

Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 21, 1999

The ELPOI Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 9:15 a. m. at the camp of Rolf Tiedemann. Present were: Rolf Tiedemann, President; Lloyd Burroughs, Vice-president; Peter Buechner, Treasurer; Sharon Zankel, Secretary; and the following directors: Roger Wickes, Jim Davis, Rinaldo (Rin) Fraize, Cole Hickland, and Bill Knauss. Absent were board member Bill Allen and Corresponding Secretary Sue Barwig. Carlos Alden III sat in as a guest.

Past-president John DiPofi was invited and presented, by Rolf Tiedemann, a plaque recognizing his service to ELOPI.

A motion to dispense with the reading of the secretary's minutes of the July 17, 1999 Board meeting was made, seconded, and carried. The secretary will mail each Board member a copy of the minutes of the July meeting and this meeting prior to the next Board meeting.

A motion that Rolf Tiedemann serve as Chairman of the Board was made by Jim Davis, seconded by Roger Wickes, and carried.

President Tiedemann provided a report on the status of the various ELPOI standing committees:

- ☞ Weed and Pollution Control – Will be handled by Jim Davis and Cole Hickland. Mr. Hickland has been in touch with the Fresh Water Institute for informational materials.
- ☞ Water Level – Committee has no chair, but Ed Rheal, Paul Burroughs, Rolf Tiedemann, Peter Stone, Cole Hickland, Lew Zankel, Forrest Lisle, Jim Davis, Rin Fraize, Carlos Alden, Peter Buechner, and Jerry Paddock have expressed interest. The beaver dam at the spillway has been removed through the efforts of Rolf Tiedemann, Lew Zankel, Forrest Lisle, and Rin Fraize. The permit for trapping the beaver is on track.
- ☞ Newsletter – Carol Baldwin has volunteered to continue to produce the newsletter.
- ☞ Public Relations – Lloyd Burroughs will be ELPOI's PR specialist and "spokeswoman."
- ☞ Adopt-A-Highway Program – Paul Burroughs will continue to chair this committee; he needs the support of many others.
- ☞ Liaison with NYDOT (Route 74) – Ruth Cummings has volunteered to continue in this capacity.
- ☞ Fish Stocking Committee – Joe Muehleck will continue to chair this committee.
- ☞ Education Committee – Forrest Lisle will chair this committee.
- ☞ Nominations Committee – This committee remains to be named.

Old Business:

- ☞ Rolf Tiedeman reported the septic testing program is 82% complete. Results have been mostly favorable; two parties are in the process of correcting maintenance problems. There are 90 properties eligible for membership in ELPOI; four are presently vacant; one property owner has refused; three have postponed testing; seven have not been tested and have not returned phone calls or otherwise indicated interest. One

property owner (confidential) will agree to testing if ELPOI will provide a letter stating that participation in the survey does not indicate approval of the use of Sonar. The consensus of those present was that the letter could be provided the property owner.

- ☞ Roger Wickes commented on the DEC permits for the dam. ELPOI presently has a “temporary revocable permit” (TRP). DEC now suggests an “adopt-a-natural-resource permit” be obtained. It is Mr. Wickes’ recommendation that ELPOI keep the TRP and indicated his concern with the new type of permit is that it might, at a future time, put ELPOI in a position of responsibility for replacement or repair of damages to the dam. Consensus was that the TRP be renewed.
- ☞ Lloyd Burroughs reported on her follow-up meeting with Mike Connery, Town of Ti Supervisor, regarding several topics previously discussed with him:
 1. On the matter of the Town enacting a resolution to support the eradication of milfoil in Eagle Lake, Mr. Connery said he would refer the subject to the Town Board;
 2. On the matter of seeking a scenic byways designation for Route 74, Mr. Connery said he would like ELPOI to gather complete information, including ramifications, and route same to him;
 3. On the matter of obtaining monetary support from Essex County, Mr. Connery advised it not be pursued as there is much competition for money among the many lakes;
 4. On the matter of the Town of Ti providing \$30,000 toward treatment of milfoil, Mr. Connery said he did not think the Board would support such an expenditure for the benefit of just one section of the town.

On the mention of the scenic byways designation, one director raised a concern that “we might not want to draw attention to Eagle Lake.” Sharon Zankel, who is working on such a project in Rensselaer County responded that a scenic byways designation, at both the state and federal levels, could result in the funding of highway improvements, improved signage and reduced speed limits, and enhanced cultural tourism opportunities. Ms. Zankel offered to obtain and forward to Ms. Burroughs an information package.

Mention of speed limits raised discussion about the fact that more state and town police patrols had been stationed on Route 74 this summer. It was agreed ELPOI would send letters of thanks to the police.

Rolf Tiedemann reported the petitions to support the eradication of milfoil were being circulated and that he would be sending these petitions to Peter Repis to encourage concern and action. Mr. Tiedeman will contact Sue Barwig about sending the letter.

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Identification of additional sources of income was discussed. The fact that ELPOI is a not-for-profit with 501 (3) (c) status will be mentioned in the newsletter to encourage tax-deductible contributions by members. Bill Knauss mentioned a savings might be realized if the liability insurance were shared with another organization. Other ideas: have a garage sale, produce and market a historic publication on Eagle Lake, raise dues, raise cost of annual picnic to make it entirely self-supporting. The idea of a dues increase received little support.

Roger Wickes reported on the request to install NO PARKING signs near the bridge. Mr. Wickes said this was not a town issue but one that would require consideration by the NY DOT. It was agreed ELPOI send a letter to request the signs from DOT. Mr. Wickes will complete this task and report back at the next meeting.

Sharon Zankel brought up the need for improved signage and reduction of the speed limit on the Route 72 “S” curve east of the bridge. She witnessed a property damage accident at this location of August 15. Jim

Davis suggested signage – such as hamlet signs - be requested to indicate motorists are entering a congested area. It was agreed ELOPI should send a letter to the NY DOT requesting additional signage.

Rolf Tiedemann indicated the creation and distribution of a brochure describing concerns about milfoil be produced as an informational piece for distribution to elected officials. He emphasized many are unaware of the effects of milfoil and perhaps do not readily understand our concerns.

New Business

The following annual resolutions were passed:

- ☞ ELPOI will, per agreement with NY DEC, strive to maintain the lake level between +4 and -4, with “0” being the desirable level.
- ☞ Membership dues will remain at \$25 per property and the possibility of a dues increase in 2000 will be reviewed next year. . Consideration should be given to asking members whose employers provide matching funds for charitable contributions be encouraged, probably through the newsletter. The cost of the annual picnic will be raised to \$5 per person or \$15 per family.
- ☞ The *Times of Ti* will be the organization’s official newspaper.
- ☞ The organization’s bank will be Albank.
- ☞ Officers’ duties will remain the same.
- ☞ ELPOI will continue to maintain a contingency fund of at least \$500.

Inasmuch as the member item sponsored by Senator Stafford was denied, Rolf Tiedemann followed up with Peter Repis who indicated member items usually don’t fund entire projects, usually require matching funds. Mr. Tiedemann will check back with him in the fall. Mr. Tiedemann stressed we have to make certain everyone is on the same wave length, need to focus on the milfoil issue through the ELPOI newsletter and need to emphasize the need for a lake management plan inasmuch as milfoil, after treatment, may reappear in 3-5 years. Sharon Zankel suggested ELPOI seek publicity for the problem through major publications. Mr. Tiedemann said he would send out the list of contacts (public officials) to Board members and requested all make calls and write letters to keep the problem in focus. It was also reported the Department of Fisheries, DEC, was contacted and was not opposed to the use of Sonar.

Mr. Tiedemann and Rin Fraize reported on a recent meeting with Assemblywoman Little who suggested the idea of harvesting the milfoil be considered. Jim Davis commented that harvesting requires an APA permit. Roger Wickes also raised the point that disposal of the harvested weed could be a problem.

Mr. Tiedemann also reported on the August 5 meeting with Bo Burns, Aquatic Plant Specialist with SePro, which was attended by about 20 Eagle Lake residents. Several DEC aquatic scientists, including Dr. James Sutherland also attended. Burns discussed the use of carp and indicated they might be effective in some locations but that milfoil is not this fish’s first choice of food. Burns said Sonar is the best choice for treatment of Eagle Lake.

Mr. Tiedemann has been in touch with Tom Hebert of Capital Link. Mr. Hebert is a lobbyist (based in Washington, D. C.), hired by SePro to encourage funding for aquatic plant control. Mr. Hebert said he had been unable to contact Congressman Sweeney about federal funding opportunities.

Mr. Tiedemann has also tried to contact John Kelly, Special Liaison between DEC and the APA, but calls not returned to date.

Mr. Tiedemann reviewed several articles from NYS FOLA and indicated he is requesting the group’s permission to publish extractions of an article on the benefits of belonging to a lake association in the ELPOI newsletter.

Wendy Davis is willing to continue to be ELPOI's representative to COLAM (Coalition of Lakes against Milfoil), however, the COLAM's present activity level is questionable.

Mr. Tiedemann has made efforts to contact the Schroon and Paradox Lake Associations. The Schroon Lake group reported it has successfully hand-harvested a milfoil bed. An appropriate contact for the Paradox group has not yet been identified. Mr. Tiedemann believes it is a good idea for the three lake associations to maintain open lines of communication. Lloyd Burroughs will follow through on this.

Mr. Buechner reported all bills have been paid except the COLAM dues.

Mr. Tiedemann reported receipt of a DRAFT copy of the SEIS (Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement) which lists all the details of the use of Sonar specifically at Eagle Lake. Wendy Davis is currently reviewing this, and Forrest Lisle has already completed a review and submitted comments. Others were urged to review the material and comment as soon as possible so the comments may be included in the final edit of the SEIS.

Mr. Tiedemann presented a "contract" received from Allied Biological wherein ELPOI is advised Se Pro anticipates a 5% increase in the cost of Sonar and suggests the "contract" be signed to lock-in the lower price of the chemical. Roger Wickes reviewed this document and concluded it is a "proposal," rather than a contract. Mr. Wickes advised against signing the document because the DEC should be the lead agency in the Sonar application project. It was also noted that it states "Allied Biological is the only authorized applicator through 1999." This raises a question as to whether the field is becoming competitive. Mr. Tiedemann will follow-up with Allied and Sutherland at DEC.

Mr. Tiedemann reported the insurance policy and ELPOI's 501 (3) (c) status require review. Rin Fraize volunteered to do this and Mr. Tiedemann will compile the necessary background information once he has had the opportunity to review all the records conveyed to him by the Past President. ELPOI does not yet have a state tax certificate; this is being worked on by Bill Allen.

Other

Mr. Tiedemann will file the septic survey paperwork with Sutherland at DEC as well as with Wayne Wagner, Town of Ti Code Enforcement Officer.

The permit to trap beaver has been obtained and Mr. Hebert of Chilson Hill will set the traps.

Roger Wickes said he can produce stationery for ELPOI on his computer.

Mr. Tiedemann said Clarence Watters has suggested a letter writing campaign be undertaken to solicit funds for milfoil eradication from wealthy individuals. Watters was asked to pull a letter and list of names together and pass on for review. Mr. Tiedemann thanked Watters for the suggestion, but, as no responses were received from previous efforts, it was suggested attention be focused elsewhere.

Paul and Lloyd Burroughs were thanked for their work on water testing this past spring. There was discussion about water quality for drinking purposes, and suggestions were heard about ELPOI completing water testing to this end. It was decided, however, to avoid liability, this type of testing would not be done.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a. m.

Sharon Zankel, Secretary