**TACONIC SHORES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC**
53 Lakeshore Drive
Copake, New York 12516
Tel: 518-621-2341 / Fax: 518-801-1684
Office@TaconicShores.org

Established 1957

January 12, 2023

Dear Members,

I'm writing on behalf of the Board to update you on our exploration of a permanent location for a dock for the Association's mechanical weed harvesters. I'd like to explain how the process has worked until now, where it stands, and our plans, moving forward.

First, the Board has ***not*** made any firm, binding decisions about a location or finalized a plan to establish one. Here's what the Board ***has*** done so far:

1) We've received numerous complaints from members whose properties are close to the harvesters' current, temporary dock;
2) We've learned that, due to the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), we must increase and maintain greater safety for the harvester operators;
3) At our September Board meeting, we created an *ad hoc* committee to research potential environmentally-sound permanent locations that would address both the complaints and OSHA requirements;
4) We've heard from the committee that there are very few locations in the Shores that will a) not disturb a significant number of residents, b) permit the construction of a dock that meets OSHA regulations, c) minimize ecological damage; and d) have a decent chance of receiving approval from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC);
5) We've discussed the *ad hoc* committee's finding that one — perhaps, the *only* — site that may meet the criteria in 4) is in a cove behind the north side of the Island. An existing road can provide access to this site, a relatively minor number of trees would have to be removed during construction, and a dock at that location would be as far away from the greatest number of residents as any the committee found;
6) We announced at the October Membership Meeting our preliminary plan, including the location of the proposed site;
7) We've heard from some members, who have expressed their concerns about the contemplated location.

Keeping in mind all of the above and committed to addressing the situation as promptly as possible, the Board decided the best, first step was to apply to the DEC for a permit to build a dock at the specified location. By doing so, we'll learn if the cove is even a *permissible* location. What's more, as a matter of course, a good number of the serious concerns members have relayed will be considered by the DEC.

Rob Weingaertner, President, Off Dir. Gary Plotch, Vice – President, Treasurer Danny Fontana, Maintenance Dir
Philip Galdston, Comm Dir Robert Lazarus, Event Dir Lois Lovisolo, Lake Dir.
Kelly DeSimone, Building Dir Frank Scorzello, Security Dir., Weed Harvester Dir. Steve Zias, Dir

To be clear, no further action — including a community-wide discussion of this issue — will be taken until we hear from the DEC. As of this writing, we're awaiting word from them.

Opinion about the value of the use of the harvesters varies greatly, sometimes depending on where in our community you live. I believe these machines are as effective a tool as we currently possess to minimize the invasive, damaging species that threaten our lake. As for other tools, we hope to continue to apply recommended, permitted chemical treatments, but we must factor in that such treatments require case-by-case approval from the DEC.

Finally, I want to assure you that the Board is focused on a practical, environmentally-sound solution that will work best for the entire community *and* on keeping you informed. We encourage your input.

On behalf of your neighbors who serve on the Board, I wish you a happy, healthy new year.

Sincerely,
Robert Weingaertner
for the Board