

**Brantingham Community Association**  
Directors and Officers Meeting – June 14, 2014

Members present: Pam Brewer, Pat Dowling, Bill Hathaway, Marie Duink (for Carol Kunkel), Bill Hathaway (for Collette Vanyo), Pat Keiffer, Karl Keiffer, Eric Martin, Karen Murphy, Polly Peterson, Gail Roes

Meeting was called to order at 2:20pm

**BUOYS:** President Pat Dowling states that the position of the BCA is that we will not purchase or place any further buoys on the lake. Karl and Pat Keiffer state there is a dangerous area near Red Pine Point in which an old float plane crib is submerged. Eric Martin states he hit the area with his prop last summer. Pat Dowling suggests that a marker be placed rather than a navigational buoy such as a mooring ball or even simpler; a milk jug.

President Pat Dowling states that he retrieved a detached buoy. Pat states that Mark Kovach has purchased the chains for the buoys and has also deployed the remaining buoys. Gail Roes states that the buoys are currently attached to large concrete anchors. Mr. Dowling plans to see how the existing concrete anchors work for the summer before we invest funds for new anchors.

Gail Roes asked if we can place signage on the buoys to prevent boaters from attaching their boats to the anchor chains. Mr. Dowling responded that it should be common sense but he would look into the idea

**LIABILITY:** Eric Martin states that he received an email from Jon Korber asking about liability related to the buoys. Pat Dowling states he is also concerned as the BCA is comprised on volunteers and we should not jeopardize ourselves.

Eric Martin states he has been talking to an insurance company in Lowville and he is expecting a quote. Bill Hathaway states that the Lake of the Pines carries D.O. insurance and the premium was \$800(?) . Gail Roes states that D.O. insurance only covers decisions made by the board members. Mr. Hathaway states that liability insurance is different. He has a friend in the insurance business who could only find one company willing to write a policy.

Polly Peterson states it is important to remember that the Town of Greig owns the lake, therefore, the D.O. may be at risk for liability if someone is injured because of the buoys.

Karen Murphy reminds members who were not on the board that when the buoys were placed New York State and DEC procedure was followed and it was a time-consuming process. The permits obtained by the BCA are perpetual. The buoys were placed according to guidelines and placed according to GPS with a member of the DEC and the Lewis County Deputy Sheriff . (As a follow-up comment, this procedure was carried out meticulously so that the BCA would be

protected from liability.) Karen Murphy stated that there was much discussion at the time regarding liability with buoys vs. liability without buoys.

Polly Peterson suggested that we donate the buoys to the town and have them take charge of the buoys and therefore carry the liability.

**Eric Martin again stated that he will have a quote by the end of the week. Polly Peterson motioned that the BCA board agrees to pay up to \$2,000.00 for directors and officers insurance. Pat Dowling seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed with a raised hand vote.**

**BOAT LAUNCH:** Pat Dowling states that he believes that the potential for lake water infection by aquatic invasive species (AIS) should be our main issue. At this time, the idea of a fish survey should be eliminated. Mr. Dowling references a recent summary report regarding IPS in the Adirondack Lakes published on the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)

[http://adkinvasives.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Boat\\_Inspection\\_Decontamination\\_Adirondack\\_Recommendations\\_March-2014\\_.pdf](http://adkinvasives.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Boat_Inspection_Decontamination_Adirondack_Recommendations_March-2014_.pdf)

The report states that over 90 lakes in the Adirondack Park are already infected and many lakes nearby Brantingham Lake are contaminated. He reminds us that any vehicle including a kayak placed in nearby waters could carry a piece of invasive plant that would contaminate the lake. Mr. Dowling states prevention should be our focus.

Marie Duink states that it is far more cost effective to be proactive with invasive plant species than to deal with the cost of treatment.

Polly Peterson states that should would like flag poles installed at the boat launch to hang the invasive species banner. Polly states the banner should last a few more years.

Pat Dowling spoke about the amount of money paid in taxes by the Brantingham community and wonders if the down might pay for the flag poles.

Polly Peterson states that a grant has been written by Lee Vergillis, Judy Wilson and Dottie White to cover the cost of boat launch stewards. (not sure of names)

Pat Dowling states that we need to address the question of how to address prevention at the boat launch. Do we limit the times the gate at the launch is open? Do we give keys to property owners? Should we install a high pressure wash station at the fire department?

Marie Duink states that years ago someone from Lake George offered a demonstration of a boat washing station that included a “bladder” below the boat to contain the “dirty water” and prevent invasive plant particles from flowing into the lake.

Karen Murphy stated that the demo and discussion about the station occurred at a time when the BCA had no money to spend beyond typical annual costs.

Gail Roes stated that anyone in the Town of Greig has the right to put their boat in the water.

Marie Duink states that the BCA addressed the issue of managing the gate at the boat launch in the past without success because the lake is owned by the town.

Pat Dowling suggests volunteer boat launch stewards on certain days and holidays.

Gail Roes reminds us that the boat launch is owned by the town.

Karl Keiffer states the town should have an interest in prevention of AIS on the lake. If the lake becomes infected, property values will drop and the town will lose tax revenue.

Karen Murphy suggested we focus on the three holiday weekends

Polly Peterson suggested that college students be trained through the Paul Smith Boat Launch steward program and be employed to cover the weekends.

Gail Roes states that the BCA does not want to be in the position of an “employer” as it raises a number of issues.

Eric Martin suggests that there be a town permit, perhaps for \$10. This might discourage individuals from putting their boat in Brantingham Lake.

Marie Duink responded that if you are going to register boats, it will only be successful if there is enforcement. The recreational officer is not on the lake enough to enforce it.

Marie Duink stated concern over having college students at the launch dealing with individual that might refuse to have their boat inspected.

Karen Murphy states that the Paul Smiths boat steward program places college students each summer at major lakes all over the Adirondacks including Fourth Lake, Raquette Lake, Lake Champlain, Cranberry Lake, etc. If a student has a problem they can call the Sheriff’s Department.

Pat Dowling states that he will look into the Paul Smiths program

Eric Martin states he will talk to the Boat Launch Steward on 4<sup>th</sup> Lake.

Pat asks what kind of money we would need to develop a washing station at the fire department

Gail Roes states that we would need to understand the water source at the fire department

Karen Murphy asks if we should develop information flyers regarding AIS for camp owners who rent to post in their camp.

Polly Peterson states that a flyer has already been distributed in the past but may need to be updated.

Pat Dowling as that we forward the Paul Smith's report to all BCA directors and officers

**SUNY ONEONTA LAKE MANAGEMENT INTERN:** Pat Dowling states that he received a flyer from SUNY Oneonta regarding their new Master's Degree in Lake Management. The program solicits sponsors for students at a cost of \$2500.00 each year for two years. The intern will in return create a Lake Management Plan along with other services. Pat explains this is a rare and affordable opportunity that may be the only program of its kind in the country.

Although there was no formal motion, all members present unanimously expressed interest in learning more.

**BUG SPRAYING:** Pat Dowling asks board members if they are agreeable to another spray.

Gail Roes states that we are contracted for 5 sprays, but have never used more than 4 sprays in recent years. However, Gail states that she spoke to Mrs. Duflo of Duflo Chemical Spray who stated that conditions are favorable for mosquito hatching and this will be a difficult year to control mosquitos.

Marie Duink requests that Mr. Duflo not spray on July 5<sup>th</sup> because of the Old Tyme Country Fair event.

**SEPTIC SYSTEMS/WATER QUALITY:** Pat Dowling reports that he spoke to Dave Meade (Code Enforcement Officer). 97 new septic systems have been installed on the lake in the past 10 years. Pat states he is a proponent of replacing old septic systems to protect our lake water quality. Mr. Dowling states that code enforcement cannot step foot on any personal property unless they have a complaint. Anyone who believes that a camp may possibly have a bad septic system may call the code enforcement officer or call Mr. Dowling who will file the complaint.

Polly Peterson asked how we would know if that had a bad septic system. Pat Dowling responded that you would smell waste affluent.

Pat Dowling states that although there are residents who believe the BCA should be dye testing the water to check for septic systems leaking waste into the lake, dye testing is not an effective measurement. Dye testing is a trend measurement and requires three separate tests that are abnormal to positively identify contamination. Measurements can be falsely high if geese have been in the area.

Pat reports that there is currently legislation in the New York House of Representatives that will require rural property owners have their septic system inspected and/or pumped every 5years. Once the bill is passed, local town governments can choose to adopt the law. Mr. Dowling believes the BCA should work with the town and encourage them to adopt the law. This would

allow funding for a one-time inspection of all septic systems. BCA does not have the authority to walk on personal property, but we can encourage and educate property owners on the value of inspecting and possibly replacing old septic systems to protect the environment.

**GEESE:** Karl Keiffer reminds us that geese produce an enormous amount of waste and should not be encourage by owners feeding them.

**HIDDEN FALLS SPRING WATER:** Pat Dowling reminds board members that this ongoing issue is one of legislation and not a BCA issue. The BCA should not take sides on the project. Currently, the legal battle is based around zoning issues.

Gail Roes asks the board if we should provide a link on the BCA website to information about the project.

Karen Murphy stated that if we are not going to take a position, then we should not post links or information.

Pat Dowling proposed that the BCA does NOT take a position on the Hidden Falls Spring Water Project.

Marie Duink states that the Brantingham Preservation Group is trying to raise funds to assist with legal fees to support Town of Greig with legal fees in regards to the Smokes filing a lawsuit against the town.

Pam Brewer states that she has a report in her possession from a resident, who is also a hydrologist, who researched the project and published her findings. Pam states that the findings are dramatic and concerning and she is willing to share the publication. Pam states the concerns relate to heavy demands on the water table secondary to the large amount of water that will be harvested each day by the Hidden Falls Spring Water company. Pat Dowling's reports that the company as proposed they will be collecting 250,000 each day.

Eric Martin states that the Brantingham Preservation Group (BPG) is active and involved .

Polly Peterson suggest that BPG uses a local arena or theater to show a documentary about the environmental damage that has already been caused by other water bottling companies and charge an entrance fee to raise funds.

**BCA WEBSITE:** Pat Dowling suggests a meeting with the editor of the website to propose changes.

**BCA BY-LAWS AMENDMENT:** By-laws Section 1 were amended as follows by the members present:

Section 1. The BCA is organized for the following purposes:

- A. To exercise, promote, and protect the privileges and rights of its members.
- B. To foster a healthy interest and active participation in the Brantingham community by its members.
- C. To protect and improve the natural and physical environment in and about the lands and waters of the Brantingham community.
- D. To promote improvement of the Brantingham community through activities, recreation, informative meetings and correspondence.
- E. To do anything incidental to or connected with prior purposes, but not for the financial profit or gain of its members, Directors or Officers except under Article 5 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law.
- F. To do all things permitted under the statutes of the State of New York as provided for in the Certificate of Incorporation of the BCA

Karen Murphy states that there are other section of the BCA by-laws that need to be amended especially the section of the election of officers and directors.

Pat Dowling suggests the officer's work on the by-laws at a future date.

**FOUR CORNERS SIGN:** Pat Dowling reports that the roof has fallen off the sign and it has been stabilized. The sign will be cleaned and stained this summer.

**FLOAT FEST:** Pat Dowling reports that the annual float fest is scheduled for Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>

**ANNUAL BOAT PARADE:** Pat Dowling reports that the Villantis will not lead the parade this year. The parade is scheduled for July 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm

**COUNTRY FAIR BCA TABLE:** Gail states that we need to solicit directors and officers to man the BCA table.

**CAMP ADDRESS SIGNS:** Mr. Dowling encourages members to replace worn address signs. In addition states it is acceptable to use a camp name rather than the owner's name. For example; **Heron House 1234**. Please see the order form in the BCA Newsletter. Note that there is a limit of letter/numbers that can be placed on the sign.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Copy of the minutes to the prior BCA D.O. Meeting was provided for all members present. **Gail Roes motioned that the meetings be approved without changes. Karl Keiffer seconded the motion and the motion was so approved.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gail Roes provided a copy of the treasurer's report to all members present and provided a brief review. **Bill Hathaway motioned that the treasurer's report be approved without changes. Karl Keiffer seconded the motion and the motion was so approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm by Pat Dowling.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Murphy  
BCA Secretary