



Bruce E. Young
Chairman

Dave Wick
Executive Director

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING NO. 478

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018

FORT WILLIAM HENRY CONFERENCE CENTER, LAKE GEORGE, NY

PRESIDING: Bruce E. Young, Chairman

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Kenneth Parker
Marc Migliore
Joe Stanek
Catherine LaBombard
Dean Cook
William Mason
James Kneeshaw

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: John McDonald
Dave Floyd

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT: Dave Wick, Executive Director
Molly Gallagher, Environmental Analyst II
Joseph Johns, Director of Law Enforcement
Roger Smith, Conservation Operations Supervisor III
Michelle Way, Office Assistant II
Justin Luyk, Park Ranger
Constance Harris, Environmental Permits Aide
Shane Ross, Marine Patrol Sergeant

COMMISSION COUNSEL PRESENT: Karla Buettner

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Ramant	Rosemary Pusateri
Pat Dowd	Ron Miller
Walt Lender	Tony Hall
Gwen Craig	Randy Rath
Chris Navitsky	Jim Sutherland

Item #1 — Introductions, Roll Call, Minutes of Previous Meeting: Bruce E. Young, Chairman

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and the roll call was taken.

Joe Stanek made a motion to approve both the July and August meeting minutes which was seconded by James Kneeshaw; all members present voted unanimously.

Item #2 — Fiscal Actions Report for August and September 2018: Bruce E. Young, Chairman

Joe Stanek made a motion to approve the August and September Fiscal Actions Report which was seconded by Dean Cook; all members present voted unanimously.

Item #3 — Project Review, Acceptance of the Project Review Actions Report: Molly Gallagher

Resolution 2018-36 — Project Review Actions Report

Joe Stanek read and moved to approve the Project Review Actions Report which was seconded by Marc Migliore; all members present voted unanimously.

WHEREAS the Commission has received and reviewed the Project Review Actions Report prepared by staff and dated October 16, 2018.

WHEREAS the Project Review Committee recommends acceptance of the Project Review Actions Report.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission directs that the Project Review Actions Report be incorporated in the minutes of the full Commission meeting.

Item #4 — Presentation: Ecoli Bacteria Tracking for the Million Dollar Beach Area: Randy Rath, Project Manager, Lake George Association

Randy Rath, Project Manager, of the Lake George Association gave a brief presentation on the ecoli bacteria tracking efforts for the Million Dollar Beach area.

Mr. Rath said that the first beach closure occurred in August of 2016. An effort was made to complete additional testing and then eventually daily testing was started.

Since no single source could be found, it was thought that there could be a possible sewer leak. The Town of Lake George employees lined the sewers with gaskets and found no apparent issues.

In 2017, the Department of Environmental Conservation began testing again and the beach was closed on June 6, 2017 due to high levels of bacteria. Many other areas surrounding the beach were found to also have high bacteria levels. Dye testing of the sewer lines and camps nearby occurred. Closed circuit tv was used to locate cracks. It was discovered that National Grid had installed a natural gas line which caused a leak in the sewer. This line was repaired in 2017.

Stormwater infrastructures were cleaned out in 2017 and again in 2018 by Lake George Village employees. These were not found to be the culprit. The Chazen Companies offered their assistance and came in with ground penetrating radar – this radar located some drainage pipes that were emptying into a stream. They were tested and found to be negative.

In 2018, The Department of Environmental Conservation made a decision that they were only going to test the swim areas at the beach. They were not going to do any upland tracking. The Lake George Association and the Town of Lake George decided that they would continue with the ecoli sampling with the Darrin freshwater Institute.

In May of 2018 they ran into folks at Environmental K9 Services and hired them to help locate the source. The dogs have been trained to sniff out human feces, detergents and oils/grease. The suspicious areas were GPS plotted and samples were taken from each location. 18 out of the 19 locations were positive for ecoli contamination.

Randy Rath said ecoli that counts over 235 close the beach and there were only 2 days this year that the count was over this number. Mr. Rath said that he just recently worked with Olga Vargas on electromagnetic induction to try to locate the source.

The steps going forward are to continue testing for ecoli contamination, continue looking for a source in the open channel, continue to work together to find a source, maintain stormwater infrastructures, and to obtain grants to slip line additional sewer lines.

Item #5 — Presentation: Road Salt Reduction Efforts in the Lake George Watershed: Chris Navitsky, Lake George Waterkeeper

Chris Navitsky, the Lake George Waterkeeper and Dr. Jim Sutherland, past DEC scientist gave a presentation on the Lake George Salt Reduction Initiative. Chris said

this initiative has been on-going for a number of years involving many local partners. The Fund for Lake George has been focusing on this issue for the last 4 years.

Jim Sutherland spoke in great detail regarding the long term data set of Finkle Brook. He had compiled records of Fuhs from 1970-1971, records of Sutherland from 1992-1997 and records of Sutherland from 2002-2006.

Mr. Sutherland spoke further about the salt loading model for Lake George. He explained that road salt contains sodium and chloride and said that excess sodium and chloride is problematic for the water quality and ecology of the lake. Mr. Sutherland, while referring to his graph, said that sustained salt loading at the 2009 rate would result in 34 mg per liter by the year 2050.

Mr. Navitsky spoke about partnership MOU's with local highway departments. These MOU's are in part an agreement to reduce salt applications, while still maintaining safe roads, and reducing their budget. He continued with an overview of the SWIM Model (Sustainable Winter Maintenance).

Mr. Navitsky said that black boxes were installed in some of the local plow trucks to monitor salt applications; one truck was outfitted with a live edge plow which helps to lessen the amount of salt being applied to the roads and cameras have been installed in various locations to allow monitoring of road conditions. In 2017, 30,000 images were captured and in 2018, 100,000 images were captured.

Mr. Navitsky said that with education, the use of salt brining and live edge plows these will help us get to a 50% reduction in road salt usage. Mr. Navitsky noted the Lake George Park Commission's work to generate and manage grant funding to assist the municipalities with the purchase of salt brine application and storage equipment, and new Live Edge plows. Moving forward, he would like to share his findings, help develop policies, open live data, enable self-assessment, improve equipment through grants and engage the private sector.

Item #6 — Dock Inspection Program — Minimizing the Issues: Molly Gallagher, LGPC Environmental Analyst

Molly Gallagher spoke about the history of the dock program. She said that this program is 37 years old and has only changed in the regulations two times since its inception.

The first incarnation of the program was started in 1981 before the Lake George Park Commission became a New York State agency. At this time, the program was DEC administered and the docks that were in place at that time were grandfathered. No mooring permits were needed at that time.

There were 10' setbacks and no minimum lake frontage requirements, the off shore distance limits have never changed. The 700 square foot limit and 8ft maximum pier with have also never changed.

In 1988, the way we determine property line extensions changed – we now use the most restrictive. It suddenly became much harder to add a dock to smaller properties. Everyone was mandated to annually register their docks in 1988.

Molly spoke further about current processes and changes made to the program over the years. Currently, Commission staff will issue a permit in house if all the criteria fit, i.e., there is no need for a variance and the dock is conforming and has previously been registered with the Commission. The Commission does not allow any after the fact approvals. If unpermitted changes have been made to your dock you are required to go through an enforcement action and pay a fine. The consent order will then approve the modified dock structure.

Molly spoke about the delay in getting permits issued. She spoke about the inspection of dock structures and said the inspections have increased by approximately 200%, in an effort to minimize compliance issues before dock construction. She also spoke further about the ice damage that occurred this year and said that in 2016 she had issued 24 permits for repair work, only 7 permits were issued in 2017 and 41 were issued in 2018.

Item #7 — Marine Patrol Highlights: Lieutenant Joe Johns, Director of Law Enforcement

Lieutenant Johns gave a brief presentation regarding the Lake George Marine Patrol activities for 2018. He said that the Marine Patrol has logged approximately 5900 service hours. 576 of those hours were spent checking boats and launches on Lake George.

Lieutenant Johns spoke about ice damage that occurred on the lake this year and said that because of the extensive amount of damage, the patrol cleaned up a lot of debris from the lake.

Training and education are a large part of what the Marine Patrol does. He said that the patrol logged 644 hours of training – this training included New York State Parks & Recreation training as well as Fire Arms and Baton training. He spoke further about NYS Boating education which is conducted by Marine Patrol staff and is offered free to the public. A series of classes have been held each year at locations in and around Lake George.

Marine Patrol is actively involved in emergency response situations such as accidents, investigations, BWI arrest, sunken boats, searches, and domestic issues, both, on land and water.

Lieutenant Johns also spoke about a brand new Boston Whaler patrol boat that was given to the Park Commission from the Office of New York State Parks & Recreation. He thanked the department for the equipment and said that the agencies work really well together.

One final mention was about Sergeant Angelo Paccione, Marine Patrol Officer Keith Knoop and Marine Patrol Officer Robert Sutphen who were 2018 award recipients.

For additional details, please watch the meeting video at www.lgpc.state.ny.us.

Item #8 — Law Enforcement Committee Report: Kenneth Parker, Vice-Chairman

Vice-Chairman Parker said that a Law Enforcement meeting was held at 9 a.m. where they met and discussed on going enforcement cases. They also discussed Marine Patrol's daily operations and noted that one boat was being kept in the water for emergency use.

Resolution 2018-40 — Law Enforcement Committee Report

Kenneth Parker read and moved to approve Resolution 2018-40 which was seconded by Catherine LaBombard; all members present voted unanimously.

WHEREAS the Law Enforcement Committee met October 23, 2018 to review matters pertaining to the Lake George Park Commission's Marine Patrol and the Commission's Law Enforcement Program, and

WHEREAS active Law Enforcement cases and their status were reviewed in Executive Session, and

WHEREAS the Law Enforcement Committee has reported on the results of that committee meeting at this full Commission meeting, and

WHEREAS the Law Enforcement Committee recommends acceptance of this month's Law Enforcement Report.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission accepts the report of the Law Enforcement Committee.

Item #9 — Public Comments

Steve Ramant of Hague said that he appreciates the work of the LGPC. He also thanked everyone involved with helping the Town of Hague get a live edge plow. He said that they are looking forward to being a sustainable winter management town.

Item #10 — Adjournment

Dean Cook made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 a.m. which was seconded by Joe Stanek; all members present voting affirmatively. The meeting was adjourned.

SECRETARY'S NOTE: The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at the Fort William Henry Conference Center, Lake George, NY.**