

Report by the Village of Tuxedo Park Lakes Committee to the Village's Board of Trustees

December 18, 2019

We report this evening on two matters, the Fish Survey of Tuxedo Lake by the Oneonta group and summarize progress of our investigation into the advantages of the Village owning its own Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) boat.

1. Fish Survey

Greg Libby is the only fisherman on our committee and he has taken an interest in the fish population of Tuxedo lake for years. Our review is based largely on his work.

The committee reviewed the Fish Survey done over the summer by Kendra Kilson and professor Daniel Stich of SUNY Oneonta. We compared this year's survey with the last survey, done in 1997. This year's survey did not use nets, as the 1997 survey did, so the catch via electrofishing only was of relatively shallow water (< 8 feet) fish. A large number of fish were caught, measured and counted. This did not include trout as they live in deep water or bait fish as they move in schools and avoid the electrofishing boat. Since Brown trout are primarily fish eaters their consumption of Herring MAY play a role in the impact of the Herring on zooplankton populations in the lake. The rainbow trout certainly play a role, but smaller trout will eat terrestrial insects and aquatic insects when readily available.

The major change from 1997 is the substantial increase in Large Mouth Bass. We attribute this increase to the spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) as these Bass like the thick vegetative stands that EWM provides. A gap in the size distribution of the measured

fish we attribute to the feeding of Brown Cormorants on fish of that size. We conclude that the lake has ample fish and there is no reason for continued stocking.

2. DASH boats.

At the November BOT meeting we reported on the cost of the components of a DASH boat and since then we have investigated a number of ways to construct one. In this effort we have been in touch with those firms that have built DASH boats, including a firm in Wisconsin and two in Connecticut.

The Wisconsin firm will charge 80 dollars an hour to guide us remotely if we assembly of the boat or they will charge 80 dollars per hour to assemble it here plus travel and housing expenses. The estimated time required for assembly is about one week.

The Connecticut firms are EWM pulling companies that we have previously interviewed and one of them Pristine Waters worked in our lakes for a couple of weeks last summer, the other NEW ENGLAND AQUATIC SERVICES (NEAS) comes recommended by our Lake Manager A. J. Reyes..

NEAS is developing estimates of the cost for them to build a boat for us. There are a number of alternative approaches. They or we could buy a used pontoon boat and the DASH components and they would put it together. Greg Libby of our committee is looking into the used pontoon boat options. A second approach is to buy the pieces of a pontoon boat and assemble the boat, then add the components. NEAS will develop estimates for these alternatives. Pristine has been asked to supply us with estimates of the cost to supply us with divers for work on our boat vs the cost when their boat is used.

The financial advantages of owning our own boat are not yet known

but there is another advantage for our boat would never leave our lakes thus eliminating the risk of other DASH boats bringing invasive plants or animals to our lakes.

We are doing this work because we know the BOT wants to develop a long range plan for the treatment of our lakes and report annually to the Village on progress made and future plans.. In the context of such a ten year plan and the amount of work that needs to be done, will owning our own boat make sense? We don't know the answer now but we do know that the Upper Saranac Lake Association in the Adirondacks owns its own boat and is treating that lake for less than 100 dollars/acre i,e,\$100K/1200 acres of littoral zone/annum. This does not include the cost of the lake manager and other costs associated with his work. It is just the cost of divers and insurance.

So this summary is to update you on what we are doing and why.

Our Committee would like to have a meeting with the Lake Manager during the early winter to coordinate our work with his. We ask permission for such a meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

James Hays
Chairman of the Tuxedo Park Lakes Committee