

Lake Abanakee Civic Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 406, Indian Lake, NY 12842
www.lakeabanakee.org

Minutes for 2016 Annual meeting held on Sunday, August 14 at Byron Park Pavilion in Indian Lake. Approximately 32 people attended.

Meeting was opened at 3:10pm by Bob McNamara. First topic on agenda was an update on the Lake Abanakee dam project provided by Kevin King, Superintendent of Sewer and Water Department of Indian Lake.

Here are Kevin's comments.

1. Cofferdam allowing work to proceed while also providing for rafting.
2. Work on east bank wing wall is completed.
3. Now pouring cement for spillway.
4. Once spillway work is done we'll start work on west bank wing wall, which runs all the way up to Chain Lakes Rd.
5. After that we'll get to replacing actual dam.
6. Work proceeding mostly on schedule. Some delays due to rafting issues.
7. Target completion date is Dec 15, 2016.
8. Rafting season may end early if necessary to make target completion date. Normal season end is Columbus Day weekend.

Questions asked of Kevin.

Q1: What was wrong with the Dam?

Ans: Dam was in terrible shape. Current gate jams often. When a part breaks we have to manufacture a new part since we can no longer get replacement parts. Replacement is long overdue.

Q2: How is dam repair being funded?

Ans: Received grant from NYS for either \$750K or \$785K.

Q3: How is rest of cost being funded?

Ans: Need to ask Brian Wells. (see later section on answers from Brian Wells)

Q4: Kevin was asked to explain a little more about the workings of the new dam?

Ans: There will now be two gates, on slides, with a pillar in the middle. Operation of dam may be automated, so gates can be raised as water level rises, without having someone (usually Kevin) actually go to the dam and raise the gates. Not sure if funding for the automation is included in the budget. Another question for Brian Wells. See later section for answer.

Q5: There was a question regarding water level after work is completed.

Ans: Old dam had splash boards installed over spillway portion at request of rafters. This raised water level during rafting season. New dam will not have splash boards.

But the spillway of the new dam will equal the height of the old spillway plus the splash boards. So the new water level now will be higher year round, not just during rafting season.

The goal is to manage the water level to within approximately four inches of spillway height.

Note: A number of comments made during this discussion were positive regarding the water levels seen this year.

Q6: Why was the coffer dam required?

Ans: So we didn't have to drain the lake, which both the DEC and APA wouldn't allow. Draining the lake would have a negative impact on the health of the lake and downstream.

Note: A comment made during this discussion referred to a fall 2015 Town of Indian Lake Board meeting where dam options were discussed. Of the three options referred to as; good, better, best, the board selected the best.

Q7: Any operational coordination between Indian Lake and Lake Abanakee dams?

Ans: No coordination. But we can suspend rafting if water level is too low.

Note: It wasn't clear who or how decision to suspend rafting is made.

That's the end to Kevin's presentation. Here are the questions forwarded to Brian Wells, and his responses.

1. Kevin mentioned Indian Lake received a grant from NYS for \$785K. Is that the total cost for the repairs to the dam? If it costs more where is that money coming from?

Ans: We will be bonding the difference. (my comment. Appears difference will be approximately \$220K. Numbers aren't final yet)

2. When will the dam parts be delivered to the contractor? Since it's not yet on site there was some concern there could be a delay due to late delivery.

Ans: The gate will be delivered in October.

3. Kevin stated that the target completion date was 12/15/16. And if not done by then they would continue working until they were finished.

Meaning the work could continue well into winter. Is that correct?

Ans: They will not leave until the project is complete.

4. Will the rafting season have to end early, prior to Columbus Day weekend, in order to be finished by the target date? And if it's to end

early can you say when that would be?

Ans: The rafters have volunteered to end their season earlier if needed ,but I don't see this happening on their end.

5. Kevin mentioned the desire to have automated control over the dam operation through use of a gauge set somewhere in the lake that would signal the dam to react to rising levels. Is money for the gauge in the budget?

Ans: No.

6. When the automated gauge was mentioned the question of where to place it came up. This seems to me to be a question for the engineers. Rather than guessing about it's location would the contractor be the one to select an appropriate location for best operation of the automated dam gates?

Ans: There will not be any off site gate operation.

Next presentation on “Love your Lake” by Caitlin Steward, Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District. We are experiencing significant algae blooms throughout the lake and Caitlin's presentation was right on target. Here are the main points she made.

1. Algae is naturally occurring but can get out of balance if too many nutrients are in the water.
2. Main culprits are phosphorous and DE-icers.
3. Phosphorous sources are; fertilizers, detergents, hand soaps and shampoos, leaking septic systems.
4. NYS law restricts phosphorous in those products, but other states don't.
5. Need to be very cautious in using those products near the lake.
6. To detect leaking septic systems her organization provides orange dye pellets that can be flushed into your system. If leaks exist you will see the evidence.
7. De-icer sources are; mainly road salt, de-icers used on your property.

Other causes of increased algae are weather conditions. Hot, dry spells can increase algae growth. As can heavy rains resulting in more runoff.

Difficult to pinpoint cause of this years increased algae. Could be an indication that the lake is getting too many nutrients. Or it could be mainly attributed to this years weather. We'll know more next year when we have the 2016 water report in hand. It will tell us if the lake has an increase in phosphorous from prior years.

A few days after the meeting Caitlin provided many valuable links to additional information on water quality, algae, etc. Here are the links.

1. The Lake Abanakee water monitoring data is available on our website

at: http://www.hcswcd.com/images/files/Individual_Lake_Reports_1993-2003/LakeAbanakee.pdf

2. Preliminary water monitoring reports and raw data are available on our website at: <http://www.hcswcd.com/index.php/water/lake-monitoring>

3. One of your members inquired about algae control. I will follow up with Lenny when he returns to the office and will get back to you.

4. Excellent information about harmful algal blooms is available on the DEC website here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html>
If anyone suspects that they have seen or come into contact with a HAB, please report the bloom to the DEC. Fill out and submit a Suspicious Algal Bloom Report Form <http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/suspalgformedit.pdf>. Email the completed form and, if possible, attach digital photos (close-up and landscape to show extent and location) of the suspected bloom to HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov.

Financial Report: Given by Treasurer Sharon Lieberman
Period covering 8/1/15 – 7/31/16

Beginning balance as of 8/1/15	\$2457.27	
	235.00	member dues
	1.12	interest
	(814.44)	expenses include: scholarship, water test, PO Box, Adirondack Lake Alliance membership, postage.
Ending balance as of 7/31/16	1879.42	21 paid members as of 8/15/16
8/1/14 – 7/31/16 2 year loss:	(1030.40)	

Loon Report: No information available on 2016 loon count. Not certain a count was done. Have some suspicion that multiple people have been conducting counts on Lake Abanakee in prior years. Loon census organization didn't respond to my call.

There were comments regarding the location of the loon nest off the causeway. Several people suggested relocating away from the causeway opening. Jerry Lieberman, who built the nest, is OK with relocation but cautions not to move too far as the loons tend to return to prior location of the nest. Bob McNamara, who has been handling the nest the past year, will move it into the cove so as to be out of the line of sight from the causeway opening.

Jerry also suggested that others could make loon nests so as to increase the possibility of more chicks. There are many plans available on the web. Here's one example.

<http://maineaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/DeSorboRaft.pdf>

Just enter “How to build a loon nest” and you'll get plenty of information.

Water Quality Report: Jerry Lieberman

Jerry's main comments were:

1. I have been doing the water testing for 10 years, since 2005/2006 season.
2. No tests done in 2015 due to change in testing schedule.
3. Tests are done 3 to 5 times during the summer.
4. Over time the lake has changed from mesotrophic, meaning cloudy and more plants, to oligotrophic, meaning more oxygen and less cloudy.
5. This change is a good thing.
6. Phosphorous levels had been 20 when testing started. In 2014 the level was 9. In 2013 the level was 5. We'll get 2016 report late fall, early spring and will see if phosphorous is trending up. This could tie into increased algae blooms seen this year.
7. As of 2014 report the lake is in good shape.

Here's a link to the 2014 Water Quality Report:

http://www.adkwatershed.org/files/lake_abanakee.pdf

Election of Officers and Directors: Officers terms are for three years (with exception of Treasurer).

<u>Officers:</u>	President	Bob McNamara	(term expires 8/31/19)
	Vice President	Ed LaScala	(term expires 8/31/19)
	Secretary	Kim LaScala	(term expires 8/31/19)
	Treasurer	Sharon Lieberman	(term 8/31/17)

Directors:

1 yr term:	Len Carbonara	(term expires 8/31/17)
	Barbara Smorgans Marshall	(term expires 8/31/17)
2 yr term:	Pat McNamara	(term expires 8/31/18)
3 yr term:	John Warren	(term expires 8/31/17)
	Frank McNamara	(term expires 8/31/19)
	Al Pouch	(term expires 8/31/19)

All positions open for election were duly nominated, seconded and unanimously approved by vote of eligible members.

Discussion: There was a brief discussion on ways to better communicate among members. We have a Facebook page but few people are aware of it and it gets very little use. We want something to replace the current web site that is out of date. Kim LaScala offered to transfer elements of the web site to Facebook. Others suggested deploying an inexpensive web site. I believe Susan Ritchie-Ahrens has some experience with web sites where you pay a yearly subscription for hosting and do much of the administrative work yourself. Kim said she could help here as well. I will follow up post meeting with Susan and Kim.

Post meeting items.

Regarding Election of Officers and Directors, Al Pouch was not present when his nomination was accepted and approved. He is not able to accept the position of Director as he is involved in many other activities around town. That leaves us with five of the seven director positions filled.

Regarding health of the lake. It was reported shortly after we held our annual meeting that the Spiny Waterflea, an invasive zooplankton, was discovered in Indian Lake.

Here is a link to one of the articles.

<http://www.adirondackalmanack.com/2016/08/invasive-spiny-waterflea-confirmed-indian-lake.html>

After seeing the article I sent a note to Erin Vennie-Vollrath, a coordinator for the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) at Paul Smith's. I asked her about the probability of the Spiny waterflea in Lake Abanakee. Here's her response.

Erin Vennie-Vollrath:

Spiny waterflea would get washed downstream since they float around in the water column and are subject to the movement of the water currents. However, I don't think they'd survive very well in Lake Abanakee since it's such a shallow lake. Spiny waterflea tend to prefer very deep lakes. So, it's possible that you'd get spiny waterflea floating through the lake, but you likely wouldn't see them becoming established and impacting the native food web. Many of the lakes in Hamilton Co., including Lake Abanakee, were sampled in 2015 and at that time no spiny waterflea were found. We do plan to resample the lakes around Indian Lake again this fall, but I'm not sure we'll make it to Lake Abanakee since we don't believe it will survive there. I hope this explanation helps.

End of minutes.

