## HAGUE TOWN BOARD INFORMATIONAL MEETING HAGUE BOAT LAUNCH MARCH 4, 2014 6:00 PM

Members present: Supervisor Frasier R. Meola

S. Ramant M. Fitzgerald II

G. Kuenzel

Also present: Dave Wick, Director of the Lake George Park Commission

Walt Lender, LGA

Dominick Viscardi, Attorney for the Town of Hague

Motion by R. Meola, seconded by G. Kuenzel to open the meeting at 6:00 pm. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Supervisor Frasier welcomed everyone to the Informational Meeting.

Councilman Ramant explained that the purpose of the meeting is to receive input on the proposal for the Hague Boat Launch. The new Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) regulations, designed to prevent aquatic invasive species from entering Lake George, will go into effect on May 15, 2014. Under these regulations, all boats must be inspected – and, if necessary, decontaminated – before being launched into Lake George.

After the boat passes inspection, the boat will be clipped to its trailer to indicate compliance. When the boat is launched, the clip is removed. When the boat comes out of the water, it is re-clipped to the trailer. As long as the clip is intact, the boat can be launched into Lake George at any launch that is open.

There will be six to eight launches around Lake George with inspectors. The new Lake George Park regulations that require having your boat inspected and tagged prior to launching in Lake George place a burden on the Town to come up with hours of operation and to close the launch when no attendant is on duty.

We need to come up with hours of operation, and how do we lock the boat launch. Last year there were 248 non-residents that launched at \$15.00 each in launch fees, totaling \$3,472.00.

The Town may enter into an individual agreement with a commercial marina operator to permit usage of the Hague launch outside of regular operating hours. The marina operator must have a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Lake George Park Commission certifying that he/she will only launch boats that can legally enter Lake George (either inspected or Lake-George-only boats).

Proposed Operating Dates and Times for the Hague Boat Launch for 2014

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May 15 – May 22: Closed
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May 23 – June 26: Open Friday-Sunday, 7 am - 8 pm

June 27 – September 1: Open daily

Monday-Thursday, 9 am − 5 pm; Friday-Sunday, 7 am − 8 pm

Closed for the season from September 2

Steve has spoken with representatives from Rogers Rock, trying to make an arrangement with them to allow Hague residents into Rogers Rock free of charge in order to launch their boats. Anyone can enter Rogers Rock for free to have their boat inspected and, if necessary, decontaminated, but they must pay the \$10 day fee to launch their boat. Rogers Rock will not allow this as a free service to Hague residents.

Councilwoman Kuenzel said that the Town of Hague proposal is to have Park Attendants available during extended hours during the weekend. It is not feasible to have Park Attendants around the clock. One main purpose of the informational meeting was to hear from residents about whether they thought the proposed hours of operation were the right hours. We need to balance the Town's cost for the attendants with the need to be open during hours when the launch is most utilized.

The meeting was open up to the public for questions and comments.

Bruno Renzi: This is a hardship on the community of Hague. He does not feel that it is fair to have the Boat Launch locked. This will also hurt business for the commercial property and will defer people from coming to Hague.

Alvin Frasier: The hours of closing are a disadvantage to people that work. I work in Ticonderoga and arrive home at 3:00 pm. By the time I get home on Summit Drive, get the boat, drive to the launch; it gives me no time to enjoy the lake and fishing due to having to get back to the launch by 5:00 pm. This is very unfair to taxpayers of Hague. This year they pulled the Lake George Steward program from Hague and have given no money to help Hague. The Town of Hague gives \$5,000.00 to the Lake George Asian Clam program. LGPC is funding the inspectors in Mossy Point, Rogers Rock, Million Dollar Beach, and Norwell, but we receive nothing. This does not seem fair.

Dave Wick explained that this was a two-year pilot program and that the boat owners are the ones responsible for having their boat inspected and tagged. It is not up to the Town of Hague to regulate the proposed law. The question was asked if the launch had to be locked when no Park Attendant was working. Mr. Wick said no that it did not have to be locked, but it would help the program succeed.

There are approximately 100 private launch sites on Lake George that will be using the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement.

Councilman Ramant asked if it was possible that the Hague residents use the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement which would allow the launch to remain open.

Mr. Wick did not think it would be allowed by the Park Commission, but would check.

Councilman Ramant mentioned that there are approximately 100 private launch sites on Lake George that will be using the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement

Art Steitz: He explained that he leaves at 5:30 am to fish. Even if his boat is tagged, there will be no attendants available at any site.

Dave Wick explained that Mossy Point & Million Dollar Beach will have a monitor system that will detect that the boat is tagged.

Judy Gourley: Is this just for trailed boats?

Dave Wick explained yes. Canoes do not need to be tagged. Only trailered water craft.

Maryann Eaton: The Boat Launch is for the residents and should be open for them. Possibly a card program for local residents only and outside residents would have to launch at a state launch. Using a Memorandum Agreement for Hague residents would also work.

Attorney Viscardi that we need complete compliance from everyone to make this program work.

Chris Navitsky: Thanked Attorney Viscardi and agrees that we need complete compliance from everyone to make this program work. There have been many organizations contributing to this project. Lake George is Queen of the Lakes.

Councilwoman Kuenzel asked for a show of hands in the audience to indicate who would be willing. Quite a few people raised their hands and also signed a sheet at the end of the meeting with their names and contact information.

Cathy Clark: Would like to see a card swipe system in place for local residents. We also need a fiscally responsible program at the launch.

Letters were received from the following people and read by Steve Ramant. Nancy Archer: Agrees with the Boat Launch proposal

Jim Henderson: Agrees with the Boat Launch proposal and would like the rules enforced once established.

Jim Beaty: Agrees with the Boat Launch proposal and would be willing to volunteer to open the ramp in special situations.

Donna Wotton: Agrees with the Boat Launch proposal and the hours.

Steven & Michele Griffith: Agrees with the Boat Launch proposal

The D'Andrea & Shelton Family: Agrees with the Boat Launch proposal

John Kemenczy: Has some concerns over the proposal. The congestion that it will cause at the boat slip, and how restrictive launch practices will affect tourism.

Richard Berls: Has some concerns over the proposal. He believes the proposal places a burden on Hague residents. He would like to see a Memorandum in place for Hague residents.

Supervisor Frasier thanked everyone for coming. We will continue to work on the hours that the boat launch is open.

Motion by S. Ramant, seconded by G. Kuenzel to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. All voting yes. Motion carried. Respectfully submitted,

Deborah F. Manning, Town Clerk