

Eagle Lake Rt74 water

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A local resident that attended the May 26th meeting shared these thoughts with me and asked that I share them. See share 1 below.

I also looked at the Town's website and found the minutes from the meeting, they are attached as a PDF. This document is 27 pages, the meeting's agenda is at the end of the document.

For those that are not at the lake and need a "pick me up view" I'm including this camera image from just afternoon today, 6/4.



I am only the messenger of the Rt 74 water information. I hope this information helps, this project is NOT an ELPOI issue as their mission is to protect the waters of EL. Any information shared about the water project is done as a courtesy.

The ELPOI's annual newsletter will be out soon. Please consider completing the membership application/ renewal form that will be included. Membership is for a specific property and allows a property owner(s) membership and participation in ELPOI discussions. The ELPOI is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit set up to help manage the waters of Eagle Lake. Our fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30 so all members will need to renew their memberships shortly.

Also the newsletter will contain the announcement of the Annual Meeting scheduled for July 9th, 2022 at the Chilson Community Center on the Putts Pond Road. Meeting starts at 10:00am, (paid membership required for participation at the meeting) with a social picnic at noon. See the newsletter for specifics.

As ELPOI's Treasurer and for the other officers, I would like to thank the 60 plus residents of the EL community for supporting ELPOI by being paid members this past year. Also thank you to those businesses that have supported us this past year with a sponsorship on our webpage. Details for what this support has paid for this year will be in the newsletter.

The ELPOI officers serve as volunteers, we are currently looking to fill 2 vacant Board positions. These positions require a 3 year commitment, Officers serve for 1 year. Serving as an Officer or as a Board Member allows you to;

- help with the maintenance of the lake's water level
- help complete the bi-monthly water testing and Fall fecal water testing activities
- help support the Adopt-A-Highway program
- help to monitor the NY State DEC and APA's interest in changing the boat launch to a boat access point
- help with getting the Radar speed sign deployed on Rt 74 every year

- help gather details from the NY State DOT on the status of the Rt 74 causeway reconstruction project (details of this in the newsletter)
- help by gathering additional web page sponsorships from interested parties
- and many other actives carried out by those that are currently volunteering.

Through all of our efforts, either as an officer or individually we make EL the great community that it is. Please consider offering to help. Contact me at the above email if you are interested. No experience necessary, requisite is to volunteer, learn of and complete the task and report/provide feedback of the outcome.

Hoping to see you at the annual meeting, or on the lake. Feel free to stop by and say hello.

Wishing everyone a relaxing, sunny and wonderful time at the lake in 2022.

Rolf

Share 1

Rolf,

I did attend the water meeting last week on May 26. Since you have been so good about passing on information I thought I would send you my take on the meeting. XXX and YYY were also there and may have some additional input or be able to offer corrections if I misunderstood anything. I intended to give a quick overview but it turned out much longer, sorry for the length.

Right now the estimated cost would be 13 million dollars to hook us up to the existing wells. There would be 3 million in aid and the remaining 10 million would be financed with 5 million of interest free financing from EFC and the remainder being traditional financing. With 109 users this would be a debt of almost \$100,000 plus interest cost to be paid by each user if everything came in on budget which in my experience never happens. The town board has decided this is too expensive and would not be approved by the Office of the State Comptroller (I have already written to the Comptroller's Office to ask them not to approve it if the Board does go through with an application, I shared the letter with ZZZ to share with other property owners). The annual cost per property for this would be about \$3,500 for capital and interest, \$450 for O&M and then a charge for water used based on meters, again assuming no cost overruns. So the best case would be about \$4,400 per year per user for at least the next 30 years.

Although I am relieved the board is not going through with it, I am still concerned that there may be additional aid that would cause them to change their minds. For example if they got another 5 million aid and decided to proceed it would be a liability of \$50,000 per property plus interest. And for that cost we would get water that was described as undesirable because it is so hard.

Anyone that could drill a well should be able to do so for much less than the \$100,000 that it would cost to be part of the district and hopefully get better water. If I had that option I would be talking to a well driller already to compare the drilling cost to the \$100,000 it would cost for the district to move forward. My property is too small for a well so I would pump from the lake for most use and bring in drinking water. Much less cost for better quality water.

While the town cannot provide funding for private wells they will be looking for any help available from other sources. One program that was discussed at a prior meeting about the proposed district no longer has funding. The Board will continue to look for other sources.

I don't think the board has been as clear as they could have been about the costs or in response to some of the questions asked. For example XXX asked if a district could be formed and then try to get aid to make the project feasible. If that didn't pan out just dissolve the district. The answer was yes that would be possible unless debt was issued at which point the district is responsible for the debt and cannot be dissolved while debt is outstanding. What they didn't say was that once the district is formed it is likely debt would be issued soon thereafter so we would be locked in. But even if that did not happen, once a district was formed we would be paying all the engineering and legal costs instead of those costs being a town wide expense as they are now so it would be an expensive step without much promise of success.

YYY asked about getting out of the District if he drilled a well. Others also asked about getting out of the proposed district. Each time the answer was that it depended on how the district was formed because there are two options: NYS Town Law articles 12 and 12A. Where 12A is the Town Board initiating the district and 12 is a provision for property owners to file a petition to establish the district. Since people could take up a petition for a district the board cannot say that anyone could be let out of the district. But they tried not to say that the proposed district by the town board is the

only one moving forward at this point and they don't intend to let anyone out of the district they have proposed if it should go forward. They may consider it on a case by case basis but they want to keep all properties in the district even if they don't want the water because they benefit by having the pipe go by their property and could hook up at some time in the future. Furthermore, the discussion of Article 12 districts seemed to be a diversion since it would be a group of landowners getting together to form a district so they could share costs to obtain water. It seems extremely unlikely a group would petition to form a district just as the board has proposed. I felt the whole discussion, which happened several times, was just to avoid a direct answer to questions about getting out of the district.

There were several people that wanted to pursue fixing up Gooseneck and continuing to use it as the supply. The engineering estimate to do that was \$33 million and the board views it as off the table. It seems a group of people felt that it could be done for less than the 33 million and used to supply existing users in the old village area thereby reducing the cost per parcel and providing users in the village better quality water. They also talked about doing the repairs/improvements incrementally to spread the costs over time. While this may sound good they had no firm estimate of the costs and there were no people from the village saying they were willing to help pay for improving gooseneck to get better water. Furthermore, debt allows paying the costs over time and it is more efficient to do all financing at once so the idea of incremental work on the system does not seem practical. The Board seemed very clear they had no interest in this option.

END Note RT removed the names at XXX, YYY, ZZZ



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