**The Tuxedo Park Lake Committee report to Village of Tuxedo Park Board of Trustees (6.19.2019)**

The Tuxedo Park Lakes Committee (TPLC) is committed to improving the ecological health of the Village lakes system. With the hiring of NEAR at our recommendation, we now look to further define our role going forward.

As an ad hoc committee over the past year, we have accomplished a number of things, including the following;

1. Researched the successes and failures of other lake associations in their struggle with Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). From this work we learned:
2. Treatment of this aggressive weed must also be aggressive. Although this weed is not toxic, it spreads rapidly, interferes with the recreational use and ecological health of our lakes.
3. Pulling or DASH (diver assisted harvesting) treatment of EWM can be successful and we identified several lakes where this has been the case. One of the best example is Upper Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks. Success is defined here as reducing the annual maintenance costs to manageable levels (i.e. about 100 dollars per acre of treated lake area).
4. We have not yet been able to find examples of similar success with the use of herbicides. We asked Solitude for examples but none were provided.
5. We have identified two reputable DASH teams, obtained proposals and contacted their references. The municipalities and lake associations that hired them, gave both teams strong recommendations and reported progress in the control of EWM.
6. It is unlikely that EWM will ever be eradicated from our lake system so it is important for the Village to determine what degree of infestation, and at what maintenance cost, is tolerable.

Through the use of a knowledgeable student

from the State University of New York at Oneonta (SUNY Oneonta) we arranged for the preparation of a bathymetric map of Tuxedo Lake at very low cost to the Village.

1. Also through SUNY Oneonta we have arranged for a fish survey of Tuxedo Lake, also at low cost to the Village.
2. To assist the BOT in selecting a lake manager, who can help the Village develop a long term Lakes Management Plan, we conducted a survey of lake management companies and from it prepared a short list. We solicited letters of recommendation for two of the companies on this list and together with BOT members, conducted interviews of representatives of these companies. We recommended the selection of NEAR and the BOT accepted this recommendation.

Throughout these activities we have kept our liaison to the BOT (Paul Gluck) informed of our work, copied him on communications with outside organizations and provided him with summaries of our meetings. Paul Gluck and Alan McHugh have been invited to attend our meetings. Paul has often done so.

We think it is important that the Village have a Lakes Committee, consisting of residents concerned about the health of our lakes and prepared to work to improve that health. Our committee has worked in that spirit. We believe we have been an asset to the Village and look forward to continuing our work in the future.

The hiring of NEAR, however, has changed the landscape and we now consider how best to move forward. As a first step, at the last BOT monthly meeting, we offered to develop a list of possible projects that the TPLC could explore and asked the BOT to add their suggestions. The Mayor asked that we research how to build a DASH machine. We have added his request to a list of possible projects which we submit to you today. We make no commitment at this time to pursue any of these projects, but we are interested to learn which, if any, the BOT would like us to undertake.

If we decide to tackle any of these projects, we will need to determine how best to work with the BOT. There are two possible directions we can follow; 1) develop a more formal working relationship with the BOT, whereby there are agreed upon procedures for sharing information and communications or 2) become more independent of the BOT and act more as a citizens-action committee working on behalf of Tuxedo Park’s lakes. The TPLC membership thinks the first option is preferable and more efficient. The course taken will depend on decisions made by both parties.

Respectfully submitted,

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Members

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