

LAKE PEEKSKILL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT MEETING
STARUDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014
10:00 AM
TOWN HALL
265 OSCAWANA LAKE ROAD
PUTNAM VALLEY, NY 10579

In Attendance: Supervisor- Robert Tendy
Councilwoman- Jackie Annabi
District Clerk – Judy Travis

Approx. 30 residents in attendance

Copies of the agenda, lake management plan, hypolimnetic system available for residents.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Tendy at 10:10 am.

Bob Tendy tells residents that he recently spoke with both Town Engineer Todd Atkinson and Lake Peekskill Foreman Ray Gamblicher regarding the existing hypolimnetic withdrawal system. This is not Todd's area of expertise. There are environmental engineers who are just involved with lake management such as those who work for Princeton Hydro. Ray Gamblicher knows very little about the system. He was involved to a small extent many years ago when it was installed, but could not provide many details. The file does not contain much information at all.

It appears that perforated pipes were put installed in various locations at a certain depth. When the siphon was opened, the oxygen depleted water from the bottom of the lake was removed. This was done once a year, in the fall, as part of the lake lowering. There is no documentation as to whether this system ever worked or how long it worked. Divers from the Fire Dept. attempted to locate the pipe but could only find a portion of it. Over the years the pipes have been covered with sediment and were likely clogged pretty quickly after installation. The concept is good.

One resident pointed out there used to be an aeration system in Lake Peekskill. Another resident stated that this was placed by a resident just off his own property.

A Lake Peekskill resident states that there is still a piece of the pipe that extends from the dam. And that the system had worked successfully for many years. The results were good.

Ted Muniak states that he would like to see if they system could be re-installed.

Supervisor Tendy states that procedures are not as simple as they used to be. The DEC would require permits, studies, engineering and the lake would have to be drained.

Jackie Annabi states that in the 90s the system was installed by volunteers along with the LPID crew. There were no stamped engineered plans, no DEC approvals.

Supervisor Tendy states that a study of the lake will be required along with recommendations as to what needs to be done.

A residents asks about a specialized engineer who deals with lake issues. Why doesn't the Town have one on staff considering the fact there are so many lakes here.

Bob Tendy says that Town would have to pay that person a fortune to be on staff. It is a very specific area and he does not know of any Town that keeps such a specialized person on staff.

Ted Muniak suggests that Scott Kishbaugh from the DEC be contacted regarding what steps need to be taken to resolve the algae issue. Scott was very helpful with the sampling results over the summer.

Bob Tendy states that the District will need to hire an expert to analyze and make recommendations and then determine the approach. This expense will need to be bid out. Judy Travis will contact the DEC asking them to outline the steps. Bob feels that \$15-20,000. Is not much for the studies. Residents should understand that if the lake is not healthy the results will be a decrease in their property values.

A residents asks about the introduction of more carp into the lake. There is also a feeling that the lake is getting warmer which is leading to the algae growth.

Bob Tendy and Jackie Annabi explain that the DEC will not approve more carp at this time. There are very few weeds in the lake right now therefore nothing for the carp to eat. The DEC requires that there be a certain percentage of weeds in the lake before they will grant a permit.

A resident suggests putting a camera into the piping system to see what is going on. They state that when the system was operational it made a dramatic difference in the clarity of the water.

Bob responds that there are sections of pipe that are missing and doesn't see the benefit of a camera.

Bob Tendy suggests that in addition to looking into aeration and / or a hypolimnetic withdrawal system, the District consider a septic pump out law similar to the one that is in place around Lake Oscawana.

Discussion on the details of the septic pump out law. Around Lake Oscawana it works on a rotating basis every three years. The septic company signs a statement that confirms there are no problems with the tank, fields etc. This is submitted to the building dept.

A resident asks a question about size of septic tank, fields etc.

Bob Tandy responds that the Health Dept. has jurisdiction over design approvals and septic issues.

A resident states that the law is not required by NY state as Lake Peekskill is outside of the watershed area, but the Town can still pass a local law.

Bob Tandy asks Judy please have the Lake Oscawana Septic Pump Out law available for the next Lake Peekskill District meeting.

A brief discussion on the now defunct summer water system in Lake Peekskill.

A resident notes that algae has been a problem in the lake but questions as whether Coliform has been a problem.

Bob Tandy and Ted Muniak both respond that coliform has not been a problem.

Community Center

There is a discussion on the cleaning of the community center along with the procedure used by Parks and Rec. for booking the center.

A resident states that she feels the rental fees are too high. Another resident explains that the rental fees should cover the expenses as the center should be self sustaining.

A resident states that the cleaning company should not be needed as the center used to be run by volunteers. It should be checked following rentals to make sure it is clean and that tape and staples are removed from the walls. If this is not the case, the deposit should not be returned.

Bob Tandy tells the residents that this is their building and it can be run in any way they choose. If they want to go back to having volunteers handle the building they will need to form a committee.

Bob Tandy announces that he is very happy to see the good number of residents in attendance. If anyone wants to join the Civic Association they should see Ted Muniak following the meeting.

Family Day

Bob Tandy gives an overview of Family Day. It was revived in 2008 and has been more successful every year. The proceeds go to the Lake Peekskill Youth Committee which uses it to throw the children's Halloween Party and Meet Santa. The committee is in need of volunteers. Bob gives his email and cell phone #

Gordon Murray speaks about the ongoing septic issues at 157 Tanglewylde Road.

Bob Tandy gives an overview of the problem. The septic was leaching into nearby wells but the house has been vacant since 2009 and is now for sale. He has heard that the realtors have been

telling potential buyers that all the house needs is a new tank. The fields are too small and sit on top of a huge rock. He has asked the County to put potential buyers on notice of the real situation. The Town has no right to block the sale of a property. If the Town prevents a sale it can be considered as a "taking".

Pam Acevedo states that she was told by someone that the house has been condemned.

Bob says that the house has not been condemned and again that the sale cannot be prevented or blocked.

A resident asks if this situation can be corrected. Another asks about alternative systems and composting toilets.

Bob Tandy responds that there are only 2 systems that the County will approve. They do not approve composting toilets or closed systems. The Town has been in contact with the County about this property.

Gordon Murray states that the Health Dept has gone on record saying that the fields can not be fixed.

Bob Tandy is looking into that. The Code Enforcement officer is currently working with the County and looking into some options. Hopefully they will have some answers within the next month.

Supervisor Tandy concludes the meeting by asking residents to remember what a beautiful place they live in. Lake Peekskill has some beautiful views, they have a beautiful lake and a great community.

There will be another District meeting scheduled for late January.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Travis
District Clerk
December 12, 2014