Minutes of LNRC Meeting of March 26, 2024

Present: All Committee Members and guests Charlie Baeder, Lynnn Geiger, Hans Rasmuseen, George Seel and Chris Bishop

Lynn Geiger; The Erosion Control Policy Manager Of the 7 Lakes Association presented a

Comparison of the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance “SZO” of 7 towns in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed ( Belgrade Mercer, Mount Vernon, Oakland, Rome, Sidney, and Smithfield), in particular three sections of the SZO Section 12, Non Conformance, Section 14 Establishment of Districts and Section 15 Land Use Standards. Her presentation was lengthy and in lieu of providing minutes of same I am attaching her pdf. <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=f1b1529d94&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1794709865832690098&th=18e8171d3bd8b1b2&view=att&disp=inline>

Her recommendations were stronger buffer regulations, stronger septic regulations and across the board stronger enforcement. She also recommended eliminating the point system regarding the cutting of trees and suggested that it be left to the CEO to determine.

Subsequently there was a valuable discussion of septic issues amongst Baeder and Seel. Highlighted was the circumstance in which the system is not malfunctioning but that there is contaminated ground water due mostly to poor soils and inadequate design standards. To determine this it would require mini ground water monitoring wells. Of course the major issue is to what extent does septic leeching into our lakes contribute to the loading of phosphorous and in turn algae growth in a particular lake and the estimates have been from 2% to 20%, the former being de minimis and the latter critical.

Seel and Geiger told us that septic systems are designed to remove pathogens and nitrogen not phosphorous. Baeder told us how the septic system at the Lake Resource Center used allum in one system to deal with phosphorous. Another way of detection in the pipeline is traces of caffeine that was used in North Pond.

Feinberg asked about there are changes to be made in the septic ordinances. Geiger suggested that there needs work in making restrictive to limit septic systems and leach fields to certain types of soils to avoid the “short circuit” soils. Bradley indicated that it might then mean bringing in different suitable soils. Baeder spoke of Pete Kallin’s work in Doylestown Pa. that instituted a certification program that was enforced by not permitting a property owner to pay his taxes without a septic certification.

Baeder spoke of the work in Smithfield of the need to identify at risk soils. There are locations that are high risk and they have been mapped. Further a need to look at systems over 25 years old and need a data base. Baeder also reminded us of the need to focus on roads. The problem is that ten years of management plans are based on models and we need to start testing streams and septic systems.

Geiger told us to sweep up roads of sand and to look into brining of roads in lieu of sanding and salting, being are two matters to address. Apparently most sand has phosphorous in it. Barrett told us of the traps in the sewer system in the Village.

Feinberg asked Geiger to provide us with her recommendations for changes to adopt. Geiger said that the plumbing inspection report could be required on deed transfer or a part of the building permit application. Both Reich and Bradley asked Geiger to give us more recommendations especially the top 4-5 matters to deal with phosphorous into the lakes. Barrett again brought up the need for looking at new regulations for conversion from seasonal to year round. Geiger agreed and talked of more driveways and need for run off control. Rasmussen suggested that a municipality be given the authority to enforce restrictive covenants. Bishop spoke of the benefits of Lake Smart. Geiger spoke of the 319 grants which will share camp road improvements and Bishop reminded us of the problem of getting property owners to pay their half.

Our guests left and we went back to our old business.

The March 12 minutes were unanimously approved.

We then had an election of officers per our by laws of the Lake and Natural Resource Committee. Barrett suggested we go ahead and do it today as the first elections of our committee. Mary Vogel was consulted and Mary Vogel provided us with a letter from the Select Board. It was decided to conduct the election.

Pat Donahue was elected Chairman; Michael Barrett was elected Vice- Chairman; Paul Feinberg was elected secretary.

Reich noted Geiger’s referral to the perception of enforcement in Rome as a success; and also the need to simplify the tree cutting formulas. Feinberg thinks we should categorize our meetings as to subject matter. Bradley stressed the need for enforcement which is dependent on resources and the references to York exemplified the ability of a larger town to perform.

There was a consensus to concentrate on sections.

Meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Feinberg, Secretary