

**TOWN OF DAY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2009**

Members Present: Ted Mirczak
Mary Ann Johnson, Supervisor
Ken Metzler, Code Enforcement Officer
Larry DeRubbo
Dave Davidson
Judy Traeger
David Cox
June Dixon
Richard Lamb, Consultant

Members Absent: None

Others: Suzanne Denn, Town Board Member

Motion by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Committee Member Dixon to approve the minutes of September 22, 2009 with the following corrections: Page 3, last line "...20 years from not..." to "...20 years from now..." and Page 4, first line same correction. Ayes: Mirczak, Johnson, Metzler, DeRubbo, Traeger, Davidson, Cox, Dixon. Carried: 8-0.

Persons to Meet With Schedule:

- November 17 at 7 p.m.: Town Historian Lauren Roberts and Town Business Owners are the scheduled guests. Supervisor Johnson sent letters to all local business owners. Two additional business owners were added: Shannon Gray of Adirondack Abstracts and Joe Pravetz, furniture maker. Supervisor Johnson will also be mailing a follow-up letter which will include the list of business owners. As of this date, there has been no follow up from business owners notifying the Committee that they will be attending with the exception of several verbal inquiries to confirm the meeting date. The Committee may include what types of businesses the Town would want to encourage or discourage in their discussions.

Regarding any recommendations or comments from Committee Members to business owners, the Committee agreed to address the inquiries of the business owners rather than make recommendations. Committee Member Davidson will extract comments made on the open ended questions of surveys regarding businesses in the town for reference at the November 17th meeting.

- December 15th at 9:30 a.m.: Jim Bogert, Chairman of the Edinburg Planning Board will be the scheduled guest.

- A contact person to review soils will be supplied by Supervisor Johnson for a future meeting.

Items for Web Posting:

The Vision Statement and Survey Analysis are ready to be placed on the web site. It is noted each document is in draft form.

Joe Sullivan, Sacandaga Protection Committee:

- The Sacandaga Protection Committee (SPC) is an off shoot of the Lake Advisory Rules Committee offering suggestions to the Regulating District with little success of interaction with the District. The Lake Advisory Rules Committee was disbanded.
- SPC is a 12-member ad hoc committee of concerned citizens similar in structure to the Great Sacandaga Lake Association (GSLA) which will attempt not to overstep GSLA's efforts. SPC also supports the efforts of the Batchellerville Bridge Action Committee for construction of a new bridge.
- Upon publication of the new rule changes of the DEC, the Committee re-organized as SPC. Mr. Sullivan explained the goals of SPC and the breakdown of the different organizations involved around the lake (i.e. GSLA), technicalities of fundraising, involvement in lawsuits, organization as a not-for-profit, apprehension of which department will oversee operations of the lake, etc.
- Mr. Sullivan reviewed the recent rule change which included removal of "exclusive" on permits. SPC has a meeting on October 29th with DEC with two agenda items: Change of the signs and designation of land surrounding the lake as forest preserve.
- SPC formation was necessary due to GSLA's inability to become advocates. Donations to SPC are not tax deductible which allows SPC to litigate and lobby. Per capita, the Town of Day is SPC's best source of funds. The goal for fundraising is between \$500,000 (adequate for three lawsuits) to one million dollars, the latter leaving a reserve for future litigation with a current 15% contribution rate from their mailing list.
- Discussion ensued on tax ramifications if the DEC proposals come to fruition; school and property tax payments of HRBRRD; and letter of support to school districts.

Peter Byron, Great Sacandaga Lake Association:

- Mr. Byron attended a meeting with the Edinburg Fire Squad regarding the replacement of the Batchellerville Bridge and addressed the implications of a complete bridge closure and the need for community action to bring this issue to the attention of the Legislature. He reviewed the issues of the Fire and Emergency Squad regarding response times; equipment issues (i.e. dumping of water from tanker in order to be able to make the weight limit of the bridge); volunteers residing on both sides of the lake; Supervisor Jean Raymond's meeting with DPW; future public meetings and public actions to raise awareness; mutual aid traveling long distances; cones currently on the bridge to designate lane becoming an issue during snow removal; availability of bobcat to clear snow on bridge and the response time if the bridge is not plowed; and the fact that replacement of the bridge would be a three year project.
- Mr. Byron read a statement (attached).
- Mr. Byron reviewed efforts made by the GSLA to HRBRRD and DEC to meet which were unsuccessful. GSLA would like to meet with the Board of Directors rather than staff but those attempts were rebuffed.
- Discussion ensued regarding webcast meetings and importance of open discussions. Mr. Byron stated the speed limit on the lake in particular is an issue in the Town of Day and surrounding towns. Supervisor Johnson stated the towns need to work in unison (i.e. the speed limit). Mr. Byron stated GSLA had considered being an umbrella organization to focus attention on particular issues of all concerned but due to the issues with the lakefront property and permit fees raises, has not been able to coordinate that focus. He suggested a more formality may be needed while understanding town supervisors may be over stretched in their routine activities to now take on additional duties.
- Supervisor Johnson suggested that the different organizations email the supervisors with meeting schedules along with agenda items to promote participation. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of three new supervisors in the towns of Northampton, Broadalbin and Mayfield and the implications of the same; discussions at the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors regarding County level responses to issues; combining resources to address issues and focus on only the most important issues; importance of legal options; endorsing potential political candidates; establishment of Lakeside Advisory Committee to act as a liaison to government agencies; GSLA focus on cost of running permit system and not fee increase; need for more accurate representation of actual activities on lake by government agencies (i.e. count of boats at marinas).
- Each town may have different issues regarding the lake and due to that fact, it may be difficult to pool money for legal fees. While SPC is not soliciting legal donations from the town, it is SPC's opinion that each town should have a legal fund dedicated to lake issues. Economic studies

have been conducted informally which revealed property values may suffer by 40% if the current rule proposals are implemented.

- Chairman Mirczak stated the general consensus of the survey was the residents of the Town wished it to remain as it is and are there any conflicts with that philosophy? Mr. Byron stated in order to maintain the Town as it is and to increase the activities suggested by survey takers (i.e. tourism activities such as hiking, etc.) revenues will be needed to achieve this. He believes there are tourism activities which can be developed on the lake which would be non-invasive but funding would need to be sought out for the future to avoid burdening the Town. GSLA has been asked to assist with handicapped access to areas on the lake along with funding and Mr. Byron believes this funding should rest with government agencies, either State or Federal. Pump out stations would alleviate concerns with pollution in the lake while providing services for increased lake usage. Code Enforcement Officer Metzler stated any marina which docks boats with facilities must provide pump out facilities. Discussion ensued regarding boat moorings off shore to promote tourism and support infrastructure; water quality; sailing school referrals to Saratoga Lake; and, scuba training.
- An advantage of having an abundance of seasonal residents provides additional to local representatives in their home districts throughout the State giving this area a much broader base in the Legislature.
- The water quality on the lake is excellent with only one area of concern in the Broadalbin area of the Cayudetta Creek. It was also noted the fluctuating water levels prevents some invasive species from being able to thrive in the lake and there is no milfoil with the exception of the Mayfield Lake.

Schedule:

- Goals and Recommendations: Need to be reviewed individually and determine if they are an accurate reflection of the Committee's thoughts. Draw up a Vision Statement for each. Professor Lamb stated any lakeshore issues should be a part of the Goals and Recommendations such as an advisory committee. The Committee may wish to state their support of such an advisory committee. While these statements regarding the lakeshore do not need to be specific, it would be necessary to list what the lakeshore issues are and what the reasons would be for those goals and recommendations. Subcommittees can be formed to develop verbage for an overall statement inclusive of the three groups (recreation, community development/services and land use, zoning and resource preservation).

Professor Lamb will draw up an outline of what the subcommittees should consist of and look to members of the Committee to choose the areas they would like to be involved in using the outline. Government should also be

separated into its own category. The subcommittee will work from a brief outline provided by Professor Lamb to compile the body of the particular goal and recommendation. For example: This is the issue, this is what we have found out and this is what is recommended. Professor Lamb will also provide Town of Horicon's plan to assist the volunteers of the subcommittees. There will be four subcommittees of two members each. Committee Members should choose their preferences in order of first choice, second and third.

- Additions to Plan taken from information provided at this meeting would include: Establishing the Advisory Committee with the Town taking a role as indicated by the survey results. It was noted that the Town Board has already authorized Dave Cox to attend HRBRRD meetings and report back to the Town Board. A single person or single Committee should be part of this Advisory Committee for continuity.

Specifically, APA has to reclassify lands. They will be more responsive to issues raised in the Comprehensive Plan with specific recommendations such as what type of classification would be acceptable and what it would encompass. Committee Member Cox stated APA would welcome input on this subject because it would be designating a new zone.

- The Committee would not wish to endorse any specific group. The general statement would indicate involvement and the wish to be proactive. The Committee would be indicating their recommendation for issues specific to the Town but also to other lake activities in different areas of the lake which would impact the Town of Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Byrne
Secretary