

**LAKE CARMEL PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes August 15, 2016**  
**Town of Kent Town Hall**

**VISUAL ROLL CALL:** 7:15 p.m.

**Present:**

Kathy Wiede  
William Morris  
Dale Cusack  
Pat Madigan  
Rachael Paradise  
Brett Harrison  
Cathy Vargas

**Absent:**

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of June 13, 2016 were unanimously approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Beaches:**

Blue green algae and harmless planktonic algae have caused several beach closings this summer by the county health department. Decision was made to try a new chemical (Cutrine Plus), which costs \$17,000 for each application. The lake was treated twice with the Cutrine Plus. Blue green algae are widespread and even pristine lakes nationwide are experiencing similar problems. In addition, some lifeguards experienced swimmer's itch shortly after the Summer Festival.

The board will inquire exactly how many days and for what reasons the beaches were closed by the county health department this summer and the cost of algae treatments. According to Maureen Fleming, the county health department has the authority to close the beaches for any kind of algae as well as visibility. When they do close for algae, they do not test until 24 hours after the area in question is clear from algae meaning the beach affected can be closed for several days.

A resident asked if it would be possible to add one or two more picnic tables at each beach as well as shade trees. The lifeguards use the picnic tables as the first aid station and a place to take their breaks. There were also questions from those in attendance regarding benches near the walking path that for some reason were taken away.

There is concern that one of the streams that feeds the lake seems to be getting narrower. Residents asked if dredging the stream would increase water flow into the lake thereby improving the quality of the lake's water; if better buffers could prevent additional runoff from entering the lake; and that all avenues in preventing additional phosphates from entering the water be explored. Pat Madigan concluded the initial discussion by reading a letter about algae issues on Lake Carmel to the board and audience. The letter was written in 1936.

Maureen Fleming, who missed the initial discussion, added that runoff from the future Patterson Crossing is going to be looked at and remediated with the help of the East of the Hudson Corp., a development corporation established by municipalities in Northern Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties in the New York City Watershed, to install storm water projects to meet the requirements for phosphorus reduction defined by the state DEC. East of the Hudson Corp. will reshape ditches at the site of Patterson Crossing to prevent substantial runoff from entering Lake Carmel. Part of the project will include using stone and riprap to clean runoff. In addition, in years 6 through 10 stone and riprap will be put at several outflows around the lake. Questions were raised about cleaning/dredging the area that already was affected by the runoff.

**2. Code Enforcement:**

Photos were shared of a house at 35 Woodland Drive, which has been abandoned. The yard has become overgrown. There are many snakes and birds causing a nuisance to neighbors. The house is also becoming dilapidated and the front door cannot be locked. The code enforcement officer has put at least four notices on the door, but nothing has been done. The "Zombie Home Project", a NYS program was discussed. However, Kent was not one of the towns asked to participate and will not receive funding to help with abandoned properties.

**3. Lifeguard Shortage:**

In the past, Lake Carmel has had up to 30 lifeguards to cover the beaches. This year there were approximately 13 with one or two quitting after getting swimmer's itch. Discussion continued regarding the financial investment for lifeguard certification, athletic ability necessary, other interests of teenagers, and the situation two years ago when the beaches were closed guards were not paid, as reasons for less applicants. However, at the board's 2 suggestions, the lifeguards are paid if beaches are closed and the town also agreed to pay lifeguard re-certification expenses. The board is now going to find out if the town can reimburse lifeguards for the cost of certification if they work a season? It was agreed that more outreach be done to potential lifeguards. Also in the past the Life Guard Supervisor and Head Lifeguard attended the summer meetings of the LCPDAB, this would be helpful to the board and the community.

**4. Summer Festival:**

Went very well, additional outreach will be done next year. The issue of having flags at every beach was addressed with hopes that flag holders could be lowered so a ladder was not needed to place the flags. Although flags were not in place for Memorial Day nor 4<sup>th</sup> of July, board hopes they will at least be up for Labor Day. The ongoing concern about our board liaison not being able to attend board meetings was discussed.

**5. Spillway, Gatehouse, etc.:**

These items have been on the agenda since 2014. Paul Denbaum, the Town Board's Park District liaison, in an email to Pat Madigan, said this is all slated to be discussed at the Town Board's Sept. 13 meeting. Maureen Fleming said that an engineering assessment was required to move forward and one would be done "post haste." Money that was available in the 1990s for repairs to the dam is no longer available. However, some residual funding may be available through the state once an assessment is completed. The spillway would be repaired first, followed by all other work.

**6. Town Board Communication:**

Board members need to attend more Town Board meetings to keep abreast of lake issues. Maureen Fleming said residents should feel free to email or call her with concerns. Town Board liaison needs to attend LCPDAB meetings in order to be effective. The board often feels like it's spinning its wheels with some things because there is a lack of response and the board wants to be proactive with their responsibilities.

**7. Misc. Discussion:**

A resident near the corner of Terry Hill and Lakeshore Drive asked if reeds and other vegetation could be cut back at the retention pond. The overgrowth has allowed for an abundance of mosquitos, so many that her family can no longer enjoy sitting outside. Maureen Fleming discussed the possibility of clean up being done in conjunction with East of the Hudson Corp. now that all retention ponds and catch basins have been mapped out. A resident asked if dredging the pond on Terry Hill would be beneficial to complete now in light of more silt entering the stream and pond once work began at Patterson Crossing creating. Maureen Fleming said the town needs to look into what work the town would be able to do and what DEC standards are. What maintenance standards were set when the initial work was done to create the retention pond several years ago?