

LAKE ABANAKEE CIVIC ASSOCIATION
PO Box 406
Indian Lake, NY 12842
www.lakeabanakee.org

Minutes for 2022 annual meeting held on Sunday, August 21, at Byron Park Pavilion.

The meeting came to order at 2:35 P.M.

Welcome: Bob McNamara, President

The importance of getting all attendees email addresses was stressed.

Board Elections: Bob McNamara

There is significant turnover in 2022 as the terms of three directors will expire on August 31, 2022. In addition, the Treasurer, Sharon Lieberman has retired. So that position is now open. And Bob McNamara plans to retire when his term expires August 31, 2022. So that position will also be open.

Officer elections:

Treasurer: Josephine Hinds

nominated by Bob McNamara, seconded by Kathleen Warren
unanimous positive vote

Barbara Migdalen also has check signing authority for our Association.

Secretary: Susan Ritchie-Ahrens

nominated, seconded and unanimous positive vote:

Director elections

Three year position: Frank McNamara - reelected for 3 year position. Nominated, seconded and unanimous positive vote:

One year position: Sharon Lieberman: nominated, seconded and unanimous positive vote. (position vacated by Jo Hinds)

One year position: Bob McNamara: nominated, seconded and unanimous positive vote;; (position vacated by Susan Ritchie Ahrens)

New Board going forward:

Officers: President – position open, John Warren – VP, Secretary – Susan Ritchie-Ahrens, Jo Hinds – Treasurer. Directors: Frank McNamara, Barbara Smorgens

Marshall, Barbara Migdalen, Bob McNamara, Bronna Romanoff, Fran Shattuck and Sharon Lieberman.

Financial report: Sharon Lieberman, (former Treasurer)

Beginning balance as of 8/01/2021 2804.58

Income (dues) \$724.00

Interest .55 724.55

Expenses

advertising \$48.30 (McClary Media)

website & domain name \$155.21 Bob McNamara

PO Box fee \$62.00 USPS

Scholarship \$500 Angelena Oliver

 \$765.51

Balance as of 7/31/2022 \$2763.62

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 Angelina Oliver. She is the valedictorian of the Indian Lake High School class and heading to college to study zoology and music. She held numerous volunteer positions - too many to list!

The association received a thank you card this year from this very deserving recipient.

Guest Speaker : John Rathbun, (water sheriff)

Shared Information regarding water safety regulations;

Stand Up Paddle boards (SUP) are class A vehicles and need a whistle, orange distress flag and life jacket.

Canoes need to be registered (with a sticker in the correct place) if they have a motor attached. (This includes any boat that has propulsion)

December 2021: a New York State Boater's Guide pamphlet with state regulations was published with all of the current regulations.

Copies were distributed at the meeting.

He runs a boating class (8 hour course) for anyone 10 years old and up, with a test at the end (which everyone passes).

He distributed informational pamphlets (regulations for users of canoes, kayaks and motor boats).

Note: Lake speed limit of 5mph within 100 feet of shore.

Note: He often checks canoes/kayak's for invasive species.

Guest speaker: Dr. Daniel Way, Hydropower - Indian Lake & Abanakee dams.

In 2007 the evaluation of putting hydroelectric capability on these dams ended, with no plan in moving forward. There were several reasons the hydroelectric dam project failed, primarily due to concerns of environmentalists, who said the dam was part of the forest preserve, that had to be kept “forever wild”.

Information about this project can be found at the Indian Lake Association website:

ILAADK.org

This website has a page devoted to this project and people can write whether they support it.

According to Dr Way, the technology exists to add hydroelectric power to both dams, there is no threat to the environment, and they would generate enough power for the town of Indian Lake .

One of the benefits of the project would be coordination between the Indian Lake Dam and the Abanakee Dam, which would improve the stability of the water level on Lake Abanakee. which has long been a difficult issue.

Q: What can we, as concerned property owners, do to move this project forward?

A: Personally write a letter voicing your opinion to Governor Kathy Hochul:

1. Hon. Kathleen C. Hochul (D-IPA-WEP)
2. Address: NYS State Capital Bldg. Albany, NY 12224.
3. Phone: (518) 474-8390.
4. Fax: (518) 474-3767.
5. E-mail: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>

In Dr. Way's opinion, it will take time before a new hydroelectric project can build momentum. First, there are the upcoming NYS elections. Then there are repairs that must be made to the Indian Lake dam. Repairs are scheduled for 2023, probably at end of summer season.

For more details on Dr. Way's presentation, here's a link to an article he wrote for the Adirondack Almanack.

<https://www.adirondackalmanack.com/2022/07/once-upon-a-dam.html>

Lake Health items:

Loon program & census: Bronna Romanoff, Susan Ritchie-Ahrens

An annual census is done every third Saturday in July around the Adirondacks:

This year a team of 7 members who count the loons visible between 8-9 A.M. on this date. For 2022 we counted: 9 adults and one chick. Two eagles were also counted on the lake this year. (first year we were asked to count eagles).

Loon Program:

The members put out white tubes, for broken and used fishing line disposal. They distributed over 50 brochures to properties that have rentals to let people know how to act around loons. There is a lead fishing hardware exchange program: If anyone turns in an ounce or more of lead tackle to Pines (or to one of 10 other places like Hoss's in long lake) you can receive a \$10 voucher to buy new nontoxic lead free tackle.

Loon Zoom Talks are given by the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation: Sept. 6 which will be the next one.

Invasive species: Bob McNamara, for Sally Cockburn, who leads this program for the Association. We have seven Association members doing the monitoring. There is a lot of shoreline to cover. The training is not difficult. The shoreline is divided among the committee members.

For information on the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), just google APIPP. Or go to our website (www.lakeabanakee.org). You will find links to APIPP training videos. Many Adirondack lakes suffer from invasive species. The APIPP team does come out to help mitigate problems when invasives are found.

Good News: so far, no invasive species have been found on Lake Abanakee. More information can be found on the Association's website.

A concern was raised about algae blooms: several people said there are less blooms this year compared to last year.

There is information on the website to help identify plants that may be toxic.

An association member brought a sample of purple loose strife and explained how to cover the blooms with plastic to stop the spread of its seeds.

Water quality report: Jerry Lieberman

Abanakee is a mezotrophic lake, which means it has a moderate level of nutrients.

Data is provided by the Hamilton County Water and Soil Conservation District.

They test 4 times a year and test for many things:

Transparency: water clearness: it has been fine

Phosphorous: is a concern. It is banned by the state in detergents. The last three years it has been raising, which is a concern. 5.5 in 2019 to 7.8 in 2021. The range is still low. But this is a bad trend. Lawn fertilizer is very bad for the health of the lake.

Sodium : quite stable

Chlorine: increasing, but not at a bad level yet.

Calcium: slightly increasing, not a bad thing at this time.

We need to continue to be good stewards of the lake.

They do not test for bacteria. They do have test kits for testing for bacteria, which are distributed at Town Hall.

Open topics Bob McNamara

Comments and concerns::

What affect will the Indian Lake dam repair project, scheduled for 2023, have on the health and quality of Lake Abanakee? This is something we need to pay attention to.

Noted: New York State has a [Free Lead Testing Program](https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/free_lead_testing_pilot_program), to test for lead in drinking water. Here's link:

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/lead/free_lead_testing_pilot_program

Seaplanes on the lake: It is legal for planes to land on the lake, as long as they do not damage the shoreline and observe caution concerning wildlife.

Concern: rafting during droughts: This is addressed in the agreement between the town and the rafters concerning this topic. Concerned citizens should write a letter to the town board.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

For additional information visit our website at: www.lakeabanakee.org