

Bear Gulch Lake Watershed Management Plan Committee

March 28, 2023, Minutes

The meeting started at 1:00 pm.

Introduce Committee members:

Harold Vroman - Town of Summit Supervisor

Fern Kovac - Resident of Bear Gulch and Summit Town Board Member

Mark Nadeau - Part-time resident of Bear Gulch

David Jones - Town of Summit Assessor

Wayne Stinson Jr. - Summit Neighbors

Shane Nickle - Director of Schoharie County Planning & Community Development, Advisor only

Marion Bird - President of Bear Gulch Lake Association

Jesse Wilcox - Town of Summit Code Enforcement Officer

John Foote - Board of Appeals Chairman

John Meaney - Planning Board Chairman

David Knight - Resident of Bear Gulch

Pete Nichols - County Soil and Water, Advisor only

Bob Coates - President of Summit Lake Association, Alternate is Tom Lutsic (If both are present at a meeting only one can vote)

Shane Nickle stated that he will draft a Resolution for Harold Vroman to make the committee official.

Example Table of Contents for Plan:

Purpose

Background/History/Land Ownership

Acknowledgements

Commonly Used Terms

Geographic Location and Profile - a map

Methodology – description of the committee

Assessment of Recreational Attributes

Assessment of Susceptibility to Impairment

Most Recent Sampling Data

Volunteer Programs (Past and Future)

Wildlife

Land Use

Goals, Objectives & Actions (Timeline)

Appendix

Key Stake Holders for Input:

Bear Gulch Lake Association

NYS Federation of Lake Associations – It was stated that they have been reached out to but are not currently involved.

Schoharie County Soil and Water – Pete Nichols is and an Advisor

SUNY Cobleskill/SUNY Oneonta – It was stated that they might be more help with future water quality.

Schoharie County Planning and Community Development – Shane Nickle is the Director.

Schoharie County Health

Town of Summit Board – Harold Vroman is Supervisor, Fern Kovac is a member of the Town Board.

NYSDEC

Army Corps of Engineers – Has to do with the wetlands.

Other organizations with the knowledge and resources to assist. – Rod and Gun Club in Richmondville, it was stated that Greg Warner is the head of the club. Summit Snowmobile club, it was stated that it might just be best to keep them informed. Conservation Club. CCA (fish and game clubs of Schoharie County), it was stated to keep them informed as they may be able to help with a grant.

Shane Nickle stated that he would like to reach out to the property owners before sending out a survey. Dave Knight stated that he thinks this plan is a good idea. Shane stated that he would draft a letter for the next meeting. Harold Vroman stated that the Town of Summit can probably go 50/50 on the expense of the mailing. Dave Knight stated that he thinks mailing will

be the most effective way to reach the property owners. Shane also stated that it would be good to reach out to newspapers to publish information.

It was stated that to get insurance for the dam the insurance company would need to know the risks. Harold Vroman stated that he would find out what is needed for an inundation map. It was stated that it would be good for the committee members to look at examples of surveys.

Survey to help identify key issues/concerns:

Volunteer opportunities - Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) - Dave Knight stated that he knows that several residents of Bear Gulch Lake have reached out to them. He stated that CSLAP has a waiting list and for them to be able to help the Bear Gulch Lake Association would have to apply.

Mark Nadeau stated that he has an attorney trying to figure out ownership of the lake. It was stated that any information gained through an attorney is helpful for the committee.

It was stated that public access to the water liability is protected under NYS General Obligation Law unless money is paid for use of the water.

Marion Bird stated that the letter from DEC will be responded to by an engineer. It was stated in response to a question asked by Wayne Stinson that there are about sixty members of the Bear Gulch Lake Association.

Mark Nadeau stated that he has no intention of developing around Bear Gulch Lake.

The meeting ended at 2:05 pm.