

**From:** Robert Hammond [blhammond@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 26, 2007 8:19 AM  
**To:** Penny Curran  
**Subject:** FW: The Latest News

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Robert Hammond](#)  
**To:** [Lower Saranac Lake Shore Owners Association Members](#)  
**Sent:** 8/26/2007 8:18:27 AM  
**Subject:** The Latest News

I wanted to take a moment to provide the latest information I have on a number of issues. I will attempt to be as brief as possible. If you have questions or comments, please let me know.

Harrietstown and Saranac Lake Village Comprehensive Plan:

You may recall that Jim Hotaling was a guest at our last meeting where he briefed us on the Comprehensive Planning project in which he is involved. On August 14th, they sponsored an open meeting designed to gather information on issues surrounding lakes and lake shores. Jim and Jack Drury moderated that meeting. These were the points raised by the attendees.

1. Water quality was the number one concern. This included everything from water testing to invasive species. I'm told by a number of sources that unless you have your own test done, current testing has a very high allowable level of human or animal waste. The point was that testing authorities should lower the allowable levels. This raises a great concern for those who use lake water. In addition, it raises the question of the condition of septic systems and camp sites that could impact our water quality. Also included in this area was the run off from road salting in the winter. I must admit that I have no first hand knowledge as to whether any of these are a problem for us. I do believe that these are important issues and deserve investigation. Perhaps you have some input that would be helpful.

2. Invasive species was also a great concern to the attendees. We are aware of the cost that Upper Saranac shore owners have incurred in their milfoil harvesting effort. Lake Colby and Lake Kiwassa have also initiated programs to control the problem. I've gotten differing reports on the milfoil in our lake. We obviously don't have a level of infestation that would create immediate concern, but should we be more proactive in evaluating the current level and looking at future solutions? Comments would be appreciated.

3. After 1 and 2 above, attendees had a group of issues that were grouped a distant third. These included the enforcement of existing regulations that impact our lakes and shores, control of water craft that use the lakes, the use of lake front property for commercial uses such as restaurants, controls for docks and boathouses and finally recreational uses. You should be aware that opinions vary on all of these issues. I think it would be very prudent for each of us to contact either Jack or Jim and share our thoughts. Otherwise, it may be the vocal view who prevail. That's fine if it happens to be your view. If not, you might be surprised and find it too late to alter the course of the plan. Now is the time. Things are not moving at the speed of light, but I sense they are picking up speed.

Proposed Political Action Committee:

Each member was sent a survey on the proposed PAC and a return date of August 17th. That date has been extended until the end of September. There are preliminary results on the surveys received to date. I've opted not to forward those because I think it's important for each of us to provide our own input and not be influenced by the information gathered to date. Therefore, I'd urge you to take a moment and complete survey, if you have not done so. If your dog ate your copy or you didn't get the e-mail let me

know and I can provide a copy. I will tell you that there is strong support for the formation of the PAC. Therefore, a committee has been formed to start drafting the by-laws, creating a web-site, electing a steering committee etc. It is very early in the process and they are asking for continued input on issues and volunteers to be involved in the actual functions of the PAC. If interested in knowing more, let me know and I can put you in touch with the appropriate party. Again, your opinion is valued.

Article 78 Lawsuit:

In a nut shell, it is alive and well. The target date for submission is by the end of September. Some points to remember are that this action is focused on the issue of fair assessment of property values. While it is being portrayed as rich shore owners bringing a frivolous lawsuit against the town and costing the taxpayers unnecessary legal fees, those bringing the suit are not just shore owners and they obviously feel they have sufficient data to prove their case. The decision will be up to the court and you are encouraged to gather you own data and draw your own conclusion.

Well, that's more than enough for now. I'm always available for questions and am always interested in your opinions. So, please let me know.

Bob

Robert Hammond

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