

Eatonbrook Lake Association  
Meeting Minutes  
June 1, 2019  
Erieville Fire Department

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Ben Rogge, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ben reported to the members that Roz Bandy; President could not attend the meeting due to a family emergency.

Ben asked if any new members were present and to stand and introduce themselves.  
Mike Besaw and Tim Strand

Minutes from the August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting were read and approved.

Motion to accept Minutes:

Donna Isbell  
Seconded: Mike Gleason

Treasurers report by Amy Coulter  
The beginning balance as of the May 23, 2018 meeting was- \$17,441.70.  
Deposits: 6,690.00, expenditures total: 8,809.35, and the balance as of June 1, 2019 meeting was 15,322.35.

Walleye Only Total: 4,975.00 for August 24, 2018 - Total fish fund for 2019: \$2,750.00.

Motion to accept the Treasurers report:

Donna Isbell  
Second: Rae Burmaster

The CSLAP program (Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program) which is volunteered by Mike and Deb Gleason, which they collect water quality sampling and measuring the depth of water clarity. The samples are collected every other week for 15 weeks and the samples are taken to a lab for analysis. The lake data collected by CSLAP educates lakefront property owners, lake users and citizens, adds to the statewide lake database to contribute to water quality management plans and supports many DEC programs.

Jim Cunningham gave a presentation on Lake water quality.

Jim Cunningham: President of the Madison County Federation of Lake Associations, and Director of the New York State Federation of Lake Associations provided an update pertaining to Eatonbrook Res. on Dam Safety Regulations and Compliance, Local Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs).

MCFOLA will hold a lake seminar on August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Welch Allen Lodge in Skaneateles NY. You can sign up at the NYSFOLA.Org web site.

NALMS will hold its North American Lake Management meeting this year in Vermont on November 10-14. Web site: NALMS.ORG, if anyone would like to attend.

Jim is the Chairman of the NYSFOLA Dam Safety Committee and talked about the NYS Dam compliance program regulated under 6 NYCRR Part 673. Eatonbrook Dam is a high hazard class C dam required to have an engineering assessment every 10 years. Common problems with many of the local earthen dams constructed in the mid-1800s is meeting the new regulations for spillway capacity, stability, and low-level outlets capacity. The Eatonbrook Dam was completed in 1836 and rehabbed for a new spillway and toe drains in 1991. A Class C Dams spillway must meet 50% of the Probable Maximum Flood conditions which is determined via modeling the watershed and recent large rain events. The flashboards at the top of the spillway, determines the normal lake level, are designed to break away in the event of intense flooding conditions. Wet weather this spring was high enough to cause water to flow out the old lower spillway. Jim attended the DeRuyter Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation Project which will begin this fall encompassing draining the lake down, replacing the spillway, adding a new low-level outlet, and increasing the dam's earthen mass with about 60,000 cubic yards of fill. The really good news for all high hazard dams civil war era dams is that the NYS Canal Corp. and the New York Power Authority are investing money into dams that they no longer use, to meet the NYSDEC dam safety regulations such as Eatonbrook.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in NYS has a growing list, and especially a concern for Eatonbrook as there is no oversight at the state boat launch to inspect and enforce boaters from introducing and transportation AIS. Jim indicated that European Frogbit is now in Cazenovia Lake. College students have been helping in Cazenovia with the battle its early removal before it can spread throughout the lake. Jim Suggested that our residences lookout for European Frogbit. If any plant looks suspicious, please take a sample of it, place it in a jar of lake water, and Jim will identify it. Early identification is essential to controlling spreading throughout the lake. Jim showed data from Cazenovia lake which does have a boat inspection program. Last year boats entered Cazenovia lake from 60 different prior water bodies with 14 from out of NYS. Lake George boat inspection has stopped Hydrilla entering their lake from a NJ lake. It's not if, it's when new AISs get transported to Eatonbrook due to the lack of boat inspections.

There has been many recent Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) events that NYS is so concerned about that the state has dedicated 65 million dollars to study the problem.

Madison County has recorded 10 lakes with HAB events since 2012. So far Eatonbrook has not been impacted by HABs. Nearby Tuscarora Lake has. Satellites are now monitoring for HABs outbreaks as well as the CSLAP testing program. You can view data on the Cyanobacteria Assessment Network (CyAN) Project.

Jim discussed the latest CSLAP lake water quality testing results for Eatonbrook. Detailed results can be found on the NYSFOLA web site. Overall the lakes water quality is very good with clarity readings indicated the lake to be Oligotrophic (best quality for a lake). pH levels have dropped slightly from highly alkaline in the 80s to slightly alkaline this past year. Phosphorus levels indicate Oligotrophic levels at the

surface and Mesotrophic conditions at the bottom. Jim discussed internal and external loading for nutrients. Soil erosion is a very big factor that loads the lake with phosphorus bearing soils that settle to the lake bottom, stored and later release phosphorus back into the water column causing internal loading. Climate change is trending water temperatures to increase, impacting most NYS lakes. Jim discussed chlorophyll a level, Nitrogen, Total Nitrogen to Phosphorus ratios as well.

Ben Rogge reported on the recent NYSDEC grant that Roz applied for, to develop a Lake Management Plan and to see where we are in terms of invasive Eurasian Milfoil, unfortunately we were not chosen for the grant of 96 applicants they only chose 42. So, moving forward we would like to propose that we develop a Lake Management Program. In order to have a Lake Management Program we would need to stock the lake with predatory fish for the purpose of keeping the panfish in check, the panfish eat the aquatic insects that kill the Eurasian milfoil. The misconception some may have had is that we stock for game fish. We have been stocking fish for several years at the recommendation of Paul Lord of SUNY Oneonta. At Oneonta they have a water management program where students would come to our lake and perform various studies on water, fish etc., Roz has been in communication with them to put their resources together to come up with a plan for our lake to see if we are moving in the right direction

So, moving forward as a suggestion we would like to change the "Fish Fund" name. Several suggestions came from members such as; water quality, or water management fund.

After a lengthy discussion by members it was agreed to eliminate the line for "Fish Fund" from the Member Information / Donation form and change the form to read **Donation (\$25.00 suggestion)** and members can proceed to donate what they wish. It was also agreed by members that throughout the year that they would like to have communications on how we are using the donations regarding lake and or water quality of Eaton brook Reservoir, communication is most important to the members on how we are using are money to help improve our lake.

Motion to suspend promotion of the Fish Fund until we have a plan put in place...  
Kim Scammel  
Andy, second

Ben Rogge reported that for better communication as some members do not use the social media (Facebook) that Roz has agreed to create an ELA website and purchase the domain of [eatonbrooklakeassociation.com](http://eatonbrooklakeassociation.com), for \$40 per year, and she will create and maintain the web site.

Motion to approve  
Donna Isbell  
Second: Amy Rogge

Mike Gleason has proposed to order new signs that are displayed around the lake before each meeting as the current ones are in need of repair, he has found a local sign company, Terry Signs in Hamilton that will make the signs up and will place the new dates on the signs free of charge for future meetings. The total cost of the signs would be \$137. The Board has approved the signage and it is now presented to ELA members for approval.

Motion to approve  
Carl Isbell  
Rae Burmaster

Ben Rogge reported that the lake level this winter was challenging as Roz contacted them on a regular basis requesting lowering of the lake, opening the valves etc. As reported to her by DOT, they monitored the lake and looked at the valves accordingly. We have no leverage here and must keep a good relationship with DOT as they are in control the lake level. Moving forward we will work on plans for this coming fall and discuss at the next meeting.

Ben Rogge reported that the apparel for ELA has depleted and asked members if they would like to pursue with new apparel or to have possibly a new design on apparel, the Board suggested that we wait out a year and have a logo contest with members submitting their design either in drawing or electronically to Roz and it would be voted by selected members of ELA and Board. Submissions of logos by July 15<sup>th</sup> and will presented at the August picnic.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade will begin at 1:45 at the boat launch. Flares will be available you may contact Ben Rogge or anyone that would like to sell them to see Ben after the meeting. This year's picnic will be held at Tilly Coulter's on August 10<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 4 pm, bring your favorite dish to share, your own beverage. We will also have a 50/50 drawing at the picnic.

Ben reported that the Board will be making some minor changes to the by-laws will forward the changes via e-mail 2 weeks prior to the last meeting of the summer.

Amy Coulter reported that the Erieville Fire Department is holding a golf tournament on July 14<sup>th</sup> anyone interested to contact the Fire Department as proceed benefit the department.

The 50/50 raffle held during today's meeting winnings of \$76 went to Linda Sniper and Linda was gracious to return the money back to the club.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Sievers