http://www.adirondackalmanack.com/2014/06/nys-aquatic-invasive-species-control-legislation-passed.html#sthash.etqqPN4e.dpuf>

President Dowling states that the AIS bill levies fines against boat owners for launching contaminated boats. Towns and Lake Associations and residents will need to evaluate their procedures to protect the lake. We should consider locking the gate and ensure boats are inspected before launching. Boat Launch stewards could be a volunteer or funded position. We should determine when the highest level of boat traffic occurs. A boat launch steward could educate boat owners and perform a quick inspection. Any dirty boats would be directed to clean their boat at a boat washing station. Although the Town may not be able to afford a steward now, President Dowling suggests we coordinate with the Town to investigate options and budget for future inspection needs. He is pro-actively engaging with the Town Board to budget for part time boat stewards during high traffic periods in 2015.

Establishing boat launch operating hours is another consideration on the table to coordinate with the Town of Greig. President Dowling reports the Town of Greig states that the boat launch should remain open to all Town of Greig property owners and residents.

Maureen Mooney Lewis addressed the membership informing members that the boat launch has been locked in the past. Members were given a combination for the lock. This method was used to stem the tide of boats entering the lake. This information was offered to know that locking the boat launch gate is not unprecedented.

Camille Brown addressed the membership suggesting that we need to be well informed before we bring a proposal to the board. Camille suggested that we survey the number of boats being launched and identifying the high traffic times.

Camille suggests that we use volunteers to perform the survey.

President Dowling suggests we consider placing a boat stewards at the boat launch during busy holiday weekends. This could be accomplished with volunteers or have the town employ boat stewards. Grant money is being pursued for the cost of a boat steward and the BCA is requesting the town budget for boat Stewards in the 2015 budget.

Dave Fisher addressed the membership suggested that a game camera be placed at the boat launch to assist with surveying numbers of boats at the launch.

Chris Bove stated that we would need to talk to the town before you place the camera as the Town of Greig owns the boat launch.

Dave Fisher motioned that a game camera that records time and day be posted at the boat launch with the permission of the Town of Greig. Camille Brown seconded the motion and the motion was so approved with a raised-hand vote. The BCA approved donating a game camera to the town to be placed at the boat launch in order to understand boat launch traffic patterns which will aid in deciding future inspection manpower requirements and guide decisions for potential operating hours.

Scott Virkler addressed the membership stating that his family lives near Saratoga Springs and described the adverse impact of AIS on the area. Eurasian Milfoil (AIS) destroyed the lake and residents cannot use the lake for recreational activities – no swimming, fishing or boating is possible because the milfoil engulfed the lake. He also suggested that it is not a matter of if but when our lakes are infected. Jet skis are a particular problem because you cannot see what they might be carrying because of the plant may be inside. Mr. Virkler shared the story of a friend who used proper procedure of cleaning out his jet ski with hot water and running the engine and zebra mussels were found in the discharge.

Mr. Virkler asks if the 3-G Fire Department would allow a boat washing station at their 4 corners building

President Dowling responded that he has already approached the fire department and is uncertain if the facility could adequately support a boat washing station. The fire department is installing a new septic system and is concerned about the point well water capability and excess and potential adverse impact of water runoff to the septic system. He has not talked to Brantingham Snowmobile Club yet. He is still trying to figure out a potential partnership with the town or a business to establish a future boat washing station in relative proximity to the lakes but away from the shoreline. Identifying the fire department as a potential location for a boat washing capability is a reasonable start for a dialog with the Town, but may not be the final solution after all options are evaluated.

Mr. Virkler responded that if funding becomes an issue, we might have to charge people to put their boats in the lake

Pat Dowling asks the membership if they were supportive of the town establishing boat ramp operating hours. There was a favorable response from the membership.

Pat states that it will be interesting to see what kind of teeth the AIS legislation will have. There are fines associated with dirty boats. There are still many questions about how to enforce. What kind of process and procedure do you put in place? What would be the town laws? We want the town to adopt the law or some kind of law to support the boat launch. Mr. Dowling states he will engage with the town to work through the details or negotiations.

Karl Keiffer addressed the membership stating that it is in the town's best interest to assist us because if the lake becomes infected, property values will go down and the tax revenue will decrease with them.

Carol Kunkel addressed the membership stating that the survey that was sent out should show that the community is very concerned.

Marie Levesque addressed the membership stating the town may be the only one who could put the camera in at the boat launch.

Bob Hindman addressed the membership stating that the town budgets approximately \$23,000 each year to pay for damage to roads from snowmobiles.

Pat Dowling asks members present if they have interest in a boat washing station. A majority of members responded favorably.

50/50 Raffle: The 50/50 raffle supporting the Brantingham/Greig Community Library. Chris Bove was the winner of the drawing and donated his winning to the fish fund

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS INSURANCE: President Dowling proposed that we support the purchase of D.O. insurance for the BCA Board Members. **Maureen Lewis motioned that the BCA purchase Director and Officer Insurance as quoted. Dave Fisher seconded the motion and the motion was so approved by a raised-hand vote.**

SHERIFF CARPINELLI/RECREATIONAL OFFICER MIKE LEVIKER: Mike Leviker addressed the membership regarding the NYS require safe boating course. The Lewis County Sheriff's Department is been teaching the boating courses since 1994. The department has

trained 17,000 people, with as many as 60 persons in a class. However, Mr. Leviker states that these courses actually cost the department approximately \$800 to run each class. They do not charge a fee for the training. The department is asking the BCA and the Bonaparte Lake Association to contribute to these costs.

Pat Dowling asks if they are asking the BCA to put pressure on the legislatures to provide funding for the department.

Sheriff Carpinelli addressed the membership stating that they have put pressure on the legislation. He recommends property owners to attend at least one legislative meeting. Have an open meeting the first Tuesday of every month. We do need support to assist with the courses.

A member asked why the Sheriff's department doesn't charge tuition for the class.

Officer Leviker responded that the law has changed to allow them to charge for the course, but they are hesitant to ask the taxpayer to pay for a course that is mandated by the state. If the state is going to mandate the course, they should pay for the course.

Pat Dowling responds by asking if they would like the BCA to write a letter in support of the county legislature increasing the funding for the Sheriff's recreational patrol salary to increase patrols on the lake.

Officer Leviker states they are patrolling the lake approximately twice in an eight day cycle.

Both Officer Leviker and Sheriff Carpinelli state that if you have a complaint or see something unsafe or illegal on the lake, you must call the Sheriff's department. They cannot address what they do not know about and they cannot advocate for funding when they cannot show the need for it. Calls are documented and are evidence of need for patrols and staffing.

Karen Murphy addressed the membership stating they have called the department numerous times regarding unsafe driving of an ATV and the Sheriff's department has handled the situation very effectively.

Mike Leviker reminds us that between Bonaparte and Brantingham, the Sheriff's department is patrolling approximately 2788 acres of water.

Bob Hindman addressed the membership stating that the roads need to be patrolled as well. He has seen young children riding ATV's on the road.

Sheriff Carpinelli responded by saying "REPORT IT, REPORT IT, REPORT IT!"

INSECT SPRAYING: A member asked if there would be another spray. Pat Dowling responded that we are budgeted for 5 sprays and we have used 4. We can spray a 6th time if it is necessary. It has been a wet year and can make it difficult to control. The membership is reminded that the spray used is organic, derived from the Chrysanthemum flower and that very little is used in the spraying process. It is effective and very safe.

A member present asks why we don't use BTI. Karen Murphy responded that we addressed the possibility of using BTI in the past and determined that the BCA would continue to spray. (BTI is difficult to administer, affects the ecosystem and if we switch to BTI, we can never return to spraying as an insect control method.)

BY-LAW CHANGES: The board has proposed that the BCA By-Laws be updated. The first section was updated during the June BCA Directors and Officers meeting. The current by-law section and the proposed update were placed at the dinner tables. Members were asked to read the changes and offer changes or accept them as written. **Dave Fisher motioned to adopt the by-laws as circulated, Bob Hindman seconded the motion and the motion was so approved by a raised-hand vote.**

Pat Dowling states that we will continue to change the by-laws that need to be updated

President Dowling adjourned the meeting at 9:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Murphy
BCA Secretary



EURASIAN MILFOIL