

February 9, 2023

Dear Eagle Lake Residents,

We want you to hear the following information about changes to the Eagle Lake Boat Launch from us, the ELPOI, before seeing it from other sources. Please read the information below.

In separate meetings over the past 7-10 days, your ELPOI Officers and the Town of Ticonderoga Supervisor were both asked to participate in independent meetings with the APA and DEC. Limited information was given prior to the meeting other than the topic of discussion was the EL boat launch and how its future was to be dealt with in relation to the 2019 APA/DEC Hammond Pond Unit Management Plan (HP UMP).



The APA stated to both parties that, as of the Fall of 2024 the boat launch would be **closed to all trailered boat traffic that require a float off/ on type of launch**. This will be done by installing a permanent low barrier some distance back from the waters edge that will prevent a boat trailer from setting its wheels in the water. The APA shared the image of the barrier installed on Garnet Lake as their example.

Their reasoning behind this is, that this is the **ONLY** way that they can make the EL launch area "fit" the 1972 Adirondack State Land Master Plan. This plan states that only lakes over 1000 acres will be afforded a float off/on style launch. Lakes under this size will have access points where only small water craft that can be carried over the barrier can be put in the lake. There is an exception line in the Plan that allows lakes with associated campgrounds to be exempt. The DEC and APA as part of the passing and adoption of the 2019 HP UMP were supposed to study, over a period of 5 years, the impacts and usage of the launch area to come to a decision. This was done, in a limited fashion but there was no discussion of their findings with either the Town or ELPOI Board or Eagle Lake residents. There are significantly more details associated with the above brief statement. The ELPOI is working as quickly as it can to gather the information associated with this to share, and will be doing so shortly.

The specific reason for this letter is to let you know that the ELPOI officers expressed concerns as to the **impact** that this closure will have on **you, your neighbors, and ALL residents**, as well as some visitors to the lake. Some may be positive but many are also negative.

Ticonderoga Supervisor Mark Wright did the same in his meeting, both at the County Level and also at the Town level. Mark will be presenting a resolution stating the Town's position of opposition to the Ticonderoga Town Board tonight, February 9, 2023 at 6pm, asking for the Board Members and the communities support in fighting this closure. A copy of the resolution is attached below. Other EL specific topics being discussed at tonight's town Board meeting are ELPOI's request for radar speed signs, and the loss of street lighting at the causeway due to construction. As a final item the Contractor for the causeway seems to be done, for the moment, with micro pile installation.

From what is posted on the Town's website you should be able to view tonight's proceedings by following this link.

<https://www.townofticonderoga.org/town-meeting-minutes/>

The Town has involved their Attorney in their interest to find a solution. The ELPOI in having a past relationship with then Senator Betty Little and Assembly Person Dan Stec, reached out to now Senator Stec for his guidance and support in fighting this.

Your ELPOI Officers realize that this on top of the Rt. 74 water situation and all other things that are being thrust upon us just makes life more challenging. At the end of this email are the latest items that were shared with me related to the Rt 74 water and notes from the Town's last Board meeting. Thanks to the EL residents that took the time to attend and write up their observations.

What takes place going forward with the changes to the boat launch will depend on your input. Please consider how it impacts your access to the lake and the ability to maintain your property. Please think about how it will affect your neighbors, the community at large, etc. What you and everyone impacted are willing to do needs to be discussed. If you have any short term thoughts please use the email reply feature and I will collect and share them with the ELPOI officers. As part of the ELPOI's further information gathering process, we will be asking specifically how you feel about this, impacts, interest and abilities for support, ability and interest to make monetary contributions to hire outside professionals if needed. If you think you can help/ want to help fight this please reply.

Signed the ELPOI Officers and Board.

**TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF TICONDEROGA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW YORK**

Resolution No. ___ of 2023
Adopted _____, 2023

Introduced by _____
who moved its adoption

Seconded by _____

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE DECISION BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
(APA) AND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (DEC)
REGARDING TRAILED BOATS AT THE EAGLE LAKE BOAT LAUNCH SITE**

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency State Land Master Plan states launching sites for trailered boats will only be provided by the state on Adirondack lakes in conformity with specific management guidelines; and

WHEREAS, one of those management guidelines states boat launching sites will only be provided on large lakes regularly used by motorboats and a large lake is defined as a lake approximately 1,000 acres or more in area; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Lake Boat Launch site located in the Town of Ticonderoga, County of Essex is identified as non-conforming with the Master Plan for trailered boat access, with Eagle Lake being smaller than 1,000 acres at 400 acres; and

WHEREAS, the three (3) alternatives identified to County and Town officials included do nothing, convert the waterway access site, or perform an assessment and reclassify; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency decision, without Town or County input and discussion, was to convert the waterway access site resulting in an implementation process to begin after two (2) seasons which will consist of prohibiting the access for trailered boats; and

WHEREAS, the decision by the Adirondack Park Agency to prohibit trailered boat access at the Eagle Lake Boat Launch will negatively impact local residents and visitors to this site.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ticonderoga Town Board is hereby in opposition to this action.

2023-2-7 Rt 74 water issue

The text below was shared by an east end EL resident about what they learned from the last public Town of Ti water meeting.

Hello all,

Wanted to tell everyone that the bridge is still one lane; they're working on the opposite side now (small lake section). There is an actual traffic light but VERY poorly lit at night. Still only one streetlight.

EL Water update:

As we've previously shared with Rolf (to be shared with all of you), AES engineering company sent out a packet (we received ours on Jan 20th) to the 20 people who they've "included" as possible properties to be in on a "municipal water district" along a section of route 74. This packet included a non-binding survey to be returned within one week (by Jan. 27th) with a response of interest in the district or not. (The contents of this mailing was shared under a previous email RT.) The Town will maintain this municipal district if approved.

So, my wife and I attended the 10am Public Works meeting at the Town Hall yesterday 1-31-2023. Details gleaned from that meeting: (Rolf T. Note a quick search of the Town's website did not provide an Official minutes of this meeting.)

AES has identified a parcel on Route 74 that will need to be purchased from a private property owner to drill a well sufficient to supply the 20 identified properties. They would not identify the specific property but a vague location. My wife gave Greg Swart, the AES engineer a map and he pointed roughly in the area across from the old hotel. ???

Before releasing the cost of the proposal, they want a commitment of who is in. Hard to commit without knowing the cost, in my opinion. They shared that the current annual estimate is approx. \$800, 900, 1,000, 1,200 or possibly more if all 20 buy in. Each property would be metered as well. They are still waiting to see if any more grant money is available anywhere; Stefanik has earmarked \$4million. Grant money received has specific limits for use so the Town is unsure of how much they can help if any resident opts out and secures their own source.

Chilson Fire Chief Mike Trybendis pleaded for hydrants to be included in the project as they are NOT. He will be sending a formal request for such to the Town and says he will proceed further if needed. The other concern is that the proposed 4" transmission line to be "sleeved" into the old 14" transmission line will do little for firefighting anyway.

A request was made to obtain a list of the 20 properties so that we can meet with those involved to collectively share concerns, plans, etc. The Town later provided a list; a meeting date has been set. Not all of the 20 are around this time of year; we don't have contact # for all of them and are working on that.

After this public comment period, many people left. We stayed and further learned that the Town has done a site visit, and must drill a test well on the identified property and submit a report to the DOJ, EPA and DOH with an MPR by August 15, 2023.

Marlene Martin from the DOH has fielded several phone calls regarding this proposed new municipal district. She suggested better communication with residents by emailing info as many are not local and don't read the posting of meetings tacked to the town's bulletin board, read The Sun Times, etc...

Included as a concern: The Town has identified properties where a well can not be drilled due to space limitations. Due to the number of people who have expressed taking water from EL as an option what will be the effect on water quality? Will this draw ELPOI into involvement? Will DEC, APA and DOH designate EL as a drinking water source and ban all motor boats?

More frustration!

J.

The text and image below were shared by a west end Rt74 resident. (Rolf T.) Note that their reference to "Eagle Lake Property Owners" should NOT be married with the ELPOI- the Rt74 water issue is NOT part of the ELPOI mission. A better way of saying this would be the Property Owners on Eagle Lake.

"My frustration is getting the Eagle Lake Property Owners to get on the same page regarding forming a Water District which would benefit everyone and specifically with regards to costs. With a water district billing will be based on income, without a water district the town can charge whatever they choose per Mark Wright. There's also going to be a Water Meeting on February 11th at 1:30pm at the Chilson Community Center. Unfortunately, since many of our members are just summer residents we will be poorly represented. Since, I am unable to share this information to the Eagle Lake Facebook page and website I feel like being between a rock and a hard place! Our own rules regarding sharing information are actually working against us!"

This was shared by a different resident early last week and is post to the ELPOI website:
http://eaglelake1.org/archives/communications/2020-2029/2/023/IMG_7483%20grant%20for%20well%20engineering.jpg

➤➤➤ **Todd and Tonya Condon** ◀◀◀

1946 NY State Route 74
Ticonderoga, New York 12883
home phone: 518-585-9044 • e-mail: nativesky@nycap.rr.com

◀ Mark Wright for Ticonderoga Supervisor... •••

Exciting news today. I was officially notified today from Congresswoman Elise Stefanik's office that our funding request for \$4 million for the Town of Ticonderoga Route 74 Neighborhood Water Source and Distribution project was passed in the recent Federal Omnibus bill. Elise Stefanik's office is working with the different agencies involved to clarify the process by which those funds will be accessed by the Town. Once they have obtained that information, they will follow up to work through the process with the town.

This is great news for which to start the new year. Congresswoman Stefanik has proven many times to be an advocate and protector for the 21st Congressional District and I cannot possibly put into words the thanks I have to her and her staff for pushing our request all the way to this point. We need funding to provide water to those who have stated they need the Town's assistance. Elise's efforts and support have the potential to fund our current Chilson/Eagle Lake private well engineering approach and solve a decades old issue.

We will see what the details look like in the ensuing months.

2/2/2023

Dear Congresswoman Stefanik,

We live in Ticonderoga, NY on Eagle Lake. As you know, the Town of Ticonderoga is beginning the process of disconnecting Chilson and Eagle Lake from our current municipal open water source of Gooseneck Pond. Our situation is a bit unique from the other residents.

We do not live on the lake side, but across the road in the woods, so we cannot access Eagle Lake water as a resource. We do not have any land that could be used for a well, as our septic and leach field take up our only land. We also do not have the resources for a well if we did have the land. At this point, the town has not provided us with any options for a new water source. We were hoping the town would drill a municipal well that would then supply eagle lake residents with water or fix the current Gooseneck Pond source.

My wife is my caregiver, as I have had to retire on disability after 30 years work in the paper mill industry due to my chronic Lyme disease and numerous other health problems. We live on only my social security and small pension. The town would have us believe that any options they might offer would cost us at least \$2,000-\$3,000 per year, which of course is far more than we could afford. We currently pay \$100 a quarter for municipal water.

Recently, we have seen that you helped the town acquire a \$4 million neighborhood water source grant. We do not at this time know if that will go towards helping us or not. We have heard that Chilson and not Eagle Lake residents will benefit from this. We are year-round residents that have spent our entire life savings to purchase our home from HUD and help fix it up over the last 25 years.

The threat of losing our water weighs heavily on us. We don't want to have to move, and who would buy our home without a water source. Any assistance that you could provide us would be so very much appreciated. Time is running out, and the last thing a sick and disabled person needs to worry about is whether they have a quality water source.

Thank you for your time and assistance with this matter.

Todd and Tonya Condon

Todd and Tonya Condon

11 | Page



The above 2 images were shared with us by Tonya Condon- 1st is construction of the dam at Goose Neck in 1923 and the 2nd is a picture by her in 2022