



Bruce E. Young  
Chairman

Dave Wick  
Executive Director

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## **Meeting Summary**

LGPC Septic Systems Advisory Committee Meeting - 9/2/21  
(Committee Meeting #3)

### **Attendees:**

#### The Committee:

Ken Parker Committee Chair, LGPC  
Bill Mason, LGPC  
Cathy LaBombard, LGPC  
Joe Stanek, LGPC  
David Floyd, LGPC

#### Advisors to the Committee

Tom Snow, PE NYSDEC - NYC Watershed Program  
Kevin Kenyon, PE NYSDOH  
Tom Jarrett, PE  
Susan Wilson, Deputy Supervisor, Town of Bolton  
Ethan Gaddy, AICP, Warren County Planning Department  
Walt Lender Executive Vice President, LGA  
Dan Barusch, Town/Village of Lake George  
Hannah Neely, Program Coordinator, Essex County

#### LGPC Staff

Jason Kokkinos, LGPC  
Justin Luyk, LGPC  
Dave Wick, Executive Director, LGPC

#### Assistance from:

Sean Doty PE, The Chazen Companies  
Kyle Hatch, AICP, The Chazen Companies

#### Members of the Public

**Location:** Zoom

**Time:** 2:00 PM

## Discussion:

- The meeting was started with introductory comments from Ken Parker (Chair) explaining the overall goal of reviewing and ensuring functioning septic systems in the Lake George Park.
- Jason K. (LGPC) presented on the survey of existing septic inspection programs in New York and beyond. The programs were summarized, and specific topics were explained including inspection standards, inspection frequency, inspector training, program organization and budget, inspection fees, inspection area, and emerging problems. Additional time was spent discussing cost of pump-out to landowners and ways to address septic systems in short-term rental homes that are being overused. Towns and municipalities shared their experiences (laws and pending laws) to limit occupancy on short term rentals. The summary of these programs is on the Commission website.
- Sean D. (Chazen) updated the group on the water quality literature review being completed by Chazen. One study has been added since the past meeting. They expect to be complete the literature review soon, with a more expanded summary/abstract to be delivered as a final product for the group to review. The literature review to date is on the Commission website.
- Jason K. (LGPC) presented on the GIS spatial analysis of private septic system parcels in the Lake George Park. The presentation began with an explanation of the analysis' purpose, data, and methods. This was followed by an overview of critical resources in the Park that could adversely affect septic system function and an overlay of parcels with private septic systems. A scoring system was presented that quantified private septic parcels' intersection with these critical resources to provide a priority list or focus area, similar to the Town of Lake George's recent initiative. Feedback from the group included incorporation of water quality testing to priority areas mapped, adding excessively drained soils to the analysis, and spatially refining the analysis to the system-location level.
- Dave W. (LGPC) shared an update from Joe T. on town/county's records on septic systems' age around the Park. Overall, the records were more comprehensive than anticipated, and the municipalities were in the process of sending septic system age data in a way that could be analyzed (i.e. spreadsheet). Benefits of this data could be triaging older systems for any future inspection program.
- Dave W. explained the overall process of the committee, with our current and first step being to research these topics thoroughly. Following this research, nearly complete, the committee will pivot to the process of discussing the need for regulations related to septic systems. As a State Agency, this needs to be a stepwise and publicly transparent process. If regulations are proposed, LGPC counsel has advised staff on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement that will take account effects of regulations on the public.

- Claudia B. (Warren County) updated the group on their initiative for an inspection program within all waterbodies in Warren County and their participation with the DEC septic replacement funding program. The program is expected to be modeled on a combination of Queensbury and Bolton's existing program.
- Tom Snow (DEC) shared their experience of increasing the pump-outs and hauling of septic waste in the NYC Watershed. In that program, wastewater plants struggled to receive that additional volume from a new program and thought it best to think ahead of time if a similar program were in Lake George.
- There was discussion about challenges of septic systems on islands and the water quality issues that may come from using ETUs close to the lakeshore.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:10PM. Next Meeting on October 7 at 2PM.**