

# **Town of Belgrade Lakes Committee**

**March 1 / 4 p.m.  
Belgrade Town Office  
990 Augusta Road**

**This meeting will be conducted in person.  
The public may also view the meeting and participate online at  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88927724178>**

## **A G E N D A**

### **Call to order**

#### **1. New Business**

**Discussion and Review of Lakes Committee's draft memo to the Select Board on expanding its charter to become a more comprehensive Conservation committee as envisioned by Belgrades 1998 and 2014 Comprehensive plans.**

#### **2. Paul Feinberg : Presentation on the Belgrade Lakes Association Septic System initiative .**

#### **3. Old Business : Consideration of the Feb 1, 2023, Minutes**

Minutes of the Lake Committee  
Belgrade February 1, 2023

Present: Pat Donahue, Lenny Reich, Mike Guarino Kimberly Dallas  
Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee and Hans Rasmussen  
CEO.

Pat Donahue, opened meeting by introducing the major recommendation of the Comprehensive Plan Committee to form a Conservation Committee "CC " to be part of the Lake Committee and that committee would take the lead in resource protection strategies including lake issues. We have reached out now beyond just lake issues in talking about solar etc. and so it would be a natural and easy inclusion. The matters listed in Section A of the Comprehensive Plan would be the scope of the newly constituted Lake Committee . The CC would take the lead on lake issues and open space protection. Then Pat read out all of them and remarked that to date none of those listed have been done.

Pat discussed the difference between a committee that is directed by Town ordinances versus a commission that is directed by state statute Pat indicated that a number of other town ordinances and by laws had been reviewed. Natural resource strategies and open space protection would be part of a new conservation committee.

The question is how we should do this, how we should operate, what would the scope be ,should we do this and why. In the past we made such inquiries like the new CEO and then made recommendations of more and new record keeping and longer hours. Regarding that we wrote a letter to the Select Board and looks like they are going ahead with some of our recommendations.

Lenny asked that the last two comprehensive plans recommended a conservation committee/commission and obviously it was not implemented. Why? You Pat and Kimberly are on the implementation committee so why did it not get done? Is there something else that we are not aware of? Mike agreed that he was asking the same question.

Mike reminded us that there was a reluctance in forming the Lake Committee in the first place by some members of the Select Board to forming yet another committee. Lenny then speculated as to the differences legally between a committee and a commission but it is clear we are proceeding on the committee basis. Lenny thought as a practical matter to first start as a committee and then in a few years consider a commission. Pat indicated that it would be an expanded commission and then Mike and Lenny spoke of expanding the personnel of the committee with more expertise which would make it a stronger resource.

Pat reminded us that we had a town meeting last in April ( 7 LA and Town Officers spoke) and one of the comments was that very few locals own property on the shore so we need to broaden the committee to get more non shore line residents and owners to be involved. Pat asked as to whether residents feel they are not being supported. Mike agreed with the example of lake public access being expanded when the access point was lost near Hammonds and another one opened in Sydney. Big thing said Pat is to get more people involved. An example Mike said there were cooperative efforts between the MDI community and Acadia.

Key is more town focus and the needs of the town. Might get more engagement by locals trails and with cleaning up trails. Another issue is snow machine trails and access. Rather than lose the access which is usually private the land owner would have a resource to complain in such a committee.

Pat noted the success of the Rec Center. Pat asked Kelly if she had any comments and she told us that Dan at the Rec Center is a great resource .

Then there was a discussion of the Center of All Seasons and its beginning and how it has expanded. Lenny then spoke of Linda Bacon head of the Park and Recreation Committee and what a resource it would be to incorporate that committee within the new conservations committee. Mike told us how valuable a resource Linda Bacon was. A real effort needs to be made get more engagement and energy and that Mike told us about gatherings of residents to exchange ideas.

Pat asked Hans for comments. Hans spoke of all of the different lake associations and that 7 Lake Association is really the. “contractor” and to try and not duplicate efforts but work cooperatively with 7 LA and BLA. This would be a municipal committee that should work with 7 LA. Pat reminded us how the 7LA has grown exponentially from the days of BRCA. Mike by example that the Highlands is not in Belgrade and so we need regional resources and so we are fortunate as to how cooperative we can be with 7 LA who has professionals and that they weigh in on science issues all the time.

There was then a discussion of the Recreation Center’s septic ( The Center for all Seasons) and that it was a totally engineered system in which half was with alum and half not and Hans speculated that this type of system might be applicable to a community application with low lying areas. Pat told us it takes 95% of the phosphorous out.

Mike told us that septic is brought up the most in talking of water quality. Hans thought this type of an engineered system might be useful in certain situations.

Then the next question is what we do next. Pat reminded us that the letter with bullet points worked so successfully in the CEO process that we should do it again. Kelly suggested a one page fact sheet. After more discussion Kelly and Mike agreed to provide a draft letter with such facts and bullet points.

Lenny pointed out that comprehensive plans in 1998 and 2014 suggested it and it might be alarming to the State to get another comprehensive plan with the same recommendation, which might flag the issue. Lenny, being uniquely qualified as a prognosticator, advised us of the possible Select Board outcome being positive .

Hans had a very receptive idea to give a safe septic award like Lake Smart and have this as a committee initiative per the example of 7 LA with the Lake Smart Award.

The members unanimously approved the minutes of the last meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Paul Feinberg