

Regular Meeting
Of the
Putnam Town Board

January 13, 2022, 7PM ~ Putnam Town Hall ~ Zoom

7:00 Meeting called to order

Councilwoman Carole Schneider led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members present:	Supervisor	Darrell Wilson
	Councilman	Christopher Mallon
	Councilman	Larry Shiell
	Councilwoman	Carole Schneider
	Councilman	Charles Bain

Others present: Mary Jane Dedrick (Deputy Clerk, P.O. Box 14), Gary Treadway (Highway Superintendent, Treadway Lane), David Hayes (PVFD President, Resident, 560 Gull Bay Road), Leslie L. Bain (Resident, 371 Peterson Road) Bill Brown (Planning Board Chair, 17 Charter Brook Lane)

Present via ZOOM: Cee McKenzie (BAR Chair, 526 Gull Bay Road), Bob Rudt (Planning Board, 526 Gull Bay Road), May Drinkwine-Shiell (Resident, 439 County Route 3), Nancy Wolf-Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road) Joe Fisher (Resident, 5183 Sagamore Road), Galen Seerup (Planning Board, 17360 State Route 22), Karl Ohly (Resident, 428 County Route 3), Mary Delongis (Resident, 225 Hutton Square Road), Paula Wilson (Planning Board Secretary, 15 County Route 3), Jim Hock (Planning Board, 213 Cummings Road)

Resolution # 1

Accept the minutes of the December 9, 2021, meeting

On motion of Councilman Chris Mallon, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #2

Accept the Budget Officer's report for the month of December 2021

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution # 3

Accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of December 2021

On motion of Councilman Chris Mallon, seconded by Councilwoman Carole Schneider all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution # 4

Accept the Town Justice Report for the month of December 2021

On motion of Councilwoman Carole Schneider, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #5

Pay bills as audited

On motion of Councilman Christopher Mallon, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor, Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolved, the bills on the following are paid as audited.

General Fund	# 1-12	\$6,628.10
Highway Fund	# 1-10	\$7,519.72
Black Point Sewer District	# 1	\$20,113.14
Royal Anchorage Sewer District	# 1	\$7,363.74

Correspondence

Supervisor Wilson advised that Wheelabrator has sent notice of a rate increase in 2022 for trash disposal at their facility. The new rate is \$73 per ton (seventy-three dollars).

Supervisor Wilson discussed the Lake George Park Commissions septic inspections water quality report, and the summary that accompanied it.

Supervisor Wilson advised that the Town of Putnam received 30 at home COVID-19 tests from the State.

Planning Board Report (7:15)

Planning Board Chairman Bill Brown reported that the PB had a light agenda at their monthly meeting. The PB had two discussion items, one about tiny homes and how to regulate them, and a second about solar installations and potential regulatory action by the Town.

Fire Department report (7:17)

Dave Hayes Putnam Volunteer Fire Department President issued the FD's fourth quarter report to the Board. Mr. Hayes reviewed the highlights in the report. In the fourth quarter the Department had thirteen-911 calls, total calls for 2021 is 73. President Hayes reviewed the FD accounts, and equipment indicating that one pick-up truck is expected to be sold. A new truck is expected to be delivered sometime in the summer of 2022. President Hayes described using a thermal imaging camera to walk around the circumference of the FD building to find areas leaking heat. He indicated a few areas need attention to stop or slow the leakage of heat. President Hayes reported that the new furnace is working well and meeting the needs of the department. Councilman Mallon and the Board thanked President Hayes for the improved communications, reports, transparency, and efforts of the Fire Department.

Old business (7:27)

Solar- Supervisor Wilson reintroduced the topic of solar in Putnam. Supervisor Wilson indicated the question he came away from the Planning Board meeting is how to encourage residents to use solar to supplement residential needs, while maintaining control over commercial arrays. He continued to review edited pages of the solar regulations. It was asserted that two definitions need to be clarified, the first being "certified engineer" the second "commercial solar". A discussion about setbacks from property lines, what percentage of a lot can be used by solar arrays, and array heights. No decisions were made, further discussion and review will take place over the coming months as the law is developed. Supervisor Wilson asked the Board to ask around to see what residents think about solar. Councilman Mallon raised concerns of how acres of panels could negatively impact a neighboring property value.

Legal Action- Councilman Shiell raised the topic of a closed legal action taken against the Town. The action was heard by Acting Supreme Court Justice Kathleen B. Hogan. The legal costs to the Town are estimated to be around \$15,000 (Fifteen thousand dollars), Supervisor Wilson indicated he would get an official tally of legal costs to report at February's meeting.

Court Annual Audit- New York State Office of Justice Court Funds requires an annual audit of the Court by the Board. The Putnam Board audits monthly and will acknowledge such in Resolution for the JCF.

Resolution #6

The Putnam Town Board acknowledges a monthly audit of the Putnam Town Court Justice records, for the purposes of audit and review, in the year 2021

On motion of Supervisor Darrell Wilson, seconded by Councilman Christopher Mallon; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

New business

Supervisor Wilson reviewed the standard documents and policies that the Auditor would like the Town of Putnam to put in place. This will become a perpetual process of placing and updating policy as needed.

Resolution #7

Adopt a Travel Policy for the Town of Putnam

On motion of Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution #8

Adopt a Procurement Policy for the Town of Putnam

On motion of Councilman Charles Bain, seconded by Councilman Larry Shiell; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Supervisor Wilson reviewed the Ethics and Disclosure Policy. The Town of Putnam will use the Washington County Ethics Board to hear any ethics reviews that may be needed. The current policy needs to be edited to reflect this. Councilman Mallon questioned the narrow definition of "relative" which does not include siblings, aunts, uncles etc., it only mentions "*spouse*" or "*child*".

Councilman Shiell raised the discussion of grants. The advantage and disadvantages of hiring a grant writer were discussed. David Hayes indicated he had the name of a grant writer he would forward.

Resolution #9 (8:16)

Move to Executive Session

On motion of Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Councilman Bain; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Executive Session- NO ACTION TAKEN

Resolution #9

Leave Executive Session

On motion of Councilman Larry Shiell, seconded by Supervisor Wilson; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Resolution # 10

Adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board

On motion of Councilman Larry Shiell, seconded by Councilman Charlie Bain; all in favor.
Resolution unanimously adopted.

Regular Meeting of the Putnam Town Board adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Next meeting: February 10, 2022, at the Putnam Town Hall & ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Kerr
Putnam Town Clerk

Darrell T. Wilson	_____	Supervisor
Christopher Mallon	_____	Councilman
Carole Schneider	_____	Councilwoman
Larry Shiell	_____	Councilman
Charles Bain Sr.	_____	Councilman

Putnam Volunteer Fire Company (PVFC)
4th Quarter 2021 Report to the Putnam Town Board
January 13, 2022
Presented by D. Hayes, PVFC President

Staffing and Training

There are currently 16 members in the Putnam Volunteer Fire Co.. Seven members are Firefighter II certified, one is Firefighter I certified, five have completed the basic introductory firefighting course (Basic Exterior Fire Operations, or BEFO) but not Interior Fire Operations (IFO), which would make them FF I certified, and three have not taken any firefighting courses. Two members are certified EMT's and all members have current CPR certifications. Company members are expected to regularly refresh and update their skills through weekly drills and formal coursework led by NYS certified instructors.

During the most recent quarter members attended twelve weekly drills to practice skills, check trucks and gear, and attend our monthly business meetings. A list of our 2021 drills is included with this report.

Emergency Responses

During the 4th quarter the PVFC responded to thirteen 911 calls. Seven were EMS calls, two were because of downed power lines, one was for a water rescue on Lake Champlain, one was for a motor vehicle accident on NYS Rt. 22, one was for a house fire in Ticonderoga, and one was in response to a false alarm at a residence on Black Point Road. To provide historical context a table summarizing the number and types of 911 callouts we've responded to since 2017 is included as an appendix to this report. We responded to a total of 73 calls in 2021, the most of any single year since at least 2017.

Budget Forecast, Expenditures, and Overall Financial Condition of the Company

The PVFC's 2021 annual operating revenue was \$162,600, all of it derived from the Town of Putnam through a fire tax on property owners. In addition, \$27,237.97 was carried forward from the 2020 operating budget to cover expenses during January and February 2021 because the fire company doesn't receive its fire tax funds until March 1st. Likewise, it was important that we end 2021 with approximately \$20,000 remaining in our operating budget account to cover expenses for January and February 2022. Therefore, we effectively had \$169,837.97 to cover all our expenses during 2021 ($162,600 + 27,237.97 - 20,000$).

A spreadsheet showing the 2021 budget forecast is enclosed, together with expenditures through the end of December, which were \$168,218.08. This includes a debt service payment of \$10,000 to the Town of Putnam (for a loan to carry out two major renovations to the firehouse a few years ago), another \$10,014.20 loan payment for our 2017 utility truck, and a \$30,430.48 loan payment for the purchase of a new fire truck in 2013.

Although our expenditures of \$168,218.08 were less than the \$169,837.97 we had available for 2021, they were nonetheless more than our fire tax revenue for the year of \$162,600. We covered this \$5,618.08 difference by using some of the funds transferred into 2021 from 2020. This means that the excess funds available to transfer into 2022 (\$21,619.89) are less than were available the previous year. The cause of this shortfall was \$45,000 in unplanned expenses (\$20,000 to replace the fire house furnace and \$25,000 in truck repairs). We hope that such unanticipated expenses will not be a regular occurrence in future years! For 2021 we covered these unplanned expenses by a combination of reducing the budgeted amounts for many expenses, underspending the budgeted amounts, and transferring less money into 2022. We did not need to use fundraising monies to cover these expenses.

A spreadsheet showing the Company's 2022 budget is enclosed. It includes a \$4,578 increase in fire tax revenue over 2021. We have budgeted \$12,000 for fire house maintenance, \$10,000 for unplanned truck repairs, and \$27,000 to put in our truck replacement account. The purpose of the latter is to prepare us to begin making \$34,666.11/year loan payments starting in 2023 on our new fire truck, which is due to be delivered this summer. The \$27,000 plus the \$20,000 freed up from retiring our loans from the Town and for the utility truck in 2022 will be more than sufficient to cover the loan payment for the new fire truck. It is our intention to use whatever excess there is to pre-pay the two truck loans that we will be carrying during 2023 and beyond.

Condition of the Fire Trucks

This year we decided, as a cost-cutting measure, to retire the older of our pickup trucks, which has been our EMS truck, and begin using our newer pickup (utility) truck for EMS calls. Thus, the 2017 Ford F-350 will switch from being solely a utility truck to becoming both a First-Responder (EMS) and a utility truck. The truck being retired is 23 years old and was in need of repairs. We have recently found a buyer for it.

With this change the PVFC now has four fire trucks: two engine/pumpers and one water tanker for fighting fires and responding to motor vehicle accidents and hazardous incidents, and one pickup truck for EMS calls and to take members and their gear to rescue scenes. All undergo regular servicing and NYS inspections. Our engine/pumpers are 30 and 8 years old, our tanker is 19 years old, and our pickup truck is 4 years old. One of the engine/tankers is short and has 4-wheel drive making it particularly suitable for reaching houses on narrow and unpaved roads, such as are found in the Gull Bay and Glenburnie areas. However, it is 30 years old and is in need of replacing, which with the recent increase in our budget we are now able to do. We expect the replacement truck to be delivered in mid-2022. The \$400,000 loan for this purchase will be amortized over 15 years at an annual interest rate of 2.74% with an annual premium of \$34,666.11 starting on July 1, 2023. \$20,000 of the premium will be offset by retiring two loans, one from the Town and the other for the purchase of our 2017 EMS/utility truck. The remainder will be covered from the operating budget.

Condition of other Equipment

Our other emergency response equipment is in good shape. There is a need for periodic replacement of hoses and air-packs, inspections of ladders and fire extinguishers, and

calibration checks of air monitors. We are up-to-date on all of these and the future costs of doing these things are built into each year's budget forecast.

Condition of the Fire Station Building and Grounds

During the 2020-21 heating season (July 1st - June 30th) we spent \$3,851.85 on propane to heat the firehouse. We have started a program to better insulate the firehouse so as to reduce this cost. So far, we have sealed several obvious sources of heat loss through openings in the ceiling and around the doors in the main truck bay. We ordered two new truck bay doors at a cost of \$10,000, which have been installed (total cost with installation was \$18,000). These are designed to provide better insulation than the previous doors as well as increase the height of each door by 24 inches, which better accommodates modern fire trucks. We have a plan in place to carefully examine the fire house with a thermoimaging camera within the next two weeks to look for other, less obvious, sources of heat loss through the walls and ceiling. We are considering using some of the 2022 building maintenance funds to replace one or two of the remaining truck bay doors.

In early May the firehouse furnace unexpectedly failed and could not be repaired. Therefore, we replaced it with a new, larger, propane furnace. We took this opportunity to also upgrade and extend the existing plumbing for our hydronic heating system into new areas of the fire house. The total cost was a little under \$20,000. We are very pleased with the result!

Communications to the Community

During the 1st quarter we sent our annual newsletter to all property owners in Putnam. Contained within the newsletter was an offer to provide high-visibility house number signs to residents at a cost of \$12 each. We received 50 such requests and have responded to all of them.

External Grant Applications

In January we submitted a request for \$35,500 from FEMA through their AFG program for four sets of turnout (firefighting) gear for our firefighters (a single set costs approximately \$3,500!) and a specialized extractor(washer) plus dryer to wash and dry our gear. Structure fires almost always generate high concentrations of smoke that include toxic chemicals created when modern building materials burn. Unfortunately, our grant application was NOT funded. We are considering trying again using another grant writing consultant who works with several other fire companies in Washington County and comes highly recommended.

Fundraising Efforts

We undertook two very successful fundraising activities this year. The first of these was our regular appeal made through our annual newsletter, which yielded approximately \$11,000 in gifts. The second was our annual Chicken BBQ at the firehouse, which took place on July 24th and yielded approximately \$5,000 after expenses. These funds are applied to Company services not covered by our contract with the Town, such as maintaining a water and ice rescue capability, and to cover unanticipated emergency expenses. Although this money was available to pay for our furnace replacement and unplanned truck repairs this year, in the end we did not need to use it.

2021 PVFC Drill Schedule	
Prepared by D. Hayes --- Last Updated on 01/06/2022	
Date	Drill
01/05/21	Truck checks
01/12/21	Business meeting
01/19/21	Ice surface rescue gear check
01/26/21	CPR refresher
02/02/21	Cancelled due to weather
02/09/21	Cancelled due to a callout at the same time
02/16/21	Business meeting
02/23/21	Dry hydrant flushing
03/02/21	Business meeting
03/09/21	Truck checks
03/16/21	SCBA training
03/23/21	Forestry gear check
3/30/21/	EMS supplies inventory
04/06/21	Business meeting
04/13/21	Traffic control and use of radios
04/20/21	Tour of Ti EMS facility
04/27/21	Hose deployment
05/04/21	Business meeting
05/11/21	Truck checks
05/18/21	Driving, radios & scene safety
05/25/21	CANCELLED
06/01/21	Business meeting
06/08/21	Truck checks
06/15/21	Reroute wiring over main bay doors
06/22/21	Response pre-planning in Gull Bay
06/29/21	Class A uniform inventory
07/06/21	Business meeting
07/13/21	Fire pre-planning for Link Way houses
07/20/21	Preparations for the Annual BBQ
07/27/21	Annual firefighter physicals
08/03/21	Business meeting
08/10/21	Reload equipment onto Truck 432
08/17/21	Skills practice
08/24/21	Practice triple-layer hose loading
08/31/21	Hose racking
09/07/21	Business meeting
09/14/21	Truck checks
09/21/21	Practice drafting water from LG and flushed hydrants
09/28/21	Cancelled due to a mix-up
10/05/21	Business meeting
10/12/21	Air-Prime System Drill
10/19/21	Chimney Fire Drill in Ticonderoga
10/26/21	SCBA Training
11/02/21	Business meeting
11/09/21	Truck checks
11/16/21	Confined Space Rescue
11/23/21	Extrication Tools Review
12/02/21	Annual Business Meeting
12/07/21	Motor Vehicle Extrication Drill
12/14/21	Motor Vehicle Extrication Drill
12/28/21	Tanker Operation and Air-Prime Drill

PVFC Incident Statistics

Prepared by D. Hayes — Last Updated on 01/04/2022

Type of Incident	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% of Responses
EMS	31	22	30	33	29	44.2
False & Cancelled Alarms	8	10	6	5	5	10.4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	5	4	2	5	6.4
Water Rescues	1		2	2	1	1.8
Ice Rescues	2			1		0.9
Other Rescues (hiking, snowmobiling, etc.)				1		0.3
Standbys at Ti Fire Station	4	9	8	5	10	11.0
Standbys at Putnam Fire Station					1	0.3
Standbys at Dresden Fire Station				1		0.3
Standbys at Whitehall Fire Station				1		0.3
Fires in Putnam		6	5	4	5	6.1
Fires in Ticonderoga	1	6	3	2	6	5.5
Fires in Dresden	1	1	1			0.9
Smoke	1	2		2	1	1.8
CO Alarms	1		1			0.6
Service calls (water in cellar, tree on road)	2		3			1.5
Hazardous Situations (Elec., Chem.)	1	2		1		1.2
Power Lines Down	1	1	2	5	10	5.8
Lightning strikes		1				0.3
Other		1				0.3
	CHECK THE % SUMMATION					100.0
TOTAL # OF RESPONSES	59	66	65	65	73	328

2021 Putnam Volunteer Fire Company Operating Budget & YTD Expenses

Prepared by D. Hayes --- Last updated on 01/02/2022

BUDGETED REVENUE		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Expenses
ITEM	BUDGET													
Putnam Town Taxes	\$162,600.00													
Carried forward from 2020	\$27,237.97													
TOTAL REVENUE	\$189,837.97													
BUDGETED EXPENDITURES		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Expenses
ITEM	BUDGET													
Utilities	\$2,000.00	\$297.61	\$39.26	\$341.40	\$170.65	\$138.15	\$161.86		\$361.55	\$180.72	\$150.89	\$160.55	\$175.91	\$2,178.55
National Grid	\$600.00	\$92.05	\$46.36	\$46.91	\$46.63	\$46.63	\$47.40	\$46.83	\$47.25	\$46.50	\$46.07	\$46.06	\$46.06	\$604.75
Propane --- Avery	\$4,000.00	\$853.04	\$914.90	\$1,300.63	\$227.69		\$69.50			\$80.14	\$288.42	\$288.42	\$762.41	\$4,496.73
Fire Alarm	\$280.00	\$67.41		\$67.41				\$67.41		\$67.41				\$269.64
Internet --- Spectrum	\$1,200.00	\$96.98	\$96.98	\$193.96	\$96.98		\$215.96	\$107.98	\$107.98	\$107.98	\$107.98	\$107.98	\$107.98	\$1,348.74
Building														
Cleaning	\$400.00						\$332.35	\$356.48						\$688.83
Office Supplies	\$200.00													\$0.00
Water Softener	\$100.00													\$0.00
Fire Prevention Education	\$100.00													\$0.00
Maintenance	\$16,500.00	\$230.58	\$286.62	\$4,700.00	\$300.00				\$9,058.28	\$7,055.84	\$17,285.96			\$38,917.28
Loan Paymt. to Town (Final 2022)	\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00										\$10,000.00
Fire & EMS Services														
Gas meter testing (B-Lann)	\$450.00	\$85.33	\$25.00							\$668.74				\$779.07
Airpack testing (Bigham)	\$2,600.00		\$2,974.60			\$2,591.90								\$2,591.90
Airpack parts	\$3,000.00													\$2,974.60
Hose service (Garrison)	\$1,600.00													\$0.00
Jaws service (Garrison)	\$1,200.00					\$1,073.80								\$0.00
Compressor. service (Garrison)	\$1,000.00												\$361.05	\$1,073.80
Fire extinguishers service	\$300.00								\$259.40					\$361.05
Fire equipment purchase	\$4,500.00		\$1,342.44				\$35.00							\$1,636.84
Turnout gear purchase	\$7,400.00	\$2,503.12			\$594.00					\$144.00				\$3,241.12
Volunteer physicals	\$2,100.00								\$2,000.00	\$2,100.00		\$150.00		\$2,250.00
Training & education	\$2,000.00													\$2,000.00
Radios and pagers (ADK 2-Way)	\$4,000.00			\$1,170.67										\$1,170.67
Ladder, fire detec. testing	\$600.00	\$374.20												\$374.20
Misc. supplies (EMS & Firematic)	\$2,000.00	\$26.97	\$101.26	\$222.77		\$17.88	\$517.74	\$439.11		-\$500.00			\$76.10	\$901.83
Miscellaneous														
Insurance --- Corporate	\$9,200.00	\$8,759.00				-\$19.50						\$4,504.83		\$13,244.33
Insurance --- Accident and Sickness	\$252.00								\$252.00					\$252.00
Insurance --- cancer	\$1,300.00	\$822.00										\$536.50		\$536.50
Attorney Fees	\$2,000.00			\$694.68										\$694.68
Annual Newsletter	\$700.00													\$700.00
Shipping & mailing	\$250.00	\$76.00					\$22.75	\$8.55				\$23.20		\$130.50
Gifts	\$300.00							\$54.00	\$80.00	-\$956.97				-\$822.97
Grant application expenses	\$900.00													\$0.00

ACTUAL EXPENDITURES DURING 2021 ↓

2022 Putnam Volunteer Fire Company Operating Budget & YTD Expenses

Prepared by D. Hayes --- Last updated on 01/03/2022

BUDGETED REVENUE		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	October	Nov.	Dec.	YTD Expenses
ITEM	BUDGET													
Putnam Town Fire Taxes	\$167,178.00													
Carried forward from 2021	\$21,619.89													
TOTAL REVENUE	\$188,797.89													
BUDGETED EXPENDITURES		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	October	Nov.	Dec.	YTD Expenses
ITEM	BUDGET													
Utilities														
National Grid	\$2,200.00													\$0.00
Verizon	\$600.00													\$0.00
Propane --- Avey	\$4,600.00													\$0.00
Fire Alarm	\$300.00													\$0.00
Internet --- Spectrum	\$1,300.00													\$0.00
Building														
Cleaning	\$200.00													\$0.00
Office Supplies	\$200.00													\$0.00
Water Softener	\$100.00													\$0.00
Fire Prevention Education	\$100.00													\$0.00
Maintenance	\$12,000.00													\$0.00
Loan Paymt. to Town (Final 2022)	\$10,000.00													\$0.00
Fire & EMS Services														
Gas meter testing (B-Lann)	\$500.00													\$0.00
Airpack testing (Brigham)	\$3,000.00													\$0.00
Airpack parts	\$2,500.00													\$0.00
Hose service (Garrison)	\$1,600.00													\$0.00
Jaws service (Garrison)	\$1,200.00													\$0.00
Compressor. service (Garrison)	\$1,100.00													\$0.00
Fire extinguishers service	\$400.00													\$0.00
Fire equipment purchase	\$5,000.00													\$0.00
Turnout gear purchase	\$7,400.00													\$0.00
Volunteer physicals	\$2,400.00													\$0.00
Training & education	\$500.00													\$0.00
radios and pagers (ADK 2-Way)	\$2,500.00													\$0.00
Ladder, fire detec. testing	\$600.00													\$0.00
Misc. supplies (EMS & Firematic)	\$2,000.00													\$0.00
Miscellaneous														
Insurance --- Corporate	\$9,200.00													\$0.00
Insurance --- Accident and Sickness	\$252.00													\$0.00
Insurance --- cancer	\$1,300.00													\$0.00
Attorney Fees	\$2,000.00													\$0.00

ACTUAL EXPENDITURES DURING 2022 ↓



Lake George Park Commission

Bruce E. Young
Chairman

Dave Wick
Executive Director

TO: Lake George near-shore and streamside property owners
DATE: January 3, 2022
SUBJECT: Septic System Inspections and Water Quality

As you know, Lake George is unparalleled in its natural beauty, attracting over 1 million visitors every year and supporting a billion-dollar local economy. As the NY State Agency charged with protecting water quality and safety on the Lake, we know success begins with strong public partnership and engagement.

The pristine environmental quality of the lake, however, is under threat. In 2020, the first harmful algal bloom (HAB) of cyanobacteria was identified on Lake George, and three additional blooms were identified in 2021. According to years of research, near-shore and floating algae has increased dramatically over the past 30 years, up almost 33%. Upland activities and development are the primary drivers contributing pollutants and nutrients into Lake George. These nutrients, specifically phosphorus, support prolific algae growth and reductions in water quality and clarity. This is unsustainable if we are to keep Lake George clean for the long-term.



In response to these emerging issues, the Lake George Park Commission has implemented several programs and regulations focused on preserving water quality. Invasive species are aggressively managed via targeted Eurasian milfoil removal and a mandatory boat inspection program that prevents additional invasive species from being introduced. The Commission manages cutting-edge programs that protect stream corridors and minimize stormwater runoff from new development. Additionally, the Commission and its partners have implemented more than \$10 million of public infrastructure improvements to protect Lake George over the past decade, including stormwater runoff reductions, winter road salt application improvements, stream stabilization projects and much more. These regulations and projects are among the most rigorous in the nation and they will continue to help Lake George meet its lean nutrient budget.

The other source of excess nutrients in Lake George not yet addressed is failed or malfunctioning septic systems. Aging and unmaintained systems do not adequately treat household wastewater, which can then migrate underground and into the lake causing impacts to water quality and human health. To address this issue, the Lake George Park Commission is exploring the implementation of a recurring septic system inspection program. The purpose of this initiative would be to confirm the functionality of septic systems in the

lake's defined 'Critical Environmental Area', which include properties within 500 feet from the lake shoreline and 100 feet from streams feeding the lake. If systems are found to have issues, property owners would be given time to correct or upgrade the system as needed.

The Commission has been exploring options for a septic system inspection program using many similar models in the Finger Lakes and Western NY, all of which operate on a five-year recurring basis. The towns of Queensbury and Bolton have already implemented their own septic inspection programs at property transfer, and Warren County is exploring its own septic inspection law. The Lake George Park Commission supports these existing efforts and seeks to do its part in protecting Lake George from this threat.

The Commission holds monthly ad-hoc meetings on the first Thursday of the months to discuss the details and process of implementing a septic system inspection program for Lake George. These meetings include municipal leaders, engineers, local business leaders, State agency representatives and citizen groups. They are always open to the public and your input is welcomed. I invite you visit our website www.lgpc.ny.gov for the schedule and agenda of our next meeting. Topics of discussion include the need for such a program, frequency and details, inspections fees, design standards, and protocols for variances and exceptions.

If you have any questions as we explore this important topic or would like to discuss any of our other programs, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 518-668-9347. We look forward to your input, and thank you for everything that you do to keep Lake George safe and clean.

Sincerely,

Bruce Young

Bruce Young
Chairman

Dave Wick

Dave Wick
Executive Director