

Bluff Point Association

Annual Meeting

July 14, 2018

Tom Close called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. in the Lightner Library on the Keuka College campus. Tom affirmed that there was a quorum. It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2017 annual meeting. There was a motion and a second to re-elect directors for a second term. This was approved by vote. Tom also advised the attendees that the current Bluff Point Association (BPA) had two vacancies on its board. Attendees who would be interested in joining the BPA Board of Directors were instructed to contact any current board member. Tom then introduced the attending board members. Present were, Tom Close, Art Adams, Fred Geyer, Nicole Landers, Rodge Williams and Wendy Disbrow. Absent were Martha Johnstone and Marcia English. Treasurer Rodge Williams reported an ending balance of \$5,993.87. There was a \$48.58 increase from 2017. It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the treasurer's report.

Committee Report from Art Adams followed with updates on the Penn Yan Central School District (PYCSD) and Keuka Lake invasive species. Of note for PYCSD, the capital project from 2016 is finishing. Previously, the Penn Yan Middle School was voted to remain operational. And the district is moving some special needs programs into that building. Additionally, the District has received a grant for all PYCSD students to receive free breakfast and lunch for the 2018 and 2019 school year. And the school is beginning a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program in the elementary school next year.

Regarding invasive species, The Keuka Lake Association (KLA) leads the program and manages a watercraft steward program. There is a need for volunteers to assist with the program in order to fulfill a requirement of the grant funding being used for this program. Those wishing to volunteer should contact Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension. Ms. Annette Toasperm added that there are 2 additional invasive species in the Keuka Lake/Bluff Point Region. Giant Hogweed has been identified on the Bluff and the land owners have removed and are monitoring for return. Starry stonewort has also been identified in Sugar Creek. There has already been a day of removal and another is scheduled.

There was an audience question asking if any blue green algae had been reported in Keuka Lake. None has been noted.

Additional audience question requesting an update from the Town of Jerusalem (TOJ) and the recent reassessments. TOJ Supervisor, Pat Killen was in attendance and did give an update. Mr. Killen stated assessments were raised based on New York State advising the TOJ that their valuations were too low. The TOJ continues to work with residents who are grieving their assessment. Budget work continues. However, final figures for the annual budget will not be ready until all assessment grievances have been processed. Mr. Killen also reported on the sewer project and asked if attendees could participate in the current survey being conducted by the TOJ regarding the interest in the sewer project. The TOJ also continues to work on a comprehensive plan for the Town. The TOJ has received a grant for lock repair on the outlet. They are awaiting the receipt of the funds to begin the project. As a follow-up to invasive

species, there is a raking and hand pulling clean-up scheduled for September for additional removal of the Starry Stonewort. Mr. Killen is available via phone and email for questions.

Finger Lakes Museum and Aquarium. Executive Director Natalie Payne gave an update. A recent retreat was held and the team focus is three fold: operational, living the mission, and the “quiet” capital campaign. Pathways have been added in the reserve. There will be a future study on the soft shell turtles in the preserve as this is one of only two areas that are current habitats for these turtles. The museum has also partnered with LL Bean to provide programs. Attendees were encouraged to visit the website and participate in the programs and events.

Finger Lakes Economic Development Council. CEO Steve Griffin gave an update. The legal name of the organization is the Yates County Industrial Development Agency. Their mission is to create economic wealth in the community. They work to bring businesses in and assist current businesses-especially with tax breaks and low interest loans. The Agency issues 14 to 25 low interest loans per year. They are the most active in the state. Since Mr. Griffin’s return to Yates County 11 years ago, he has worked to increase optimism and productivity in the community. They have seen an increase in community support for their activities. Overall, as NYS has lost 34% of its manufacturing jobs, Yates County has increased its manufacturing production by 29%. And total jobs in Yates County are up 19%. Our tourism dollars per capita are twice the region. However, our recreational spending is a third of the regions’. Manufacturing continues to grow and there are more hotels, museums and recreational activities. However, Yates County is experiencing problems finding employees. Downtown development is an important factor in order to draw individuals to the community. There is an affordable housing problem in the community. The Agency also works with the School Districts and started Yates Exploring to introduce area students to jobs in the region.

There were several audience questions to Mr. Griffin:

Any collaboration between the FLEDC and the Keuka Housing Council? Mr. Griffin indicated that FLEDC is working with them.

Question regarding the Esperanza Mansion. Per Mr. Griffin, the Bank currently owns the Mansion and is actively seeking a buyer and trying to keep up the grounds.

Question regarding the Yates County Chamber of Commerce. Jessica Bacher is the new Director and the FLEDC does work with the Chamber.

Questions and discussion regarding recent state surveys for tourism and population-how measured and how the Mennonite community has factored into the results? And additional discussion about Penn Yan community festivals and program advertising.

Question regarding the percentage of FLEDC loans for agricultural manufacturing. Per Mr. Griffin, about a third of the loans go to this sector.

Final question about the FLEDC partnering with landmarks. Per Mr. Griffin, there is no current interaction with landmarks.

Town of Jerusalem History Club report from Ms. Annette Toaspern.

The History Club is currently working on Bluff Point maps-specifically the area between Plank Road and West Lake Road. The Branchport Library has books and DVDs available for loan of all the programs.

Finger Lakes Land Trust review from Ms. Kris West. The work has been more focused in the Southern tier with greater emphasis on land conservation. Working on Private Permit Agreements to restrict future development, yet remain available for future agricultural and forestry development. There was a conservation easement to a property on the Bluff, and the BPA contributed to this acquisition. The FL Land Trust has begun to review lake health and stewardship.

Finger Lakes Boating Museum presentation by Mr. Andrew Thompkins. The old Taylor Wine Company Campus was donated to the Museum. Mr. Thompkins presented a brief power point of the Museum-its growth and current status. Brochures were available as well as a reminder about the upcoming boat auction.

Garrett Chapel update by Mr. Paul Barden. Renovation to the roof is complete. The next areas targeted for renovation will be the crypt area and the south area of the terrace. They will also work to continue to open up the view at the end of Skyline Drive.

Final audience questions asking if any other members were having any issues with geese? Question and discussion about a recent power outage on West Bluff. A request for the BPA to review and sign in support a member letter to be sent to NYSEG. BPA Board members will review and discuss.

Final question to Mr. Killen regarding a sewage vote. Per Mr. Killen, a timeline (if the project is implemented) would be over years. Currently they are in the study phase and information gathering. He hopes they will decide this fall and it would be a 3 to 5 year project.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Disbrow