

August 14, 2017

TO: Town Board Members, Town of Fort Ann, Washington County, New York

FM: Joseph F. Loszynski, Park Manager, Lake Hadlock Park District

SUBJ: Monthly Progress Report

MATTERS PENDING FROM LAST PROGRESS REPORT:

1. No further applications have been filed to install benthic barriers. MATTER REMAINS OPEN DURING THE SUMMER SEASON.
2. The mechanical harvester has operated 14 days this season. This is far below what was originally scheduled and is all due to the lack of vegetation to cut. The machine is running very well and the program is operating at a high efficiency level. The excellent condition of the lake speaks directly to the effectiveness of the program. No mechanical failures have occurred during this reporting period that has caused any outages or cancellation of operations. During this week, 3 days of harvesting is scheduled but justification must exist for a full day of operation before we proceed into the next day of the schedule. For the week of August 21st, 4 days are scheduled but it is highly unlikely due to the condition of the lake and the need to operate this many days. The operator trainee has worked 10 days, with 5 remaining in the training schedule. I am pleased to announce that about 85 percent of the biomass harvested is native plants, with the remaining 15 percent being almost exclusively eurasian milfoil. This is a far lower percentage of invasive plants than what was recorded last year. MATTER REMAINS PENDING THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER SEASON.
3. AIM(Aquatic Invasive Management) only operated one day during this reporting period. They did hand harvest during the first week of August but those statistics will be documented in next month's progress report. The one day they did dive they collected 37 bags of Eurasian watermilfoil, with growth height ranging from 1' – 4', mostly single stem plants, which indicates new growth and not fragments. MATTER REMAINS PENDING THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER SEASON.
4. No further information has been received from the APA concerning state funds to finance an i mapping pilot program for the Adirondacks, which is suppose to include Lake Hadlock. MATTER IS PENDING.
5. After further consideration concerning the composition of a verification team to check the work performed by AIM, I have decided to do this myself to better control what is being assessed and looked at on the lake bottom, as compared to the information being shared by the divers and reported by Tommy Thomsen in the narrative reports. Consistency and continuity is extremely important when conducting this work so at this point of the season it doesn't make sense to incorporate new individuals into a process with such a short time left in the hand harvesting season. This work will be performed during the week of August 14, 2017. MATTER REMAINS PENDING FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON.

6. As emphasized in last month's progress report, something more proactive must be done to prevent landowners from developing their lake front in a manner that is in direct violation of APA regulations and most times DEC law as well. Since the last reporting period, I have had several conversations with APA staff regarding the number of violations that are currently under investigation on Lake Hadlock. They are seriously concerned about irresponsible behavior on the part of some lake owners and truly don't understand why the township does not have better control over shoreline development of Lake Hadlock. In some of the cases currently under review, the shoreline has been altered to such a degree that it will never be brought back to its original natural state. This is a travesty when there are laws in place to prevent this from occurring. It is apparent due to the number of enforcement cases over the last two years "that business as usual" is not working and town procedures must be put in place immediately to stop the destruction of the shoreline. This behavior has undoubtedly contributed to additional sediment reaching the lake, increased nutrient loading and to some degree a disruption of our ecosystem. This must stop because it works directly against our strategic purpose of making Lake Hadlock as invasive free as possible, a healthy place for fish habitat, a sound recreational lake and a body of water that has a strong ecosystem that will support a community of all living things trying to survive in the lake. I will speak directly to this subject matter during the town board meeting and make recommendations as to reversing this negative trend that has been occurring on the lake for years if not decades. MATTER IS PENDING.

NEW BUSINESS SINCE THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD:

1. Two additional algae blooms were identified on the north end of lake and were monitored very closely by the park manager and the lake association. Samples of both blooms produced cyanobacteria results which necessitated a lake wide notification until additional testing could be done. Homeowners where the blooms were located were personally interviewed and informed about the dangers of potentially toxic algae. They were instructed to stay clear of the area where these blooms existed and to report any activity that breached the outer perimeter of either bloom so a response could be coordinated. Due to the location of the blooms it was unlikely that boat traffic would enter these areas and very unlikely for swimmers to be in these areas as well. The sample in front of Lorraine Conners residence tested negative for toxins. The bloom has broken up and there appears to be just minor remnants of the original bloom. The bloom that was tested off the shoreline of Joel and Rachel Harpootlian has not completed the lab process yet due to an inordinate number of blooms in the state this year. A check of the bloom yesterday revealed that the bloom is dispersing as well, with little visual evidence of the initially characteristics when the bloom was originally located. DEC and Darrin Freshwater Institute has been a tremendous help with analyzing the blooms and facilitating lab testing. Photograph documentation of each bloom has been archived and each bloom has been registered with DEC through the CSLAP Program. MATTER IS PENDING THE LAB RESULTS OF THE SECOND BLOOM.

2. The APA has solicited our assistance with helping Caroga Lake develop a mechanical harvester program for their lake. In the near future, a representative from that lake will visit Lake Hadlock and observe firsthand the operation of the mechanical harvester, collection crews, bio-mass removal, GPS operation and so on. It is hoped that they reciprocate and allows the park manager to observe their suction harvesting program to determine if this particular discipline would be a good fit for Lake Hadlock or at least something we should consider going into the future. MATTER IS PENDING.
3. During this reporting period, a bed of water chestnuts (invasive plants) were hand harvested by the work detail. Eighteen plants were picked, bag and disposed of consistent with acceptable practices. This is the only bed of water chestnuts observed during recon missions of the lake during July. All workers on the detail are aware of the physical characteristics of this plant and have been instructed to check the entire shoreline for these invasive plants when collecting surface fragments. MATTER IS CLOSED.
4. As reported last month, I and others attended a plant identification seminar sponsored by APIPP. It was a seminar that provided superb insight into identifying invasive species, along with some training on algae blooms and other scientific considerations of a lake. This attendance, along with my participation in the plant surveys conducted by the Darrin Freshwater Institute for the last two years, earned me the certification necessary to satisfy our general permit requirements by the APA for a plant survey each year. This means that this year there will be no plant survey conducted by the institute thereby saving the town \$2500.00. I do recommend that scientist perform a plant survey every other year because they are more knowledgeable about trends, the ecosystem of the lake, and other matters that should be looked at periodically. MATTER IS CLOSED.

END OF REPORT.