

**Brantingham Community Association – D.O. Meeting
May 21, 2016**

Members Present: Pam Brewer, Marie Duink, Carol Kunkel, Mike Leviker, Karen Murphy, Gail Roes, Phillip Stark, Gary White, Ned Wilson

The BCA meeting called to order by President Phillip Stark at 10:10 pm

SECRETARY REPORT: The minutes to the prior BCA Directors and Officers meeting of August 9th was distributed to members present. **Mr. Wilson motioned that the minutes be accepted as written. Carol Kunkel seconded the motion and the motion was so approved**

TREASURER’S REPORT: A full page summary of accounts was presented to members. Gail Roes, BCA Treasurer, reviewed significant items. Gail noted that the Memorial fund is negative because of money spent on the new four corners sign. The new signs create a home for the memorial plaques. The sign is designed to allow for multiple uses. Spraying costs were average. Fish fund has already been spent for this year fish stocking.

Mr. Wilson motioned that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted. Carol Kunkel seconded the motion and the motion was so approved.

BUOYS: Buoys are out of storage and ready to be placed. Sheriff Mike Leviker states that the buoys need to be cleaned, re-taped and a more effective anchoring system develops. Sheriff Leviker stated he would check with the NYS Parks Department to see if they can recommend a superior method for anchoring.

Pam Brewer and Ned Wilson both state that it is too late to complete these requests and still have the buoys placed by Memorial Day. Ned Wilson states that buoys should be placed and interventions completed in the fall before storage.

Mike Leviker reports that the buoys were originally placed by GPS and will be installed according to these measurements, although they do not need to be placed exactly.

Sheriff Leviker suggests that a team be assembled to handle upgrading anchors for the summer. Gail asks if he can gather information from NYS Parks Department and report back. It was suggested that the anchors be permanent and the connections be floated for ease of reconnecting the buoys to the anchors.

Sheriff Leviker reported that he may perform another voluntary boat inspection on the lake. Gary White suggested that Mr. Leviker just position himself at the boat launch and do dry land inspections instead of trying to perform inspections in water.

Sheriff Leviker reminds us that fireworks should be limited to the 4th of July holiday. Members should feel free to call the Lewis County Police Department to report continued fireworks after the holiday.

Sheriff Leviker reminds us that registration stickers should be placed on the bow of the boat as described by NYS Department of Motor Vehicles. “Put your registration stickers on the boat 18 inches from the bow on both sides of the boat. This is approximately the same position that the stickers are located when a boat is also required to have registration numbers on the hull.” (NYS DMV, 2014)

Pam Brewer reports that there is still a continued problem with people parking on private property at the boat launch. Sheriff Leviker reminds members to call the Sheriff's office with any complaints.

SAFE BOATING CLASS: Mike Leviker reports that the Lewis County Safe Boating Class is TBA.

INVASIVE PLANTS/BOAT LAUNCH STEWARDSHIP: Karen Murphy reports that Polly Peterson continues to monitor the lake for invasive species. This is typically done in August. Karen Murphy spoke about information learned at the NYS Federation of Lakes Association Annual Conference. Karen attended a special session for lakes considering a boat launch stewardship program. Stewardship programs have increased dramatically in recent years. In April, New York State distributed 2 million dollars in grant funding to existing boat launch stewardship programs. Many of lake association members at the meeting stated that they started small with volunteers and have continued to develop the program. Many of the lake associations have collaborated with other lake associations or with town governments to shoulder the financial burden. Karen Murphy stated that we need to stop talking about a program and begin the first steps to building a program. The BCA's objective is the protection of the lake and this must be part of the proactive program.

Phillip Stark stated that until we can actually offer a boat washing station we cannot run a true boat launch stewardship program.

Karen Murphy suggested that we begin with volunteers on high traffic weekends to perform a traffic survey and continue education efforts about Aquatic Invasive Plant Species (AIS), how they are transported on boats and how to check and wash a boat to eliminate the risk of transfer of AIS

Gary White stated that there is a boat checkpoint and washing station on Route 28 before Thendara. Mr. White states that station uses a 1000-gallon water tank and a propane-powered pressure washer. The water must be heated to 140 degrees to effectively remove AIS.

New Wilson suggests we establish volunteers and a survey to use at the boat launch for July 4th. Information should be posted in this year's annual newsletter. Future considerations: evaluating cost of a boat washing station, consider stickers for boats dedicated to Brantingham.

NATURE: Several reports from members of snapping turtles, geese and beaver. Karen Murphy reports that the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation stated that geese love manicured lawns and property owners should consider allowing their grass to grow long.

WATER QUALITY: Karen Murphy reports that Brantingham Lake was rotated out of NYS Federation of Lake Association Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) for 2015. This was to allow other lakes to participate. Brantingham Lake was chosen to rotate out due to consistently normal measurements. The BCA board would like to thank Mr. Al Predmore for his many years of service in performing the procedures required for proper and accurate measurements of the lake water. Chris Murphy, a science teacher in Vermont, will be taking over the responsibilities of this water quality assessment program. Chris summers on Brantingham Lake and attended the NYSFOLA CSLAP training session in April at Hamilton, NY

SPRAYING: Phillip Stark reports that he spoke to Mr. Jeff Duflo of Duflo Chemical Spray and signed a contract for this year for 5 sprays with an option for 6 sprays. The first spray was tentatively scheduled for the weekend prior to Memorial Day weekend. After several reports of black flies, Mr. Stark requested Mr. Duflo to move up the spray date. However, as of the meeting date, he had not heard back from Mr. Duflo

The board engaged in a follow-up conversation regarding the use of BTI vs. Aerial Spraying. The following points were discussed.

BTI

- Treats black fly larvae in outlying streams of the lake.
- Requires trained volunteers to administer the product into the streams
- Application must be done correctly or it will not kill all larvae
- Requires a DEC permit
- Is commonly used in the Adirondack Park
- Typically costs more than aerial spraying
- Does not treat mosquitoes
- Town of Greig would need to be involved

AERIAL SPRAYING

- Timing is critical, company should be notified as soon as black flies arrive
- Weather dependent; temperature must be at least 70 with low wind conditions
- Twilight flying is effective to effect both black flies and mosquitoes
- Product is organic (Permethrin – made from the Chrysanthemum Flower)
- Very small amount of product is used
- Company uses state of the art equipment for spraying

Cheaper than BTI

Karen Murphy reports that she spoke to the NYS DEC regarding methods and they could not recommend one method over another. BTI works to treat larvae in water, but not all mosquitoes lay their eggs in water.

The board, at this time, chooses to continue with the current method of aerial spraying.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Gail Roes reports that membership continues to drop approximately 5 or 6 memberships each year. Gail reports there has been tremendous turn over in property ownership and we may be missing out on new property owners as it is difficult to gather contact information.

There was a short discussion on whether there was a correlation between the increase in dues and the decrease in membership. Gail states she will run a report, but that the dues must remain at \$40 with the additional expense of liability insurance for the directors and officers.

Phillip Stark stated he would use social media to get the word out about the 2016 Membership Drive.

The work of the BCA benefits everyone who spends time at the lake. All property owners should share the financial burden of spraying, water quality testing, etc. Please encourage your neighbors to join.

LIABILITY INSURANCE: Treasurer Gail Roes states that we currently pay liability insurance, but asks if we should also be paying the Errors and Omissions Insurance (\$900 annually).

Phillip Stark stated that it is hard enough to lure individuals to volunteer their time to the BCA. Those individuals should be protected by insurance. Mr. Stark states that the Errors and Omissions Insurance protects board members from decision made and that the insurance should be purchased to protect the directors and officers.

4-CORNERS SIGN: The Brantingham Welcome sign at the 4 corners has landscaping that has been managed by the Walkie-Talkies members for years. They plant annuals donated locally and water throughout the summer. The Walkie-Talkie organization has announced they will no longer be managing this landscaping. The Walkie-Talkies also place a number of banners in town. They have also offered to donate the banners.

Carol Kunkel stated she would be happy to assist with the watering responsibility.

Ned Wilson suggests that a sign be posted on the 4 Corners Brantingham Welcome Sign during the NYSDEC BURN BAN.

Gary White stated that individuals are posting notices on the unlocked portion of the BCA sign for personal sales, etc. It was suggested that both sides of the sign be locked to limit sign for just BCA use.

SIGN FOR BOAT LAUNCH: Karen Murphy asks about a statement in the prior D.O. meeting that the NYSDEC has established new signage requirements at boat launches. Gail Roes reports that Eric Martin notified the Town of Greig about these new requirements.

SEPTIC DISCOUNT: Carol Kunkel asks if the BCA would like her to contact Swartout Septic services to see if they would offer a 10% discount again this year for BCA members. Marie will report and information will be placed in the newsletter. Karen Murphy reminds members that it is critical them property owners have their septic systems checked and pumps according to recommendations. Septic Systems that may be leaking into the surrounding land may also leak into the lake. E-Coli in the lake water is a serious threat to water quality and aquatic species.

BRANTINGHAM CEMETERY: Carol Kunkel reports that the Brantingham Cemetery looks unkempt as individuals are leaving a variety of items at individual grave sites that are not allowed. Marie ask that Brantingham Cemetery rules be placed in the annual newsletter in newsletter.

Brantingham Cemetery By-Laws (excerpt):

“These BY-LAWS have been drawn up by the Town Board of the Town of Greig to regulate and administer the Town Cemeteries. It was the wishes of Mrs. Mary Kosa, who donated the lands of the Brantingham Cemetery, that Brantingham cemetery remain forever free to residents/ or taxpayers of the Town of Greig. In this spirit, the Town Board wishes that all known cemeteries within Town control conform to these BY-LAWS.

- 7) That no fences shall be erected around burial lots to hinder mowing or maintenance of cemetery.
- 8) No trees or shrubs can be planted by lot owners.
- 9) That all work done in the cemetery shall be done under control of, or with the permission of the Sexton.
- 12) That the cemetery shall be maintained by the Town of Greig.
- 14) That cremated remains will not be permitted to be scattered in any part of the cemetery.
- 16) That no artificial flowers, wreaths, or ornamental subjects be placed in the Cemetery.”

TOWN MOWING: Ned Wilson asks if we can approach the town about mowing down Milk Weed along the road which is an important plant for Monarch Butterflies.

Phillip Stark responded than town municipalities have specific rules about land management and what needs to be mowed. There was a suggestion to speak with Rick Watson.

MEETING TIMES: President Stark states because he lives in Pennsylvania he is unable to attend a meeting in June. However, he suggested July 9th for the next BCA Directors and Officers Meeting. The BCA Annual dinner meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 30th at the Brantingham Golf Course. Any decision that requires urgent attention, can be accomplished through online communication.

Phillip Stark adjourned the meeting at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Murphy
BCA Secretary