

July 9, 2017

TO: Town Board Members, Town of Fort Ann, Washington County, New York  
FM: Mr. Joseph F. Loszynski, Park Manager, Lake Hadlock Park District  
SUBJ: Monthly Progress Report

MATTERS PENDING FROM LAST PROGRESS REPORT:

1. During this reporting period, one lake owner requested that their lake front be inspected to determine if their lake bottom met the pre-conditions necessary to allow the installation of benthic barriers. An inspection was conducted with an underwater camera and concluded that the application field was not milfoil dominant, therefore no permit could be issued. The lake owner was advised of my final decision. No further request has been made as of this date. MATTER REMAINS PENDING DURING THE SUMMER SEASON.
2. The mechanical harvester has operated only 6 days to this point in the season. Several days had to be cancelled due to the fact that recon missions of the lake determined that there was not sufficient vegetation to justify using the harvester for an entire day. The program will resume on July 10th and will continue through July 13<sup>th</sup> if justification exist to harvest four days this week. The harvester itself is running beautifully with only one minor mechanical failure which was repaired in a matter of a few hours. The operator trainee will continue being trained with nine more days of operation remaining in his training program. MATTER REMAINS PENDING DURING THE SUMMER SEASON.
3. AIM(Aquatic Invasive Management) has completed their second week of hand harvesting on the lake. They have picked in excess of 4500 lbs of milfoil/curly leaf pond weed during the first two weeks of operation. They have worked almost exclusively on the southwest end of the lake in areas that have had high density milfoil beds. The progress is satisfactory but rather slow due to the nature of the work and the density of some of the milfoil beds. In-spite of the slowness, this methodology still remains the cleanest and most effective way to eradicate milfoil because once the plant is picked, it never returns to the lake bottom. The divers return to the lake to resume work on July 31<sup>st</sup>. A written summary of both week's activities has been submitted to the town supervisor for his review, consideration and input. MATTER REMAINS PENDING DURING THE SUMMER SEASON.
4. As reported last month, new signage was being worked on to better educate boaters of the need to clean their boat prior to launching their vessel in the lake. The printing of the signs is complete and the seven signs have been turned over to the lake association to have mounted and installed in strategic places around the perimeter of the lake. My involvement in this has been completed. THIS MATTER IS CLOSED.
5. To date, there has been no further input from APA regarding the approval of a state grant to move the i mapping program forward using Lake Hadlock as one of the participates in the

program. It is uncertain at this point if this program will be launched this year due to the lack of funds to finance this initiative. MATTER IS PENDING.

6. Two lake owners have agreed to participate on the verification team to check the work performed by the hand harvesting divers. Protocols are currently being worked on and it is hoped that this effort will be launched in a couple of weeks. MATTER IS PENDING.
7. At the last lake association directors meeting, an appeal was made to the group to assist in recruiting volunteers to help with formulating a shoreline/watershed management group. As of today's date no one has come forward and announced their willingness to assist with this initiative. To do this work and do it correctly and consistent with best practices as it concerns the use of the shoreline, it is comprehensive and labor intensive. With the recent observations of illegal and unauthorized development of several lake fronts that are now under investigation by the APA and DEC, it is paramount that some measures are put in place to stop this altering of the natural shoreline and deter lake owners from engaging in this activity. Due to the uncertainty and urgency to get something in place to stop this sort of behavior, I have submitted a proposal to the town supervisor to adopt a town resolution that requires that all future development of the lake front will first require the submission of a jurisdictional inquiry to the APA before a building permit is issued to proceed with any lake front construction. This measure would definitely help with preventing the destruction of the shoreline and ensuring that any activities involving the lakefront do nothing to adversely affect the work that is currently being done to control and eradicate invasive species and minimize the nutrient loading of the lake. MATTER REMAINS PENDING.

#### NEW BUSINESS FROM THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD:

1. I attended a plant identification seminar at the Darrin Freshwater Institute in Bolton Landing, along with one representative from the lake association. The day long curriculum was excellent and built on our expertise with identifying invasive plants, taking appropriate action if a new invasive is identified and learning how to strategically map a lake of areas where invasive plants have been found from one year to the next. It was evident from the number of participants, that the importance of controlling the spread of invasive plants from one lake to the next must be stopped and identified quickly if this was to occur. A strike force has been put in place to deal with new discoveries of invasive plants which should assist lakes that have no resources to conduct the cleanup operations that is necessary when this occurs. CLOSED.
2. The lake association held their annual membership meeting on July 1<sup>st</sup> and the attendance was good and the participation was even greater. Both myself and Town Supervisor Moore were presenters, advising attendees of the cost associated with a project like Hadlock's and what it would mean in the future in the way of tax increases if the level of service remains consistent with this year's effort. Numerous thanks and accolades was given to the project team that is in charge of keeping the lake suitable for recreational use and working toward a goal that will eventually have a huge impact on the overall condition of the lake and its ecology. I am pleased to announce that three professionals in the audience did agree to join

the lake association's board of directors which brings further diversification to the group and a level of expertise never seen before. CLOSED.

3. On June 13<sup>th</sup>, representatives from the APA and DEC visited Lake Hadlock for an inspection and assessment. In attendance in addition to the regulators were myself, Town Supervisor Moore, President William Bailey of the lake association and Thomas Thomson, owner of AIM. The inspection went very well and numerous compliments was given by the regulators as to the condition of the lake. Input from various attendees helped greatly with fueling conversations that raised important issues and how they should be handled going forward. Unfortunately during this inspection, the regulators witnessed firsthand three lake fronts that were engaged in activities that are in violation of various regulations by both agencies. Those matters are currently being handled by their respective enforcement divisions. Also during this visit, APA requested that a specific waterfront be inspected for benthic barriers which was done and barriers noted. I was given specific instructions regarding removal which has been shared with the homeowner and the barriers have been removed from the bottom of Hadlock. All in all, the visit was very positive and produced clear indications that work currently occurring on the lake in the area of aquatic management is good and should continue moving forward into the future. CLOSED.
4. During this reporting period, a complaint was received regarding the maintenance of the area behind the two islands. The area was checked by AIM and myself and determined to be 90 percent native plants and less than 10 percent invasives. The invasives were harvested and the native vegetation was cut by the mechanical harvester, again making the area usable by the homeowners for recreational purposes. CLOSED.
5. A report was received of possible toxic blue/green alga on the lake. A sample was secured and submitted to the Darrin Freshwater Institute for analysis. The results of the examination showed that the substance was non-toxic and merely a green algae produced by the large volume of rain prior to the discovery period. CLOSED.

END OF REPORT.