

BCA Meeting Directors and Officers Meeting

July 13, 2013

Members present: Randy Anderson, Pam Brewer, Devin Dal Pos, Pat Dowling, Bob Hindman, Carol Kunkel, Karl Keiffer, Pat Keiffer, Eric Martin, Karen Murphy, Polly Peterson, Al Predmore, Gail Roes, Collette Vanyo

Meeting called to order by at 9:08am

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Members were asked to read the minutes to the June 8th Directors and Officers Meeting. **Polly Peterson motioned to approved minutes as presented. Carol Kunkel seconded the motion, to motion was unanimously approved.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Please see attached report. Gail Roes reports that she was asked by President Dal Pos to perform a dues analysis. Gail presented a Profit/Loss sheet from January 2005 – January 2013. The 2007-2008 year showed a deficit due to the cost of spraying. As referred to in prior minutes, a motioned was presented at the 2009 dinner meeting to increase dues to \$30. Meeting resulted in an increase of \$40 approved by membership present at the dinner.

Gail stated her analysis also revealed: Membership had dropped before the dues increase and that property owners who have purchases in the last several years are joining the BCA.

Devin Dal Pos reported that Gail was asked to perform a dues analysis to determine the minimum income required to cover expenses. The dues analysis will allow the board to decide to propose an adjustment in dues either temporarily, permanently, or to leave it at \$40

LIABILITY INSURANCE: Devin also reports that there has been ongoing concern that the BCA Directors and Officers do not have liability insurance. Eric Martin asked who we have spoken to about liability insurance. Gail Roes stated that she has spoken to a number of other lake associations. One organization carries an Errors and Omissions Policy for their board members. Another association reports that individual board members carry their own policy with their primary insurance as an “umbrella policy”. This policy cost approximately \$250. Randy Anderson states that the problem with the umbrella policy is that the company may mandate an increase in your personal insurance. Bob Hindman suggested that we check with State Farm Insurance.

Carol Kunkel motioned that liability insurance policies should be compared and the best policy as determined by the board should be purchased. Collette Vanyo seconded the motion. Members present voted yes unanimously and the motion was so approved.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Devin stated that liability insurance will bring down our balance to \$480. Devin suggested that we cannot drop the annual dues to \$30, but we could consider \$35.

Bob Hindman suggests that we keep the annual dues at \$40. Polly Peterson states that members need to understand what services they are getting for their \$40 dues. Eric Martin states that historical information should be presented to show how many years the dues remained at \$20.00. Collette Vanyo is an area director for the Lake of the Pines. She stated that the Lake of the Pines membership dues have had their LOP dues doubled along with an additional fee for maintenance on the dam due to NYS requirements. She was very appreciative that her members have continued to pay their BCA membership dues. Randy Anderson stated that he believes membership is going down because area directors are not pursuing their property owners to pay dues. Pam Brewer states that she leaves information at camps about what the BCA does for the community. Gail passed out a sheet summarizing BCA responsibilities and actions for directors to share with their camps.

Devin Dal Pos states that it is important for the BCA to carry a balance in the event of unforeseen costs such as removal of an invasive plant species. Carol Kunkel motioned that dues should remain at \$40.00. Bob Hindman seconded the motion. The members present voted unanimously “Yes”. The motion was so approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Gail Roes reports that as of this morning, there were 204 paid primary memberships and 10 secondary memberships. This is out of approximately 440 properties in the Brantingham Community Association area.

Bob Hindman motioned that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted as presented. Carol Kunkel seconded the motion. Member’s presented voted “Yes” and the motion was so approved.

WATER QUALITY REPORT: Al Predmore, chairman of the Water Quality Committee explains the water sampling and testing procedure. The Brantingham Lake is enrolled in the CSLAP program, while Pleasant Lake and Lake of the Pines are monitored through Paul Smiths ALAP program. The program requires the committee to collect 9 samples during the summer and ship them to a lab in Syracuse. Approximately 9 months later a report is generated. Mr. Predmore reports that it is important to understand that these values are only meaningful when evaluating the trends in the results. In the last 12 years of sampling, there have been only minor fluctuations from summer to summer, but basically no change and no acid rain effects. There have been slightly higher readings of phosphorus because of fertilizer use on lawns near the water.

Mr. Predmore reports that wet summers vs. dry summers tend to have an effect on the lake secondary to dilution. State has calculated Brantingham Lake turns over its water every 2.5 years. Even though this is not a frequent change of water, there is not been a major change in the chemistry of the lake.

Collette Vanyo asked what the impact geese have on water quality. Al Predmore responded that there is a concentration of geese on Lily Pond. Devin states that there is a concern about the amount of fecal coliform that geese can produce.

Al Predmore states the BCA used to test for fecal coliform in the lake water. This testing was primarily born out of concern over aging septic systems. Fecal coliform testing must be done very consistently and should start early in the year. This is because a baseline must be established and then testing must be performed consistently throughout the season at the same places. In addition, the water must be delivered to a qualified lab quickly. Again, this allows the recognitions of trends as related to the baseline results.

Devin Dal Pos states that on Brantingham Lake, septic systems are potentially the biggest problem especially with the small lots sizes. Devin suggests that we encourage members to have their septic system pumped every three years and checked. He stated that the BCA should consider asking a local company to provide a discount for BCA members

In addition, the small lots sizes mean the wells are typically not far from the septic system. Property owners should also be testing their well water to ensure it is safe. Al Predmore states that most camps on Brantingham have a well and some draw water directly from the lake. Well water would be contaminated from a leaking septic system before the fecal coliform reached the lake.

Mr. Predmore states that the last study for fecal coliform and coliform was in 2008. In this study, samples were taken from 5 locations on the lake 7 different times. Those samples were taken to a certified lab in Watertown, NY. The highest fecal coliform was found in 2 different samples at 20 organisms per 100ml. Under 200 organisms per 100ml is safe according to New York State. According to Mr. Predmore, we could undertake the same testing next year. The first samples must be collected in Mid-may before the summer residents arrive to get a baseline before potential contamination sources. These sites would be tested again in mid-June, early-July, and finally in mid-late September. Then you can see if the human population is affecting the lake This would allow a comparison to the 2008 results. All testing so far, has shown no recent indication that there is any serious fecal coliform issue on the lake for contact. The test does not show if the water is safe for drinking.

Devin states that members should be encouraged to do dye testing on their septic systems. (*“A dye test is a relatively low cost, non-invasive method for testing of private sewage treatment systems. It is a limited, performance based test. This test does not provide a guarantee of the present, or future, performance of the system. It is not a full evaluation of a sewage treatment system, but nonetheless provides valuable information regarding the present performance of the system”.*) (ASHI, 2013)

Devin suggests that we consider again finding a water company willing to provide a discount for BCA members. Al Predmore stated he could pick up the specimen bottles and supplies and bring them to members for water testing. In addition, we might consider a drop-off site and he would pick up the samples and deliver them to Lowville.

Devin Dal Pos states that we will need a volunteer come forward to perform the fecal coliform testing on the lakes.

Randy Anderson asks if the CSLAP testing we are doing now is not showing any changes, should we be testing annually? Al Predmore responded that we are rotated out of the CSLAP program approximately every 5 years to allow other lakes into the program. This is because our chemistry results have been stable. Mr. Predmore explains that the procedure for CSLAP testing involves collecting samples and shipping them in an insulated container to a lab in Syracuse. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation interprets the results and produces an analysis. Again he reminds us that this is to test the chemistry of the lake water. CSLAP charges are \$450 each year we are in the program. Brantingham was rotated out of the program last year. Lake of the Pines and Lake Pleasant are monitored through Paul Smith’s ALAP program.

Randy Anderson suggests that the years we are rotated out of the CSLAP program should be the years we test for fecal coliform. In addition, Randy asks if we can go every other year with the CSLAP program. Gail asks about where they choose to collect water samples. Al Predmore explains that the samples must be drawn from the deepest part of the lake. They draw a ½ gallon sample at approximately 1 meter depth and another at 1.5 meters depth. Water is then placed in 9-10 small bottles that hold less than 50ml of water and most are frozen. Some water is filtered and sent for chlorophyll. Finally a target is used to check for water clarity. The target is lowered into the water and the depth is recorded at which they can no longer see the target. Typically, this is approximately 4 meters.

INVASIVE PLANTS: Polly Peterson reports that they are trying to provide more activities to raise awareness about invasive plants. Last week for Adirondack Park Invasive Species Awareness week, Polly offered a interpretive kayak tour. Polly reports that there has been a terrestrial (land) invasive plant, Japanese Knotweed, found on N. Shore Road. A “pulling party” has been organized for Sunday, July 14th at the N. Shore Road location. Invasive plants will

continue to grow and take over native plants. Polly reports it can be killed only when the plant is young using Round – Up weed killer. Polly reports that the lake survey is performed in August for invasive water plants. This is referred to as “tossing the rake”. Volunteers are welcome to participate in this study. Polly stated that she will be taking over the Invasive Plants committee from Judy Wilson. For now, Judy and Polly are working together as Polly prepares to take over the committee.

SPRAYING: There have been 2 sprays thus far on the lake. Devin asked the board if they believe the lake needs another spray. Members present indicated they felt another spray was required. Devin stated he would contact Jeff Duflo and request another spray. Devin reminds members that he does not come to the lake frequently and asks members to call him if they believe the lake needs to be sprayed. Devin reminds members that we contract for 5 sprays but typically we only use 4 sprays. In addition, Devin reminds members that necessary weather conditions for spraying varies according to what they are spraying for. Wet weather is required for mosquito spraying and dry conditions for black flies.

BUOYS NUMBERS: Devin asks if anyone is aware of the buoys have been numbered. No one present is aware if the buoys have been number. Mr. Keiffer reports that there is a rocky area between Pine Point and Red Pine Point that requires a buoy. Al Predmore states that this area has been marked in the past with a personal buoy. Pat Keiffer states that this area is dangerous and should be marked with a buoy. Devin Dal Pos reports that placing a buoy at that location through the BCA buoy program would require a modification of our permit, the involvement of the Lewis County Sheriff’s Department as well as additional costs. Pat Keiffer states he will make sure the area is marked with a personal buoy. Devin Dal Pos reports that he is getting estimates on the cost of chains to replace the ropes on the buoys.

LAKE PATROL: Bob Hindman reports that he spoke to Deputy Sheriff Mike Leviker who reports that he has found a place for the Sheriff’s boat and the boat is in the lake. However, Deputy Sheriff Leviker reports they are short of aquatic officers and in fact currently there are only two road officers to cover Lewis County. To date there has been no coverage of either Brantingham Lake or Lake Bonaparte. In addition there is no overtime allowed. Also a concern is that if they are not using the boat for patrols there is a risk that the state may take the boat back. He indicated that the BCA should send a letter to the Sheriff requesting an increase in coverage and push for a full-time recreational officer. Several members present indicated that they have seen numerous infractions on the lake and many safety violations. Devin states that he will write a strong letter to the Sheriff’s office. Mr. Hindman indicates that property owners should continue to call the Lewis County Sheriff’s office with any complaints. As Mr. Hindman states that if the Sheriff’s office is not aware of these problems, they will not feel we need coverage on the lake. Eric Martin stated that he may see if the State Troopers have any jurisdiction in the area

PLEASANT LAKE: Carol Kunkel reports that the lake level has returned to normal. Carol confirmed that the lake is indeed spring fed.

FISH STOCKING: Devin Dal Pos summarized the ongoing concerns regarding fish stocking on the lake. Several members have complained that the stocking of trout in the lake make be responsible for the decline of panfish in the lake. (Please see minutes from June 8, 2013 at www.brantingham.org) A DEC Fisheries Biologist and a biologist from SUNY Cobleskill have both offered their opinions on the situation. Both biologists agree that the reduction of panfish is most likely due to the largemouth bass in the lake which are an apex predator and will eat anything. They both encourage fisherman to keep any largemouth bass they catch. The biologist from SUNY Cobleskill has offered to survey the lake. Devin explains this is done during the evening. The biologists will electrofish the entire lake, causing no harm to the fish and provide a survey of the species and their numbers. A similar survey was performed in the 1980's by the DEC. Devin invited the biologist from SUNY Cobleskill to speak at the August 2nd dinner meeting but he declined. The DEC biologist is going to be contacted to see if he would like to speak at the dinner meeting. The cost of the survey would exceed \$3000. This will be voted on at the August 2, 2013 dinner meeting. Gail Roes stated that Judy Wilson donated \$200 to the fish fund from the sales of the fish poster. Devin suggested that she sell the posters at the BCA dinner meeting.

ELECTIONS: Karen Murphy reports that Eric Martin and Gail Roes are up for election this year. In addition, as it is an odd year, all area directors with an odd numbered area are up for re-election as well.

GEESE: Bob Hindman reports that Evert Brazie has a permit to oil goose eggs. Gail reports that several years ago the geese population on the lake was quite large and the flock was culled during goose hunting season. This seems to have reduced the population for several years. However, there seems to be a growing population on the lake again. (Residential Canadian Geese are considered an invasive animal species) Gail reports that she has been told the Department of Agriculture may be interested in bagging the geese and donating the meat to charity. Devin reports that according to the DEC, the only effective means of reducing the geese population is culling the herd. Gail Roes states that the geese love freshly mowed grass. Gail also stated that she learned it is not illegal to feed the geese.

MEMBER STICKERS: Devin proposed the creation of a small membership sticker that could potentially placed on car windows or the like. Polly Peterson suggested that Brantingham Community Association be spelled out on the stickers. All members present approved of the idea.

CAMP ALDERSGATE: Carol Kunkle reports that Camp Aldersgate was vandalized allegedly by kids from a camp across the cove from the Aldersgate property on Brantingham Lake. The kids swam across the cove, damaged property and rang the emergency bell at 1:30am. The new directors for the camp have drafted a letter for property owners and renters to please respect their property. Gail Roes states she would scan the letter and email a digital copy to all members. The directors are hosting a pot-luck dinner at the camps dining room on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 beginning at 4pm.

BOATING LAWS: Eric Martin indicated he has heard concerns about over-sized boats on the lake. Bob Hindman indicated that the Town of Greig boating laws were voided by the town board and now Brantingham Lake falls under State Boating laws by default. Karen Murphy indicated that Deputy Sheriff Mike Leviker has suggested that the BCA propose boating laws for Brantingham Lake to the Town of Greig Board. Devin Dal Pos states that the laws do not matter much if we have no police presence on the lake.

Meeting adjourned at 10:42AM

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Murphy
BCA Secretary

ASHI, C. (2013). *Septi Dye Test Protocol*. Retrieved July 16, 2012, from Southern Teir Association of Home Inspectors: <http://www.stahi.org/septic-dye-test-protocol.html>