

Lake Abanakee Civic Association
PO Box 406
Indian Lake, NY 12842
www.lakeabanakee.org

Minutes for 2018 Annual meeting held on Sunday, August 12 at Byron Park Pavilion in Indian Lake. Approximately 35 people attended.

Annual Meeting Agenda - 2:30 - 4:30pm

2:30	Welcome , pay dues	Bob McNamara
2:50	Dam update	Brian Wells, IL Supervisor
3:10	Boating safety	John Rathbun, Hamilton County
3:25	Adirondack Lake	Brian Farrell, Weed committee chairman
3:40	Board elections	Bob McNamara
3:45	Financial report	Sharon Lieberman
3:50	Water quality	Jerry Lieberman
4:00	Loon census	Bronna Romanoff
4:05	Invasive species	Bob McNamara
4:10	Scholarship award	Leila Lewis
4:15	Open topics	Group discussion

Introduction/welcome – Bob McNamara

One of our members, Leif Ahrens, passed away earlier this year. Leif has been coming to the Adirondacks since early 1970's and took many photographs. Which you can see on the Lake Abanakee web site. Those are his pictures in the photo gallery.

Approval of minutes & finance report from 2017. This action needs to be delayed as the information has not been distributed to members as yet. I expect to post the information on our web site in the near future.

Dam update – Brian Wells

He commented that the old dam had issues but that the new dam also now has issues. It's not leaking and not going to fail. But there are problems with the new dam. The bulkhead in front of the dam suffers from shabby construction work. Primarily, the concrete pours were bad, with some of it already eroded and showing the rebar underneath. And while the new gates are functioning. They do not have all the functionality we expected. Payments are being withheld

He thought the engineers didn't know what they were getting into. And there was poor water management during the construction phase.

There is a big void in concrete, underwater. This was found by an independent diver who took a video of the problem.

The gates had installation and design problems. The bottom seal was installed incorrectly leading to leaks. And the faulty design resulted in lack of function. We've already had to replace actuators, which lower and raise the gates.

The problems are being addressed. Rozell has probably lost over a million \$ on this project. The crane alone is costing \$5600/day. And there's a \$250 a day fine until the work is completed satisfactorily. There is a September deadline. But I have no reason to be confident in that date. We will have updates each month at our Town Board meetings.

You can be sure that the dam will be what we had expected before we sign off on it.

Regarding the Adirondack Lake dam, engineering plans are being drawn up now. Once all the measurements and plans are documented we'll put our request for proposals.

Someone asked about the Indian Lake dam. Saying the NYSDEC had listed it as a hazard. Normally inspected every two years. Brian said an engineering assessment was being done now. Hudson River/Black River agency is responsible for that dam. While not up to NYS standards it's not at risk of failing.

Brian was asked several questions regarding invasive species. He commented on zebra mussels found on a boat about to launch in Blue Mountain Lake. It was turned away. The DEC is building a cleaning station on Indian Lake. The spiny water flea, which was found last year in Indian Lake, has not been spotted there this year. When asked about a cleaning station for Lake Abanakee Brian commented that it would be too expensive. And too easy to bypass.

Boating safety – John Rathbun

He covered all the regulations which applied to motorboats, canoe's and kayak's. The main take aways were; to contact John about a boating issue call 518-648-5306. And within 100 feet of the shoreline motor boats are limited to five MPH, referred to as the wake free zone.

Adirondack Lake Weed Committee – Brian Farrell

The lake was being choked by weeds. Approximately 70% of the water surface was covered by weeds. So in 1982 they established a tax district with authority to tax homeowners to support efforts to get rid of the weeds.

Initially they tried a toxic chemical (2-4-D). Then lime. Then they did a draw down of the lake, five feet. If the winter was sufficiently cold this would kill of some weeds.

None of the prior solutions worked. So in 1996 they started to stock the lake with non-reproductive, grass eating carp. The carp live ten to fifteen years. And grow to thirty pounds. This solution has been a bit too successful. They estimate that there are about one thousand carp in the lake now. About 10% of the lake surface is covered in weeds. This had resulted in loss of habitat for fish. And the fisherman are complaining.

They are now exploring ways to reduce the carp population by 20%. Or two hundred carp. The approach recommended was shooting carp with bow and arrow. Go figure.

Board elections – Bob McNamara

Barbara Marshall and Susan Ritchie-Ahrens were nominated and approved to continue as directors.

Finance report – Sharon Lieberman

Period: Aug 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018

Beginning balance:		\$1935
Income:	dues	\$625
	interest	\$0.83
Expenses:	Scholarship	\$500
	water test	\$200
	mailing	\$25.09
	misc	\$25
	PO Box	\$52
	Total	\$802.09

ending balance: \$1758.74

Questions were asked about # properties around the lake. It's about 175, with some being empty lots. We

had fifty paying members last year. Don't know the total for this year as yet.

Water report – Jerry Lieberman

We pay ALAP (Adirondack Lakes Assessment Program) \$200 for water testing. We do three samples each summer. We've been doing this 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 ALAP.

For the last several years Hamilton County now has the water samples analyzed by Adirondack Watershed Institute located at Paul Smith's. This is the same lab that ALAP uses. We are looking at the resulting data to see if we should stop doing our own testing. And rely on Hamilton County to test Lake Abanakee.

Jerry handed out his analysis of the ALAP data. There are no major changes to water quality. No significant change in phosphate or chlorophyll levels.

Links to water reports are on our web site.

Question or comment was made about septic systems fouling the lake. It was pointed out that Hamilton County had "Dye Test Kits" available for \$5.00. Drop the pellets in the bowl. Wait several days. And see if the color appears near septic field.

Loon census – Bronna Romanoff

Census conducted for the past twenty years. Third Saturday in July. From 8AM to 9AM. Throughout the Adirondacks two hundred lakes are monitored.

Our census resulted in counting; four adults and three chicks.

Previous years we've had double digit loons counted.

Mike Moccio, who works for ADK Loon Conservatory, said that the Adirondacks were just about max'ed out on loons. They estimate about 850 throughout ADK. He commented that fishing lines are dangerous for loons. They will twirl their heads to shake off the line. This just makes it worse.

Invasive species – Bob McNamara

Been monitoring the lake since 2006. We now have five volunteers that split up the shoreline. We could use more help. It's a fun way to get out on the water. Training is conducted each June. So come join us.

Through 2017 monitoring no aquatic invasive species have been found. We are currently monitoring for 2018, which will complete in late September.

Scholarship award – Leila Lewis

This year's winner is Sydney Benton. She's a waitress at IL Restaurant and a lifeguard at the Town beach. She'll be attending SUNY Plattsburg.

Group discussion

It' was mentioned that we'd be doing the Ring-of-Fire again on Labor Day weekend. Specifically, on that Saturday between 8:30PM and 9:00PM. The idea is a farewell salute to summer. Those participating should light their campfires at that time. If it rains on Saturday, then Sunday is the rain date for the fire.

A question cam up about the timing of the annual meeting, being in the afternoon. Why not move it to the morning? It's felt that we'd lose more people that way. As it is now many people have guests are have trouble making the meeting. But with an afternoon meeting guests have probably departed already. Also, mid-afternoon doesn't interfere with dinner preparations.

End of meeting.

