

Dear Mayor McFadden and Trustees,

I am writing this as a concerned resident, not as a member of the Lakes Committee.

What a relief it was to read the amended agenda for last night's BOT meeting that removed the SOLitude contracts from the agenda.

I applaud the Mayor's comments about working with the newly forming Lakes' Committee to develop and implement a science-based, long-term watershed/lakes plan that addresses the challenges our community faces. Part of the planning, as the Mayor has indicated in the past, is finding a way to take these important environmental matters out of the political arena.

There were a number of alarming elements in Monday's (April 16th) presentation by Glenn Sullivan of SOLitude. Glenn Sullivan was perfectly clear that SOLitude offers no "guarantees" that the chemicals he proposes to use carry no ecological or human health risks. The labels on the chemicals, including NAVIGATE, carry no safety warranty either. Mr. Sullivan said that it was not his job to be concerned with those issues. That, he said, is the job of the EPA and the DEC.

So, I went to the DEC website and read the following in their "Primer on Aquatic Plant Management", page 55, and here is what is written about the use of chemicals:

- **"Long-term monitoring of ecological or human health has not occurred."**
- "Even when successful, treatments will have to be repeated at least every growing season, as is the case with nearly all symptom-based vegetation control techniques."
- "Although herbicide use requires a permit in New York State, **the decision whether to use chemical treatment usually rests with the lake association, residents, or lake management team.** As much information as possible should be obtained about the particular species of nuisance plant, proposed herbicide, existing water chemistry conditions on the lake, and the benefits and drawbacks of using this particular herbicide on this particular lake to control this particular plant."

The contract before you from SOLitude for treatment of the lakes is a laundry list of chemicals. It provides no information about the indications for use, the amounts, or standards for evaluating success or even costs. We know that chemicals are not "one and done". Mr. Sullivan spoke about a 3 to 5 year commitment in a 2017 presentation to the previous administration and did not disagree with that projection in Monday's presentation.

A plant survey of Pond #3 has not been done. There is no contract for that as Step #1. Mr. Sullivan stated that the amount of the chemical NAVIGATE he proposes to use was selected in order to help the Village avoid additional NYSDEC reporting requirements for downstream water bodies !!! ... Under NYS Public Health Law, all three of our lakes

constitute our reservoir ... Pond #3 empties directly into the Wee Wah, where there is a beach club, and then into the Ramapo.

Use of chemicals requires that the Trustees assume all health risks. NYSDEC makes that clear. The state requires a permit, but you make the decision. This is our drinking water. These lakes are our most valuable assets. Why risk that value and most importantly, the future health of our residents, especially since other methodologies have not been fully examined? The idea that the Trustees would consider such a proposal at this point is unwise, to say the least.

Please set the SOLitude contracts aside. Work toward a full analysis of lakes conditions and all possible science based approaches – pros and cons, including costs. Following community education and discussion, approve a plan that addresses the benefits and drawbacks of a way forward.

The Village needs a professional review and recommendation from a lakes/watershed manager who is not in the business of selling chemicals and aerator systems. We need the advice of someone who is conversant with newly emerging research about the long-term impacts of herbicides and copper sulfate. Do what is truly in the best interest of our health, safety and our most valuable assets.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan

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