



Town of Putnam Valley  
District Meetings  
March 4, 2023                      Town Hall

Roaring Brook Lake 9 o'clock

In Attendance:            Jackie Annabi, Louie Luongo, Karen Kroboth and 15 RBL residents

Supervisor Annabi opened the meeting started at 9 o'clock and introduced AJ Reyes, Lake Manager from GEI to present an update on items pertaining to the lake.

GEI has applied for permits for the relocation of sand from the northern part of **Park Beach**. The sand that was once placed there has slowly moved over the years. A permit is necessary any time you move soil below the mean high water line, an escalation in fill, and needs to go through the public process. The last update AJ received was yesterday and the DEC is still working on it. There is only so much that can be done to get the DEC to move as there may be many permits ahead of this one. Once the permit is approved it will be good for 3 years with extensions up to 10 years. If the permit does not come through by March 17<sup>th</sup>, it will have to wait until the fall. The main issue is to keep Park Beach usable for the summer season. If the permit is granted in the next two weeks, a crew will be hired to move the sand by hand ASAP.

The next issue that was discussed, was how long to keep the **dam valve** open. AJ said that the valve should be kept open as long as possible up to the point where Sam doesn't think the lake is going to fill up. We don't want to interfere with recreation. Keep it closed as long as possible as the weather dictates. Sam Lee, the dam custodian should keep regulating as he has done in the past. We are at 38" level and that is a good level. If the two week time period has passed, close the valve. If no permit is issued we will try again next year. No DEC permit is required for putting sand on the beach. If the permit is issued, we can only give the landscapers 5 days to get the job done. The valve is currently open, last year the valve was closed on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Every year is different. A timeline of 2 weeks was decided on to hear from the DEC, if it is not in a timely manner, the valve will be closed as per Sam's experience with the dam. If it doesn't happen, the work will be done in the fall. AJ follows up with the DEC again.

AJ mentioned that he is seeing less vegetation. Aquatic plant populations can change. Some plants can become dormant. A question was asked about the snail population. AJ replied that he believes that they have increased but not significantly. He is not particularly studying them.

According to AJ, the water quality has been great. The phosphorus has been where it's been in recent years. The algae counts, which is directly related to how safe it is to swim have been good. The lake was below about 5000 for most of the year. In previous years it's been below 5000, but there's always been one month that's sort of always spiked up a little bit. It is commonly during July or during September. He was very happy with the water quality this year.

The **EutroSorb** bags were approved for use and will be placed in the water. The bags can be moved but should be exposed to the water. The bags will be ready to place in about a month. If AJ needs help, volunteers offered their help. Platforms may be built for the bags as they should not be in muck. It should take about a half day to place the bags. There will be at least 4 to 5 samples after the bags are placed. The cost will be around \$8,000 for this round of bags.

Everything is set up with WSP, the DEC with regards to the dam. Supervisor Annabi explained that she can apply for grants for the districts, despite what may or may not have been done in the past. She cannot apply for a grant for Floridian, for example, as they are a private community. The DEC has made an inspection of the dam and noted the things that needed to be done including replacing the steel brackets. The DEC can take up to a year to permit for a dam.

A **mooring buoy** is a floating object anchored to the bottom of a water body that provides tie-up capabilities for boats. The new law was a blanket law for all the lake districts. It was written to protect the lake from non-residents placing a mooring and their boat into the lake. This doesn't necessarily apply to RBL but the law needed to be blanket. A mooring therefore needs to be permitted by the State and the Town. It does not cost anything to receive the permit from the Town, the applicant just needs to show the State permit and prove residency. It has nothing to do with docks or rafts. If the State doesn't require the person to get a permit, neither does the Town. This was passed to prevent abuse of the lakes by non-residents. There is a \$500/day fine for people who are not properly permitted. The Sheriff is the only one who can enforce this or confiscate a boat.

Removal of "**abandoned boats**". The definition of an abandoned boat still needs clarification from the courts. Once it has been defined by the courts, the boat removal process can begin. The boats can be brought to the Highway department and Shawn will either sell them or dispose of them. Any money made from the boats will be given to the district. Any boats on district property should have a current boat tag. Boat tags have a 3 year life span. The wording for the law must be specific to protect the District and the Town.

The **RBL Lake Supervisor** will not be returning this year and we are looking for 1 or 2 people to take over the job. The job includes setting up and maintaining the beaches, checking up on the lifeguards and general tasks to ensure the safety of the residents and staff. Someone over 18 is preferred as driving is a necessary for the job. The job runs from May through September and the job can be shared between two people. If anyone is interested, please contact the district clerk.

RBL expressed that they would like to help pay for **lifeguard** certifications for RBL residents and increase the lifeguard salary, to encourage lifeguards to work in RBL. There has been and currently still is a lifeguard shortage. The Town does currently offer the certification at a discounted rate and offers a signing bonus. The certification class starts in May. If anyone is interested, please reach out to the Parks and Rec department. Junior lifeguards cannot be on an open beach by themselves, they require a senior lifeguard to be with them. RBL would like to pay their lifeguards \$16 for juniors and \$18-\$20 for seniors and reimburse the certification cost over a two year period.

RBL meeting was closed at 10:30.



now it seems that the only boat in question is the yellow sunfish that has been there over 25 years and not moved.

There is a house on Southern Rd that has not been occupied for many years and appears to be abandoned. Jackie is looking into what is going on with the house and Rich will also be sent to check on it. If the bank owns it, we can make to bank pay for it, if there is an owner, we have to go to court for it.

Wildwood Knolls beach user fees. At some point in the past, a discussion was had in regards to the facilities users that are on the list but do not pay the \$200 fee. According to a resident, those who do not pay the \$200 fee were supposed to have the cost levied onto their next years' taxes and the monies collected would be added to the WWK general fund balance. This is not currently being done. Jackie has asked the Town Attorney to look into this and we are trying to find anything in writing that explains how this came to be. It may have been a gentleman's agreement. The thought is that they should either have lake rights and pay the WWK taxes or not have lake rights. This should not be a voluntary payment. Is their membership in the facility users in their deeds? The Town cannot change their deeds. If title searches are done, that cost cannot be borne by the Town. The meets and bounds description should describe the entirety of the Wildwoods district, which was established in 1933 as a water district. You cannot just give someone lake rights that do not live in the district. The Town Attorney is researching it. Right now the \$200 fee is voluntary. Joan Weber apparently did as she pleased in 1976 with the lake rights. In 1978-79 the water district was disbanded and there were only 7 people on the list, now there are 19.

The meeting was closed at 11:15.



Town of Putnam Valley  
District Meetings

March 4, 2023

Town Hall

Lake Peekskill Improvement District 11:15 o'clock

In Attendance: Jackie Annabi, Louie Luongo, Karen Kroboth and 18 LPID residents

Supervisor Annabi opened the meeting with the items she planned on discussing with LPID: Clean-flo, SLR, septic, keys for the beaches, trees for tribs, lake monitor salaries, and community center changes.

The **Clean-flo** contract ends at the end of this year, Dec 31, 2023. They cannot do anything further with the lake except maintain and monitor the aerator system. They owe the district around \$11,275 for product that was not used in the lake. The district needs to make a decision to either have the money owed reimbursed, or hire them to do the maintenance on the system. As of today, the DEC has not approved any of the chemicals to be used in the lake. If the DEC does approve the treatments from Clean-flo, the district needs to decide if they want Clean-flo to add them to the lake and that would be a new contract. This would happen towards the end of this year for next year. The refund is only for the product not used. We did not pay for their time, just their product. They did not come and check during COVID and that was out of their control. A question was asked about using copper sulfate in the lake as they do in Lake George. The lake hasn't been usable in two years. What needs to be decided – the aerators are not solving the blue-green algae problem. As with everything, there is a risk. This decision is up to the DEC not us. We are going to try **baffle boxes**. They capture some of the overflow from the run-off before it goes into the lake. Two will be installed on Lake Dr. and one by North Beach. This will be done through the ARPA funds and a grant for Putnam County Soil and Water. The baffle boxes should make a difference. Using copper sulfate is unfamiliar to us. The lake manager, **Princeton Hydro**, may make that recommendation and if so, the district can choose to use it. Princeton Hydro was only hired last August and have a lot of data to analyze in a short time, but their report should be in any day now. The Town does not recommend anything that the Lake Manager doesn't. The baffle boxes are no cost to the district. We know it is not street runoff as last year we had a drought – it is a septic issue. The locations for baffle boxes were picked by the engineers and the wetlands inspector, where they felt they will do the most good.

Jackie is applying for grants to help offset septic repairs or replacement for low income, lake front properties, owner occupied, not rental. This is the third time applying for the septic relief

and sewer expansion grant. If we can get the \$2 million it will help a lot of people in all the districts, but the money doesn't come in until fiscal 2025. The grant also includes room for sewer expansion by Oregon Corners.

Lake Peekskill has new **keys** for the beaches and the Carrara's beach boat ramp. If anyone wants access to the beaches in the off season, they can come get a key from the District Clerk. They will need proof of residency and pay \$10 for the boat ramp key and \$10 for the beach key. Lost keys will increase in cost, \$25, \$100, etc. These keys cannot be copied so please take care of them. May 1<sup>st</sup>, the lock will change at Carrara's for the boat launch. Please come in now to get the key if you need one. The old keys won't work after May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Lake Peekskill Improvement District Crew does a great job with the **garbage**. However, when residents put out bulk items or leaves off schedule, it takes the crew away from their duties and costs the district money - more trips to dump and increased garbage disposal fees. No one wants to see unwanted items disposed of in the woods or streets around town. Implementing a fee schedule comparable to what AAA charges was suggested or a fine can be imposed on abusers. Any monies collected would go back into the district's fund balance. As a reminder, the crew cannot pick up the entire contents of a house, demolition items, construction material, automotive parts or tires - just household items. Residents who do not adhere to the guidelines may receive a warning or violation. Please note that E-waste can be disposed of for free at the Highway Dept., Monday-Friday from 8-3 o'clock, all year and the Town has 4 bulk drop off dates throughout the year.

“Is **vacuuming** the leaves an option for Lake Peekskill?” Councilman Luongo will talk to the Highway Superintendent regarding leaf vacuuming. We do not currently have the capability, men and machinery, to do that now. Yorktown has an organic waste pile and Councilman Luongo offered to speak with Yorktown to discuss how they operate it.

**Trees for Tribs** or other plantings, is always encouraged by the Wetlands Inspector. If the district wants to plant on district property, please do so. Volunteers would be very welcome. Please ensure that the choice of plants are suitable for our region and the purpose for which they are intended, for example, a rain curtain for the community center. The task of maintaining the plants will fall on the district, whether it be volunteers or a paid landscaper. District property, district cost.

**Lake Monitors.** Lake Peekskill has lake monitors to check beach tags and help ensure the safety and maintenance of the beaches. Last year they were paid \$10.75/hr. They are valued workers of the community and we would like to know if the district is willing to increase their hourly wage. The monitors stay on the beach even if the water is closed so that residents can still use the playgrounds and sand. They are also a liaison for the Town when the Health Dept. shows up. The lifeguard is responsible for the water safety and first aid, the monitor is responsible for keeping track of the people coming in and beach safety, opening and closing the beach, etc. The majority of lake monitors have been doing this job for several years and are vested in the

community. After much discussion, it was decided to increase the lake monitors hourly rate to be the same as the junior lifeguards. Just as a reminder, the Town cannot control what people do on the beaches outside of beach hours. People should be paid a living wage. The beach is closed at sunset; that is the State Law. If there is no lifeguard on the district beach, there is no swimming allowed.

If anyone knows of someone who is thinking about **lifeguarding**, please tell them to get in touch with the Parks and Rec department. They are offering certification at a considerable discount of \$350 plus a \$100 sign on bonus. The certification normally costs \$600 and the course will be given at Lakeland High School. There is a shortage of lifeguards nationwide and we are no exception. Please spread the word.

**Goose poop** on the beaches is a constant nuisance. It is part of the lifeguard's duties to rake the beaches before the beach opens. The LPID crew clean the beaches once a week, usually on the Wednesday or Friday. In the past there have been discussions regarding hiring companies to mitigate the problem; none of which came to fruition. The Town encourages the district to allow the egg Adler to addle eggs around the lake to help curb the geese population. Residents with nests on their property can have their property flagged so that the Adler knows he can access the property and do his job. It is against federal law and town code to feed the geese. People who feed the geese, make the problem worse. Every goose produces 2 pounds of waste per day. Please don't feed the geese.

Failing **septics** need to be repaired or replaced to prevent the run off into the lake. To determine if a septic is leaking, the Department of Health would come and do a dye test. The dye test is sent to the homeowner and placed in the highest toilet in the house, gets flushed and then you can see if the septic is failing. The Town cannot do it. It is a Board of Health issue and only if the resident requests it. When you have your septic pumped, they will tell you what condition your septic is in. If it says fair or poor, replace it. A grant was applied for as was discussed before. Lake-front property, owner occupied.

“When the next blue-green episode presents itself, what will the Town do? Can we then apply to use **copper sulfate**?” Copper sulfate can only be applied if the lake manager, Princeton Hydro, recommends doing so. We need to allow them the time to complete their report. They were only hired in August of 2022. Frustration was expressed that study after study is done and the problem still exists. The report is expected to be complete within the month. Once the report is done, they will come in and do a presentation for the district. Only a scientist can make recommendations. They have taken all the data from past testing including the CSLAP information and done their own sampling, testing and analysis. “Do they go all the way up the hill to test?” Not yet, but they do look at the catch basins. It is coming from everywhere. We have to wait and see.

The process of putting anything in the lake begins with the recommendation of the **Lake Manager**. Then the district as a whole must agree about putting anything into in the lake. Next a



company needs to be hired to apply the chemicals in accordance to the DEC regulations. The company gets the **DEC approval** with a form letter that will be sent to every property owner in Lake Peekskill. The property owners have 45 days to respond to the DEC. Once that process is done, then they can get approval and proceed with the application of the recommended chemicals. This cannot happen until the Lake Manager states that this is the last resort. We don't know the answer yet. Please remember that the beach closures that occurred last year were based on initial visual examination, followed by Board of Health testing. The blooms can appear in the morning and dissipate by afternoon. Copper Sulfate is not effective unless it is applied directly to the bloom. Many blooms were there all day. All options will be given consideration.

The residents are looking for action and are looking for more studies. Once the presentation is done, we will know what the next steps are. The biggest help is if residents would get their septic tested and stop releasing their laundry or gray water into their fields. The Town cannot police homeowners. The denial of the carp application last year triggered the need for a lake manager. Please do not reach out to the consultants as they charge for their time, rather please have all questions directed through the Supervisor's office.

What is going on with the **bridges**? They are on county roads, Jackie has been on the phone with the current and previous administrations many times. Their contract states that they are closed during the winter. No one knew that we would have such a mild winter. The County is responsible for signing the contract and it was perhaps a poorly worded contract. For example, it states that you cannot pour concrete in the winter. The County would then not take responsibility for the concrete failing. There is still a lot of disagreement between the County and the utilities companies. They will begin working again in the spring. We hope that they will finish soon. If the company is let go, the bid process begins all over. Many things are in place to make sure that the company does this properly. Communication should have been better from the beginning.

With the changing face of real estate, what are the regulations or restrictions in regards to **short term rentals**? Currently there is nothing that makes sense on the books for rentals under 30 days. We are trying to figure out how to regulate short term rentals. NYS stated that the homeowners do not have to be on the property. A property manager must be reachable and within a 20 minute drive. We are not against short term rentals but want to insure the safety of our residents and properties.

There are a few concerns with the **community center**. The floor is lifting, and we would like to get quotes to refinish the dance floor and retile the center. It is not a job that the crew can do, a flooring company should be hired. The stairs and handicap entrance is not ADA compliant. The Town engineer will be asked to evaluate it and make recommendations to bring it up to code.

The meeting was closed at 1 o'clock