

**Lake Abanakee Civic Association**

PO Box 406

Indian Lake, NY 12842

[www.lakeabanakee.org](http://www.lakeabanakee.org)

Minutes for 2021 Annual meeting held on Sunday, August 8, at Byron Park Pavilion.

We had 28 attendees.

Meeting agenda was briefly reviewed with attendees.

**Annual Meeting Agenda - 2:30PM – 4:30PM**

1. Elections, LACA Board      Bob McNamara
2. Financial Report              Sharon Lieberman
3. Community Service,  
    scholarship award          Leila Lewis
4. Guest speakers:              Brenda Valentine, Pres. ILCDC & Sue Corey, Pres IL CofC
5. Lake Health items:
  - A. Loon census & Program: Bronna Romanoff & Susan Ritchie-Ahrens
  - B. Invasive species:          Sally Cockburn
  - C. Water Quality Report:    Jerry Lieberman
6. Open Topics                  Bob McNamara

**1. Board elections:** Bob McNamara

There is significant turnover in 2021 as the terms of four directors will expire on August 31, 2021. In addition, the Secretary, Kim LaScala has retired. So that position is now open.

Terms ending are;

Directors: Barbara Smorgens Marshall, Susan Ritchie-Ahrens, Barbara Migdalen, Pat McNamara. Pat is also retiring from the Board.

Two volunteers have agreed to be nominated for the Board.

I motioned that the three directors whose term were expiring should be renominated. Seconded by Jerry Lieberman. Anyone objecting should raise their hand. No objections recorded.

The new volunteers, Fran Shattuck and Jo Hinds, were both nominated to the Board.

New Board going forward:

Officers: Bob McNamara – President, John Warren – VP, Secretary - open, Sharon Lieberman – Treasurer.

Directors: Frank McNamara, Barbara Smorgens Marshall, Barbara Migdalen, Susan Ritchie-Ahrens, Bronna Romanoff, Fran Shattuck and Jo Hinds.

**2. Financial Report:** Sharon Lieberman

August 8, 2021: Period: 8/1/2020 – 7/31/2021

Beginning balance \$2608.37

Income

Dues 900.00

Interest .51

Total income \$900.51

Expenses

Advertising 48.30 Meeting notice

PO Box fee 56.00

Scholarship 500.00

Membership fee \$100.00

Total expenses \$704.30

Balance as of 7/31/2021: \$2804.58

### **3. Community Service,** scholarship award: Leila Lewis

Each year we award a \$500 scholarship to the HS student that best exemplifies a commitment to the environment. This year's scholarship was awarded to Alexis Jackson. She was the High School valedictorian, graduating with two years of college credits. She will be attending North Country Community College this fall.

### **4. Guest Speakers:** Brenda Valentine, Pres. ILCDC

Brenda outlined the many activities of the Indian Lake Community Development Corporation. From assistance in obtaining grants for businesses, tourism activities and updating the Town's comprehensive plan. For details on all these activities undertaken by the ILCDC, visit the organization's new website at [www.ilcdc.org](http://www.ilcdc.org).

Sue Corey, Pres. IL Chamber of Commerce.

Sue provided a broad overview of the Chamber's scope of activities. Membership is open to; businesses, non-profit organizations, family's and individuals. The Chamber promotes businesses, tourism events, etc. For details on events, lodging, activities and the Chamber, visit the website at; <http://www.indian-lake.com/>

Sue also discussed the Indian lake theater. The types of films shown. And gave us a heads up on coming attractions. For more details visit the Theater website at; <http://www.indianlaketheater.org/>

### **5. Lake Health Items:**

Loon census and Friendly Lake Program. Bronna Romanoff & Susan Ritchie-Ahrens

There is an annual loon census taken each year on the third Saturday in July, between 8am and 9am. Many lakes in the Adirondacks participate. The people that took the census for Lake Abanakee were; Susan Ritchie-Ahrens, Paul Migdalen, Onno Oerlemans, Lauren Albright, Bronna Romanoff.

This year's census counted five adults and one chick. We know that two chicks were hatched in late June on the nest located in the cove south of the Big Brook causeway. But after much bald eagle activity in early July only one chick remained. In 2020 there were six adults and two chicks.

Loon Friendly Lake Program: The purpose of the program is to encourage a loon friendly environment. Which we believe we already have on our lake. But improvements can be made. We took a

membership in this program for 2021. It provided us with pamphlets to distribute to those renting their properties, and PVC containers where fishermen can put used line and lead sinkers. The pamphlets spell out the dangers to loons and other water fowl of leaving fishing line and lead sinkers in the lake. It encourages eliminating the use of lead sinkers.

### Invasive species – Sally Cockburn

Been monitoring the lake since 2006. We now have six volunteers that split up the shoreline. We could use more help. It's a fun way to get out on the water. Training has been online since Covid-19. You can find the link for training on our website: [www.lakeabanakee.org](http://www.lakeabanakee.org). So come join us.

Through 2020 monitoring no aquatic invasive species have been found. We are currently monitoring for 2021, which will complete in late September. So far no invasive species have been found.

The agency leading NYS effort on invasive species is APIPP or Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program. They provide the training and site reporting service. As well as a team of specialists that will assist us in identifying any possible invasive species that are found.

This year, 2021, the APIPP organization selected Lake Abanakee as one that they would survey. They had a team of specialists survey the lake in late June. We are awaiting the report. The bottom line here is that no invasive species have been found in our lake.

### Water report – Jerry Lieberman

We've been reporting on water quality since 2005. Prior to that Hamilton County was doing testing from 1998 to 2003. There were differences in testing and analysis so we did our own via Adirondack Lake Alliance Program (ALAP).

For the last several years Hamilton County now has the water samples analyzed by Adirondack Watershed Institute located at Paul Smith's College. This is the same lab that ALAP uses. Starting in 2019 we began relying on Hamilton County testing program to understand water quality conditions in Lake Abanakee. Testing is conducted five times during the summer months.

Lakes are classified by the level of nutrients. The state of Lake Abanakee is mesotrophic, which means it has a medium amount of nutrients, such as phosphorous and nitrogen.

Here are the highlights from Jerry's report.

### **Highlights:**

- 2019 and 2020 now tested via Hamilton County Lake Monitoring Program (previously Paul Smith's / ALAP)
- Pandemic drove record visitors to ADKs, some indicators of increased human activity (nitrate, conductance, etc)
- No aquatic invasives known (1/2 of Hamilton County lakes have AIS)
- pH and Alkalinity now indicate the lake has adequate acid neutralization capability
- No other major change in status from previous years
  - Lake Abanakee is a typical Adirondack lake – measurements are within the norms for most lakes
  - Mesotrophic state – based on Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-A, and visibility
  - Chlorophyll-a and conductance declining

- Sodium and Chlorine above background levels – low impact due to road salt

For details the 2021 report and Jerry's analysis are on our website at: [www.lakeabanakee.org](http://www.lakeabanakee.org), on the water quality page.

## **6. Open topics:** Bob McNamara

Prior to closing the meeting we take some time to hear any topics of interest to our members. The first topic discussed had to do with complaints about speeding boats on the lake.

### Speeding boats:

There were multiple locations on the lake where speeding boats were a problem. Questions were raised; who to contact, what are the rules, etc. ? The person to contact when this occurs is John Rathbun. He is the lake sheriff. His email address is: [jrathbun@frontiernet.net](mailto:jrathbun@frontiernet.net)

Regarding boat speed, in New York State, vessel speed is generally limited to 5 mph when within 100 feet of the shore, a dock, pier, raft, float, or anchored boat.

As a result of this discussion I'll send an email to the sheriff making the following points.

1. We've had multiple complaints.
2. We need his physical presence on Lake Abanakee to monitor boaters.
3. Can speed limit signs be posted at the Town put in. And possibly also at other locations around the lake. For example, signs on the Big Brook, Jerrie Saverie, and Rte 28 causeways.

Remember – when you have a complaint – contact the sheriff using the email I included above. John Rathbun is also on the Town Board. So you can find his email of the Town website as well.

### Lake Water level:

There was discussion about the lake water level. And what is the Town doing to control the level. There is concern that those in charge of the dam are not reacting quickly enough to rising water levels. Some focused their comments on rafting. Others thought the frequent rains were causing the problem. The recommendation was to contact the IL Town Supervisor, Brian Wells, if your property is experiencing flooding. Possibly, you may have to anticipate the problem when you see the level rising, and contact Brian Wells to make sure those in charge are prepared to open the dam to alleviate the problem. Here's Brian's email address: [ilsuper@hotmail.com](mailto:ilsuper@hotmail.com)

### Algae blooms:

In some of the coves south of Big Brook causeway blooms have formed on the lake surface. And it's difficult to know if these are what's referred to as Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB's). Or are they just disgusting looking but not toxic. The recommendation was to contact the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District for help. Caitlin Stewart, District Manager, is the person to contact. Her email address is; [caitlinstewart@frontier.com](mailto:caitlinstewart@frontier.com)

### Landscaping on Big Brook causeway:

There was a complaint regarding the Town's recent weed-wacking of all the plants and scrubs that grow on either side of the causeway. The Town clear-cut everything. So there is no longer any vegetation for butterfly's and other insects that depend on those plants. The recommendation was to contact the Town highway superintendent, James Roblee, Phone: (518)648-5615.

## **Close meeting:**

Several years ago we started a farewell to summer activity called the “Ring of Fire”. Those who want to participate will light a campfire near their shoreline on a specific day and time. For those interested in participating this year's ring of fire will be on Saturday Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, at dusk. Rain date is Sunday Sept 5<sup>th</sup>.

For more information on Lake Abanakee Civic Association visit [www.lakeabanakee.org](http://www.lakeabanakee.org)