

May 7, 2017

TO: Town Board, 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 THE APRIL, 2017 PROGRESS REPORT:

1. The process to determine what agencies will regulate benthic barriers is over. Both the APA and DEC will regulate the installation and removal of these barriers and the Town of Fort Ann/Lake Hadlock Park District will be designated as the management and oversight entity who will be charged with issuing the permits to individual lake owners. The general permit from the APA covering barriers is still active and an application has been completed and forwarded to the town supervisor to obtain approval from the DEC to proceed forward with establishing protocols and guidelines for this discipline. Unlike the APA, DEC feels that an appropriate threshold for new barriers should not exceed 15 permits for individual lake owners, with no individual lake owner exceeding 300 square feet of matting during any one calendar year. This process to interested lake owners will involve filling out a permit application, application review by the park manager, issuance of the permit if all pre-conditions have been met and then installation under the supervision and oversight of the park manager. It is unknown at this point how long it will take for DEC to approve our application but it is hoped that approval is received consistent with the time period that DEC statutory law permits the installation of these barriers. MATTER IS PENDING.
2. The mechanical harvester will be launched on May 23<sup>rd</sup> during the morning hours. Work is currently being finished in order to get the harvester to the mechanical shape we feel is necessary to operate a full season without major disruption or breakdowns. As we examine different areas of the harvester while having it dismantled for repairs, we are constantly finding aspects of the machine that have been compromised due to metal erosion and wear and tear over the years. The harvester is 17 years old and the only major maintenance to the machine during this period was the replacement of the engine. We are now trying to salvage another 2-3 years out of this machine through aggressive preventive maintenance to not only avert a catastrophic event that would make a repair cost prohibitive but avoiding a situation in which the program could be put in jeopardy because of the age of the machine. It is hoped that the work being performed will extend the longevity of the machine for a minimum of 2-3 years, but there are no guarantees when the machine in question is very old and many of the parts have deteriorated to a point of not being repaired but rather need replacement. Everyone should understand that with each passing year, repairs will have to be made to keep the machine operational. I encourage any board member that wants to attend the boat launch to do so. MATTER REMAINS PENDING.

3. Discussions are ongoing with Thomas Thomsen, owner of AIM. It is expected that the hand harvesting operation on the lake will commence sometime around June 5<sup>th</sup>. The starting date depends on the growth of the milfoil and whether conditions are conducive to a productive diving operation. This process is fluid due to the uncertainty of aquatic vegetation growth, water conditions and so on. MATTER IS PENDING.
4. Penny Gould and I have registered to attend the APIPP Training Conference in Bolton Landing on June 19<sup>th</sup> relating to aquatic plant identification. I have communicated extensively with the nature conservatory and the Adirondack Lake Alliance regarding the need to get individuals trained in this expertise. Currently, we have no one on the project team that is trained to identify a potential new invasive plant, existing invasive plants, harmful blue algae and so on. I still have interest in finding an individual willing to attend the one week course at SUNY Oneonta which offers a certification in this field. Due to the risk of new infestation of invasive species and the problem associated with early identification, it is imperative that we get someone trained and certified in this area.
5. Filling the project team's vacant positions is still ongoing. MATTER REMAINS PENDING.
6. Mr. David Twiss, designated trainee for the mechanical harvester, has been provided with a background application and other necessary paperwork to commence the process of getting him cleared to be trained by Charles Hillebrandt. As of this date, the application has not been returned for processing.

#### NEW BUSINESS OCCURRING DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2017:

1. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, the two pontoon boats will be launched and secured at the docks located at the Hadlock Inn. Necessary preparation, deck painting and clean-up of these boats will take place over the next three weeks. Boats have been dry dock tested and determine to be ready for use this year. MATTER IS PENDING.
2. Interviews have taken place with new individuals that are interested in working on the detail doing surface milfoil collection. Five persons are returning from last year which is great for the detail and promotes continuity and consistency with all phases of the operation. All updated paperwork for these employees has been submitted, as well as the interviews and applications of the two new individuals who want to fill the vacancies that exist on the detail. I will ensure that I have a work detail that is accountable, predictable and focused on the goals and objectives I have established for the operation this year. MATTER IS PENDING.
3. I attended a state-wide conference of lakes in which over 200 lakes was represented. After digesting hours of lectures and recommendations by experts either from the regulatory agencies, environmental colleges and private consulting groups, it is even more clear that the management effort of Lake Hadlock must involve other stakeholders in order to address areas that have never been looked at in the history of this lake. Watershed management of shorelines and the tributaries that feed into our lake should be front and center and an effort to minimize storm water runoff, sediment re-distribution, septic system contamination and nutrient loading of the lake with unacceptable levels of nitrogen, phosphorous and salt should be assessed in order to determine the extent of the problem. Monitoring the landscape that surrounds our body of water

is crucial to holding cost in the future and ensuring that the integrity of the water, fish population and native vegetation is not compromised to a degree that impacts the long term ecological balance of the lake. I will begin to investigate the criteria for developing a watershed management plan and report back to the town board concerning the resources necessary to accomplish this.

MATTER IS PENDING.

4. The operational and safety meeting for the work detail has been set for June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the town hall. As I did last year, I will cover all phases of the operation, including my expectations of the workers, accountability issues and safety concerns. It is mandatory attendance for all workers assigned to the detail. MATTER IS PENDING.

END OF REPORT.