

JUNE 1, 2018

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lakewood was held Friday, June 1, 2018 in the Board Room of the Anthony C. Caprino Municipal Building, 20 West Summit Street, with Mayor Cara Birrittieri presiding. Trustees present were Ellen E. Barnes, Randall G. Holcomb, Edward J. McCague, and Douglas L. Schutte. Also present were Village Attorney John I. LaMancuso and Village Clerk Joseph M. Johnson.

Mayor Birrittieri and members of the Board of Trustees took a few minutes at the beginning of the special meeting to review the Involved Agency Findings Statement, pertaining to the State Environmental Quality Review of the Chautauqua Lake Aquatic Pesticides Treatment plan for 2018, as prepared by Village Attorney LaMancuso. During the review of the document a few minor errors were noted for correction.

Trustee McCague indicated the content of the document is very good, plus it is detailed and accurate.

Trustee Barnes did point out that the information within the document is somewhat unbalanced in that the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation or the Chautauqua County Health Department weren't given a chance to be heard on the subject.

Trustee McCague indicated representatives from those organizations were free to attend any of the special meetings conducted by the Board of Trustees.

Mayor Birrittieri indicated that she thought the NYS DEC did a fabulous job in reviewing the information they had to work with in determining what permits should be issued and for which targeted areas of Chautauqua Lake. What was important is that Lakewood heard from a lot of experts in their respective fields, as well as residents and fishermen on the pros and cons associated with the application of aquatic herbicides in Chautauqua Lake.

Trustee Schutte said he believes the NYS DEC did a good job in taking into account all the scientific information that was presented prior to issuing any permits.

Trustee Barnes said because the NYS DEC is a department that protects fish and wildlife, she feels very strongly they wouldn't have issued permits for targeted areas if they thought any harm was going to be done to humans, Chautauqua Lake fisheries, wildlife and/or vegetation. Because Chautauqua Lake is the County's economic driver and when the DEC says minimal impact she believes.

Mr. Kenneth Lawton, Town of Busti Councilman, indicated that for the most part of the past fifteen years he has been neutral when it came to aquatic herbicide application. After doing some research and reading books on the subject he now supports the use of aquatic herbicides in dealing with invasive weeds in Chautauqua Lake. Mr. Lawton understands it is a very sensitive issue and the concerns voiced by Mayor Birrittieri and members of the Board of Trustees. He encouraged them to continue to gather information on the subject.

Trustee Schutte said as a longtime avid boater he has come to hate the weeds at times, but like everyone else you take in all the information from a variety of sources. However, one thing that has stood out to him is, we have one lake and we need to do it right. He said there is no one solution to the weed problem in Chautauqua Lake. Those communities within its watershed need to address issues such as sedimentation through proper storm water management, correcting faulty septic systems, controlling water run-off from farms and reduce the amount of phosphates that enter the lake.

Trustee Barnes indicated in addition to everything Trustee Schutte mentioned, she is also concerned about the bio-mass that forms at the bottom of the lake over time. Aquatic herbicides is a treatment that the lake needs for it to become more usable for recreational purposes, the sooner the better.

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Mayor Birrittieri said it is up to us as a municipal Board to evaluate the information presented in determining what goes into the Involved Agency Findings Statement. She agrees that aquatic herbicides are another tool in the toll box.

Mr. Lawton said he realizes it is difficult to make decisions on matters that aren't one sided. One thing that changed his mind on this particular subject was the movement that was being made by a group of residents along Bemus Bay to get something done. They have brought a lot of energy to the debate of aquatic herbicide use and have educated folks in the process. Most people now come away with the thought, if the application of aquatic herbicides is done right, then we are all for it.

Trustee McCague indicated right now, this Board doesn't know what "done right" is. Because we don't have a consensus on that question, it leaves us in a very uncomfortable position.

Trustee Schutte said the good that comes of this year's permit process, is maybe by next year municipalities will be at this point in the process earlier in the year. Also, it would be most helpful if New York State got more involved.

Trustee Barnes indicated that treating freshwater lakes across New York State with aquatic herbicides isn't something new and she learned from former Trustee Susan Drago, whose family has property on Lime Lake, that it is treated every year with aquatic herbicides.

Village Attorney LaMancuso wanted to take a minute to confirm with members of the Board of Trustees what changes or corrections should be made to the Village of Lakewood's Involved Agency Finding Statement before finalizing the document.

#### RESOLUTION # - 2018 – APPROVE SEQR INVOLVED AGENCY FINDINGS STATEMENT

Motion by Trustee McCague, seconded by Trustee Schutte, for the Board of Trustees to approve the Village of Lakewood's State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Involved Agency Findings Statement – Findings to Disapprove the proposed Chautauqua Lake Aquatic Pesticides Treatment Program for targeted areas off and from Village of Lakewood shorelines per the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS), as prepared by the Town of Ellery – Lead Agency.