

## BCA Annual Dinner Meeting – July 29, 2017

Officers present: Sue Lorenzini, Karen Murphy, Phillip Stark

Meeting called to order at 8:05 pm by President Phillip Stark

**SECRETARY REPORT:** Minutes were distributed to the tables prior to the start of the meeting. Members present were asked to read the minutes for approval. Maureen Mooney Louis asked to have the spelling of her name corrected.

**David Rider motioned to approve the minutes of the prior dinner meeting as presented. Ellen Johanson seconded the motion and the motion was so approved by a voice vote.**

**TREASURER REPORT:** Comprehensive profit and loss statement for 2017 distributed to the membership prior to the meeting. Vice President Sue Lorenzini reviewed the statement. Statement reflects a total income of \$13,396.51 and a total expense of \$12,396.99. (Please see full statement at the BCA website)

Mr. Peterson asked for a clarification on expenses related to ALAP and CSLAP water quality testing. Karen Murphy explained that Pleasant Lake and Lake of the Pines are tested through the Paul Smith's Adirondack Watershed Institute Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP). (<http://www.protectadks.org/programs/lake-assessment-alap/>) Brantingham Lake participates in the New York State Federation of Lakes Association's Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) .

Statement from the [www.nysfola.org](http://www.nysfola.org) website:

“The Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) is a volunteer lake monitoring program run by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the NYS Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. (NYSFOLA). It was initiated in 1985, with the support of New York Governor Mario M. Cuomo. It was modeled after successful volunteer programs in Vermont, Maine, Illinois and Minnesota.

Each participating lake association is a member of NYSFOLA, a not-for-profit coalition of lake associations and others interested in lake management. NYSFOLA was founded in 1983 and presently serves nearly 200 lake associations as well as individual and corporate members. Citizen volunteers from NYSFOLA-member lake associations are responsible for collecting biweekly water quality data and samples from June through October. About 100 lakes participate in the program each year. Samples are collected from surface waters (epilimnion) for shallow lakes. Bottom, or hypolimnion, samples are collected from deeper lakes. Parameters include water temperature, transparency, conductivity, pH, color, phosphorus, nitrogen, Chlorophyll a and calcium.”

**Bob Hindman motioned that the treasurer report be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Phillip Stark and the motioned was so approved by a voice vote.**

**OFFICER ELECTION: Phillip Stark moved that Karen Murphy be re-elected as secretary by acclimation. The motioned was seconded by Maureen Mooney Louis and the motion was so approved by a voice vote.**

**BCA DIRECTOR ELECTION:** Phillip Stark informed the membership that Chris Murphy has resigned as area 11 director, but will continue collecting samples for the CSLAP program.

**Phillip Stark motioned that current area directors of odd numbered areas be re-elected for a term of 2 years. Karl Keiffer seconded the motion and the motion was so approved by a voice vote.**

**BOAT WASHING STATION:** Phillip Stark reports that the BCA has established a goal of implementing a boat washing station in the Brantingham area that residents or visitors can use to clean their boats before launching and the lower the risk of invasive species contamination.

The BCA has researched the equipment for boat washing. The equipment should be utilized by someone who is trained in identifying aquatic invasive species, the protocol for cleaning watercraft and the proper use of the boat washing equipment. Mr. Stark reports that the Town of Greig was approached about hiring and employing persons to man the station. The BCA would fund the position. When the town was initially approached they agreed to the arrangement. However, this year, the Town of Greig has rescinded the agreement.

To move forward, we must find volunteers to man this station on high traffic weekends. If we can man the station for a year and establish it, then Paul Smiths would be willing to employ a college student to man the boat washing station using grant money in the future. SNOMADS is going to ask their membership to vote on the idea of housing the boat washing station on their property in the fall. The case has been made and we can perhaps consider a donation for the use of the property

President Stark reports there will be a BCA directors and officers meeting in August to continue planning. He reminds the membership that members are always invited to participate in the BCA directors and officers meetings. Mr. Stark always emails the membership about meeting dates and posts them on the Brantingham Facebook page. The BCA will not purchase equipment until we have a clear plan in place.

Some members have already donated money towards the boat washing station. Those who have donated will get their money back if the station is not developed.

Deputy Sheriff Mike Leviker reported that the clearing across the road from the SNOMADS barn is county property. He wonders if that location is worth pursuing.

Maureen Mooney Louis asks Mr. Stark to clarify how there will be oversight of the program at the boat launch. Mr. Stark responded that the program will rely on volunteers and the goal is to establish the program for high traffic weekends. Ms. Louis states that the BCA should consider signage at the boat launch to encourage boats to return to the boat washing station before launching their boat. Could we give boats that have been washed a sticker and have a volunteer at the boat launch to check before they launch.

Maureen Mooney Louis asks if Lewis County would be interested in taking control of the boat launch. Phillip Stark reminded the membership that the boat launch is currently owned by the Town of Greig.

Karl Keiffer asks if the BCA can purchase the boat launch from the Town of Greig. Phillip Stark states that it may be possible to buy the boat launch, but we cannot afford it and there would be many challenges due to the fact that Brantingham is a public lake and regulations could make it tricky. Phillip Stark reminds the membership that the lake is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

A member asked if the Army Corps of Engineers could be inspired to give up ownership of the lake.

Mr. Peterson asked what the pay might be for people who would staff the station. Mr. Stark reported that Old Forge pays approximately \$10.00 an hour. We may only have 14 days in the summer that could be considered high traffic days for the boat launch. In response to a question, Mr. Stark also stated that the BCA would need to add insurance to cover any “employees”.

A member asked if the Adirondack Park would be of any assistance. Mr. Stark responded that Governor Cuomo has asked for more money to assist with aquatic invasive species (AIS)

Maureen Mooney Louis asks about the camera that was mentioned in the minutes for the last dinner meeting as well as the “preventative plan” and the laminated sheets for renters. Mr. Stark responded that there had been no action on the camera. He is worried about having a camera at the boat launch. He stated that at high traffic we may get as many as 6 boats. A member responded that she witnessed more than 6 boats waiting to be launched.

Ms. Louis asked if we could use high school students at the boat launch. Mr. Stark stated that any stewards would need to be employees and we would have to be legal on their employment. Karen Murphy reported that anyone manning the boat launch would need to be properly trained to know what they are looking for in terms of AIS, how to look for it and what to do if they find it. Paul Smiths offers boat steward training each spring through their Adirondack Watershed Institute. (<http://www.adkwatershed.org/invasive-species/stewardship-program>)

Ms. Louis asked if we could create a tag that could be scanned at the boat launch to show they have been washed.

Mr. Hindman asks what happens if someone refuses to comply and decide to launch without washing or inspection.

Ms. Louis stated that she appreciated the productive conversation, but wondered what can be done tonight? "What would you like us to do?" Mr. Stark responded that we need volunteers that would be willing to work at the boat washing station and perhaps the boat launch.

Mr. Stark states that the conversation will continue during the BCA Director's and Officer's Meeting on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am at the Brantingham Golf Course. The meeting is open to the membership. We are making progress.

**DUES 2018:** Mr. Stark reports that we have a healthy savings account right now and there have been fewer and inconsistent insect sprays. Several members have requested that the dues be lowered to \$30 annually instead of \$40. Mr. Stark states there is the potential idea of lowering dues for next year. However, if we lower the dues it would affect the saving account. If we were to purchase the equipment for a boat washing station, that would use much of the savings account.

Mr. Peterson stated that the savings account is critical in the event we need to treat the lake for invasive species.

A member stated that \$40 is not bad and we need to remember that the value of the town is the value of the lake.

Bob Hindman motioned that the dues remain at \$40 annually. Mr. Keiffer seconded the motion. The motion was supported by a round of applause. Mr. Stark stated that there is no need to pass a motion as our dues are currently at \$40.00.

Ms. Louis asks how we can increase membership and dissemination of information that is discussed at meetings. Mr. Stark responded that we will try to post more information on the Brantingham Facebook page.

Karen Hennigan reports that people off the lake feel left out and the BCA should try to promote the entire community and not just the lake. We need to extend our community beyond the lake. Ms. Hennigan stated that more year-round residents need to attend the Town of Greig board meetings.

One member noted that \$40 is worth the advantage of the insect spraying

Mr. Stark stated he did not believe we have area directors that extend much off of the lake. He reports that he has been working on making changes to the BCA by-laws.

Gary White reports that as an area director responsible for 40 or so camps, it is not easy to go around and actually find the owners in the camp. They may not be in town or they may have renters.

One member reports that she appreciates all the different ways there are to pay the dues.

Bob Hindman reported that all 38 camps in his area are paying their dues, except one.. He may have to go back and visit camps as many as 3 times.

**NEWSLETTER PRINTING:** Phillip Stark reports that the BCA has been investigation options for printing and may contract with Roger Abbey of Good Morning Realty. A member responded that it was good to support local business.

**BUOYS:** Kent Martin has replaced the orange buoys at the sand bar with white, coast guard approved buoys and will be re-attaching the 2 “no wake” buoys near Lily Pond. In addition, signs have been added to the buoys stating that it is illegal to moor to the buoys. There have been problems with chains breaking free and we will be investing in better chains. The goal is to keep them in position.

Mr. Stark states that Kent does a great job but he is not always on the lake. Please let us know if there is anyone who is willing to help with the buoys when Kent is not available.

Mr. Peterson asks if they are GPS permitted for their location. Mr. Stark responded that they are GPS permitted, but they do not have to be placed precisely at the GPS location. Mr. Peterson stated that he will steward the buoy between Dark Island and his camp.

Kathy Tedford stated that she does not like the buoys.

Mrs. White asked if anyone can replace a buoy that has floated away. Mr. Stark stated again that the BCA is looking for one or two people who are willing to assist with the buoys.

**LOOSE PROPERTY:** Mr. Stark reports that he has spoken to Deputy Sheriff Mike Leviker about a number of loose items found on the lake. In one case, a paddle boat has drifted on the lake for many days. It was removed by the Sheriff’s department by law. The item was posted on Facebook and claimed in one day. It is important to contact someone if there is debris or items floating free in the water.

**AERIAL SPRAYING:** Mr. Stark reports that the BCA has a contract with Duflo Chemical Spray for 5 sprays with an option for 6. We have only received 2 sprays thus far. It has been a very challenging season for spraying due to weather. There have days in which the weather seemed to meet the criteria and we have not received our third spray. Insect spraying is a

foundation for the BCA and Mr. Stark states he would like to see a return to a more consistent schedule. We are not a big contract for Duflo, but doing his best to work with them to get our sprays more consistently and to begin the sprays earlier in May. Mr. Stark states that the system is not perfect, but he is doing his best to lobby for sprays in a timely matter.

Mr. Peterson asks why Duflo is not spraying tonight? People are less likely to pay their dues if we are not spraying consistently.

A member asked what the territory is for the aerial spraying. Mr. Stark responded that to his knowledge, the spraying occurs on the shoreline of the lake and the golf course.

**CSLAP REPORT:** Chris Murphy was not present. Phillip Stark read the summary from the official CSLAP report:

**“2016 compared to prior years:** Brantingham Lake continues to be mesoligotrophic, with moderate water clarity and low nutrient and algae levels. Both algae levels and water clarity readings were slightly lower than normal in 2016, while water temperatures were slightly higher than usual.

**Compared to nearby lakes:** Brantingham Lake had similar water clarity, nutrient and algae levels to other western Adirondack lakes. Aquatic plant coverage is slightly lower than in many of these other lakes, consistent with the lack of aquatic invasive species. Chloride levels are in the range of background levels in New York state lakes, indicating little potential for aquatic life impacts from road salt.

**Trends:** Deepwater phosphorus readings have decreased over the last decrease, while pH and deepwater temperatures have increased. Water clarity has also decreased slightly while surface water temperatures have increased, but the latter two changes have not been statistically significant.

**Algal blooms and HABS:** Water quality conditions indicated a low susceptibility to blooms, and none have been reported on the lake. The algae community in the open water samples is comprised of several different taxa and overall algae levels are low.

**Aquatic Invasive species:** Brantingham Lake has no known invasive species, and no AIS have been reported in any lakes within 15 miles. Overall vulnerability to AIS appears to be fairly low, despite a town boat launch.

**Indicated Actions:** Individual stewardship activities such as pumping your septic system, growing a buffer of native plants next to water bodies, and reducing erosion from shoreline properties and runoff into the lake will help to improve lake health by reducing nutrient and sediment loading to the lake. Visiting boats should be inspected to reduce the risk of new invasive species, although no nearby lakes have documented any AIS. Continued monitoring for invasive species is warranted. Continued algae bloom education and monitoring for HABS is recommended.”

A member asked if the septic company who had offered a discount to BCA members in prior years was still offering a discount. Bob Johanson stated that he just replaced his septic. He

discovered during the removal that the system was not to code and may well have been draining into the lake. “If this is indicative of the type of septic system on the lake, then we have a big problem” Another member stated that their septic system was bad as well.

**SHERIFF REPORT:** Deputy Sheriff Mike Leviker reminds members to call if something is going on. Non-emergency phone number is 315.376.3511. He reported that he and Tom Campbell have moved some of the buoys and placed them in the correct spot. Lily Pond buoys are wrong as one of them should be in Turtle Bay.

Sheriff Leviker stated that the Bonaparte Conservation Club offers membership to non-property owners.

Sheriff Leviker stated that the spring boating class had 21 students. If the number of persons taking the class does not increase, the Lewis County Sheriff’s Department may stop offering the course. Currently, twice as many people take the course online than in a classroom

Sheriff Leviker reminds us to call the DEC Spill Line if there is lake contamination. The number is 1-800-457-7362. This statement is in response to a Facebook post in which someone stated there had been a possible gas spill into the lake.

Mrs. White asked Sheriff Leviker if it was true that any damage caused by a wake in a “No Wake Zone” is the liability of the boater. Sheriff Leviker responded that that is true.

A member commented about the size of some of the boats on the lake. Sheriff Leviker responded that there is NO limit to the size of the boat on the lake.

**AREA DIRECTOR POSITIONS:** Phillip Stark reports that Area 11 is a vacant position if someone is interested in becoming a board member. In addition, Bob Hindman, area 7 director is interesting in passing his position along to someone. This area includes 8305-08444 on Cottage Road and including Sand Beach Lane.

Phillip Stark expressed his appreciation to the area directors for their hard work. Bob Hindman reminded members to encourage your neighbors to join the BCA.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43pm by Phillip Stark.

Respectfully submitted

Karen M. Murphy

