

411
(111)
One Green Ridge Road
Pittsford, New York 14534
April 3, 1981

Mrs. Esther Herbst, President
Eagle Lake Property Owners Association
1563 Bradley Blvd.
Schenectady, New York 12304

Dear Esther,

On January 8th I wrote you a letter, with copies to the other members of the Eagle Lake Property Owners Association Executive Committee, regarding Victor Putman's work with the waste water problems of Essex County. You will recall that he sent copies of his work, and our correspondence, to the engineering firm which has been hired by the Town of Ticonderoga to assist them in their overall Town waste water survey. In this manner, he hoped that we could open direct communication with that firm.

Yesterday, Mr. Putman called me, and we talked about the local problems for about half an hour. The purpose of the call was to alert the Eagle Lake Property Owners Association that he was going to make a presentation before the Ticonderoga Town Board at 7:00 P.M., Thursday, April 9th, regarding the various avenues open to the Town to solve their waste water problems, including the various State and Federal Grants that are available.

He suggested that we call the Supervisor, Mal Porter, and advise him that our Association wanted to be present at that meeting and possibly be heard. I called Graham last night about this. He said that he would call Mal, with the anticipation that you and some others of the executive committee could be present.

I find Victor Putman very supportive of our situation at Eagle Lake, and although with his quick survey he could find no specific problems, he feels, as we do, that something should be done to prevent our problems from growing and expanding - especially with the advent of "Gleotrichia Echinulata" in our lake. He also feels that the Town of Ti has been dragging its heels since January and needs to be jacked up; further, that the Town will pay no attention to our problems unless we scream. (I doubt if the Town officially knows about our pollution problem - or cares!) The presentation he is going to make has to do with the availability of money to the towns of Essex County. The Town Board must make a decision by May first what to do about it, or the money will never again be available to them.

I will try to summarize the points he made in the call, but if you need further specific information, he would welcome your call prior to the meeting: 518-873-6301, extension 369.

Augar Lake in the Town of Chesterfield has been having the same problems as we have had. They are seriously investigating the use of a "cluster system" of waste disposal; (I assume that this is a small, packaged sewage treatment plant suitable for localized use). Other towns in Essex County, Jay, Willsboro, Ticonderoga, and some others are investigating the steps necessary to put a town-wide system into being. It would appear, (if I understood him correctly), that the first step is the funding for a study of the towns. This study would be funded 87-1/2% by the State and Federal Govts., and would cost about \$40,000. Apparently, the more towns that go into this together, the less it will cost each one. He envisions that the cost to the Ti taxpayers would be a total of from \$5,000 to \$3,500, depending on how many towns took advantage of it.

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This first step, then, would be a survey, doing percolation tests, dye tests, geological surveys and archeological surveys, to determine the drainages and potential underground problems for localized waste management.

The results of this study would determine the second step which could be funded as high as 92-1/2% by the State and Federal Govts. This would entail starting "Waste Water Management Districts". As I understand this, Eagle Lake could form its own district. There could be as many Districts in the Town as needed - there wouldn't have to be just one for the entire Town. The District would then install whatever was appropriate for that District. As I understand it, the homeowner has the option of joining the District. If he does not join, the town would assess him about \$0.25 per year, and all they would do would send out a reminder post-card every three years telling him that it was again time to clean out the septic tank.

The District could build a "cluster system" disposal plant for its own community, the Town acting as the funding and taxing authority to support the plant, acting as the conduit of the Federal, State and local money. Mr. Putman feels that the amount which would be added to the individual homeowner's tax bill would amount to about \$5.00 per year. (If this is true, it seems to me that this is a very cheap way to clean up Eagle Lake!)

There is only one hitch - if a property owner has sufficient land and passes all the perc. and drainage tests which would enable him to have a good and properly working septic system for his house and family size, he would not be eligible for using the Cluster System - but must have his own septic system. He would be eligible, however, for maintenance and reconstruction assistance from the District, but the work would be billed to him directly. I can understand this, but it seems to me that, if it would not overload the system, and if all the adjacent property owners agreed, that this could be worked out within the District once it is formed, with some kind of understanding that those users who would otherwise not qualify, would not be eligible for the low useage rate. (In other words, if I didn't qualify because I had proper land for septic systems, I might rather use the plant and pay a higher useage figure.)

As I mentioned, I might not have all of this quite exact, so if you do want it exact, please call Mr. Putman. I hope that the Executive Committee can attend this meeting.

I am sending you an extra copy of this letter to forward to the Secretary, as I do not recall who it is.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Stevens

cc: P. Buechner
A. Conklin
G. Davis