

**Town Board Meeting held March 28, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall in**

**Schroon Lake N.Y.**

**Present:**

**Town Supervisor:** Meg Wood

**Councilpersons:** Richard Gero, Ethan Thompson, Lynn Donaldson, Leanna Welch

**Highway Superintendent:** Dana Shaughnessy

**Deputy Town Clerk:** Melissa Armstrong

**Also Present:** Sue Palisano, Albert May, Paul McCann, Brian Ritching, Bob

Houserman, Matt Masiano

Supervisor Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with a salute to the Flag.

**Resolution #59 Approval of Minutes**

Councilwoman Welch moved a resolution to approve the February 28, 2022 minutes, seconded by Councilman Gero; carried.

**Resolution #60 Accept resignation of Jon Halliday from Zoning Board of Appeals.**

**Advertise for replacement member.**

Councilman Thompson moved a resolution to accept resignation and advertise for replacement, seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

**Resolution #61 Accept Chief Water Operator Bill Jenks recommendation that the number of units at 1100 US Route 9 be reduced from 4 to 3 per written request of owners.**

Councilman Gero moved a resolution to combine the Units, seconded by Councilwoman Donaldson; carried.

**DISCUSSION: Chief Waste Water Operator plans for 2022 and department needs.**

Brian Ritching our Chief Wastewater operator, explained he will be smoke testing the south side of town in the Summer. Basically, it blows smoke through the lines, and it's supposed to come out Homeowners vent pipes. What it does is show leaks through the

mains and laterals going through people's homes, and what that tells us is 1, you could get sewer gas in your home if its not sealed up and 2, it also shows me the condition of the lines. As you know, infiltration is my enemy, I don't like treating rainwater, I like treating sewage. What I'm trying to do is lower the cost, the energy cost, the repair cost, that's basically what the smoke test is. We will do section by section, a manhole to manhole, one end is sealed up for a very short period of time and on the other end, where the manhole is, it will have a blower, its called liquid smoke. It's put in and blown in the lines. I haven't ordered the stuff yet but am expecting to do the job in August because right now the South side of town is a ghost town and filled with mostly summer homes. I have to do this when people are there. Realistically I would love to do it in the dead of winter when no one is there but I can't get into the homes to inspect. We will be sending out notices, but also mainly going door to door because if its their second home their mail is going elsewhere. The Fire Department will be advised, and hopefully we don't turn the Southside of town into a Disco. When the time comes, we will also put an ad in the paper and a notice out on social media.

### **DISCUSSION: Beach Concession RFP vs. bidding**

Supervisor Wood stated that we need to put out an ad soon for Beach Concession. One of the main issues is if they should be exclusive or not, my feeling is that we're not supposed to provide a broad menu of things, but we are supposed to provide as a service to people that come to our town, some kind of refreshment availability to the people that come to the beach and also don't want to compete with the other businesses in town. Along with that, the number of days we want them to operate. We've always said 7 days, maybe we want to change that to 5 days? Wednesday thru Sunday possibly. Maybe we should say 5 days on the shoulder season and 7 days during July and August. Maybe instead of Memorial Day thru Columbus Day we go Memorial Day thru Labor Day and any events happening after Labor Day in the Park, no one will be competing with someone who already had a contract. These are all things I want you all to think about. I talked to Chris about their use of electricity, and she said she believes they were on their own meter, and it wouldn't be more than \$100 a year. I think yes, we should do everything we can to help the tax level to go down, we should get as much as we can, but we shouldn't be looking for something that will scare people away. I believe its our job to have something there on a regular basis. Councilwoman Donaldson states that she agrees that it should only go to Labor Day because that's when we lose all of our Lifeguards. Sue Palisano suggests we also adjust the start and end time to when the lifeguards start and end. Sue Palisano states they will be having a food truck Wednesday night starting at 5:30 pm so that won't conflict with the beach concessions. Supervisor Wood states that if they want to make a decision tonight, that's fine but if not, in two weeks' time. Councilman Gero states that everything we just discussed is in the existing contract, if we want to make changes or amendments to the existing contract, we have to do it fairly quickly. Councilwoman Welch suggests they operate Thursday thru Monday because of the Holiday weekend and people traveling. Councilman Gero suggests they add some type of language in the contract, where some items may be negotiable, whoever the bidder may be. Supervisor Wood asks if we want to advertise this more as an RFP and just have generalities or do you want to lay it out and see who will bid. It is agreed that in two weeks, a decision will be made, and an ad will be put out.

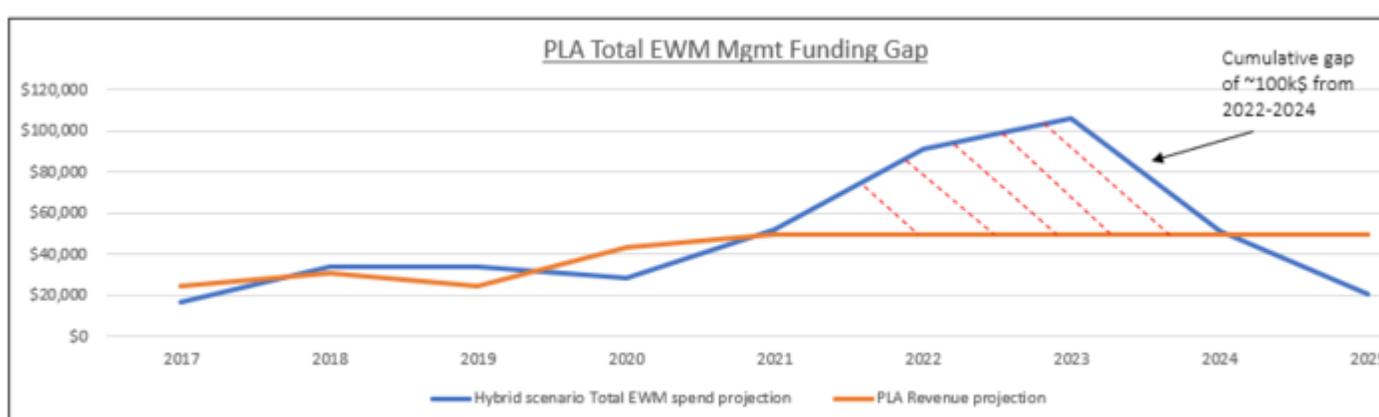
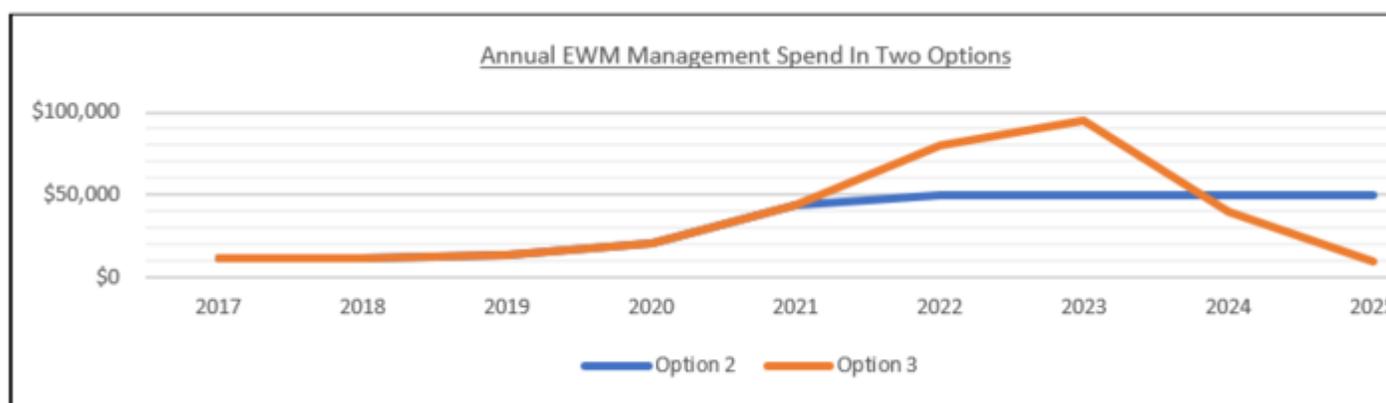
### **PARADOX LAKE ASSOCIATION - Aquatic Invasive Species Abatement Program**

Supervisor Wood introduces two members from the Paradox Like association, Bob Houserman, and Matt Masiano. Bob Houserman handed out a packet with information and explained what it is they are doing and what challenges they have been facing. Bob Houserman explains as was mentioned in Dan Gorke's year end newsletter, the EWM population in Paradox Lake is slowly growing. It is not growing rapidly due to the tremendous effort from all of our volunteers and our expanding efforts with our commercial harvesting partner Aqualogic, but unfortunately it is slowly expanding. We are not yet seeing the type of dense mats of EWM that are seen in lakes that have lost control of the EWM population, but we have also not been able to reduce the population. You can see in the chart to the left that the *number of sectors* around the lake *that contain some EWM plants* is growing in both the Upper and Lower lakes. Based on our observations, and the input from multiple outside resources, we should not expect to reduce the EWM population if we continue progressing with the EWM mitigation approach we have taken in recent years. Based on our research into the experiences of other lake associations and

input from others with EWM control experience, there are 3 possible options going forward:

1. Accept that we will not be able to control EWM and reduce our spend/effort to a minimal level. This will eventually result in a complete spread throughout the Lower Lake and dense mats of EWM in a number of places in the lake. Dense mats in the Narrows will inhibit navigation between the Upper and Lower lakes.
2. Continue with our current approach, looking to maintain the EWM population at its current levels. This is possible, but it will require a continued high level of volunteer efforts and PLA membership funding. It is difficult to predict if the current level of spending will control the population or if the required spend will increase over time.
3. Significantly increase our spending for a 3 year period to reset the EWM population to a much lower level. This allows us to move to a much lower annual spend/effort to maintain the new lower population after the spending surge is complete. The experience of other lakes is that this approach works. Experience of other lakes is that this surge is best accomplished with a combination of increased hand harvesting and targeted application of an EWM specific herbicide in the areas with the highest density of EWM plants.

The PLA Board of Directors believes that Option 1 is an unacceptable outcome and proven approaches exist to avoid this outcome. Option 2 is possible but it will put a perpetual burden on the finances and time of the PLA members and will be difficult to sustain over the long term. The Board has chosen to move forward with Option 3 to generally reduce the amount of EWM in the lake and to reduce the strain on the membership. While Option 3 requires higher spending in 2022-2024, you can see in the chart below that the total spend over time will be equal to, or lower than the spend in Option 2.



Is the use of an herbicide in Paradox Lake safe?

One point Dan made in his year end message was that the Paradox Lake water quality continues to be excellent, carrying the highest rating by the NY DEC and being suitable for drinking. The PLA Board will not pursue any option to reduce EWM that will compromise this rating. The herbicide we are considering in Option 3 has the trade name of ProcellaCOR and has been in use treating EWM infestations for a number of years. It is considered essentially non-toxic for mammals and fish and has little effect on native plant species. It is used routinely in New Hampshire lakes and was approved for use in the Adirondacks by the APA and DEC for the first time in 2020. Because it has very low toxicity and is used in very low concentrations, the first approved application was not required to take any precautions to physically isolate the treated areas from the rest of the water column as is frequently done when using other herbicides.

ProcellaCOR was successfully applied in Minerva Lake in 2020 with great results. Following this success, a number of Adirondack lakes are currently pursuing permits to apply this herbicide, including Lake George. The PLA Board is closely monitoring the progress of these other lakes as we begin to progress our own permits.

So what are the next steps?

The PLA Board is moving quickly to ensure we can begin taking the necessary steps to reduce the EWM population in 2022 and 2023. We are putting contracts in place with our commercial EWM harvesting partner, a lake management firm who will help us with the herbicide permitting process, and a contractor to conduct a plant survey required by the permit process. We are also expanding our Invasives committee and improving our processes so we will be as efficient as possible in directing our contract and volunteer resources this coming year.

We do want to make sure all the PLA members are part of the process as we take these important next steps in our fight against EWM. You will be receiving an invitation to a ZOOM call soon to allow you to improve your understanding of the plan and to raise questions to the board. We have also established a new section on the PLA website to give you access to information on the plan, the process, and answers to questions others have raised.

In closing, we are embarking on a bigger, and very important, next step in our fight to minimize the negative impact that Eurasian Water Milfoil will have on our lake and our ability to enjoy this lake that we all love. It will take a couple of years of hard work but will result in a much better situation for the lake going forward. We, the PLA Board, are looking forward to taking on this challenge and look forward to working closely with all of you to make this effort a success.

Supervisor Wood states she is going to contact her two representatives, and will continue to educate ourselves and work the socioeconomic issues into it. Bob Houserman states Dan will copy Supervisor Wood on the letter and we will go from there. He states if anyone would like any more information to visit their website and there are several links.

**DISCUSSION: Employee Wage and Salary Administration Program.**

Supervisor Woods states that their Public Sector has been out of office and they will wait until they hear back in order to continue on the employee wage and salary administration program.

Councilman Gero moved to adjourn at 7:31 P.M., seconded by Councilwoman Welch; carried.

I, Melissa Armstrong, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct transcript from the minutes now on file in my office and of the whole such original minutes.

Dated: April 7, 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy Town Clerk