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## SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) UPDATE

by Jack Bast

On August 20, 2024, Hague Town Supervisor Josh Patchett, along with SAC members and several Hague residents, attended the Ticonderoga CSD School Board of Education (BoE) meeting. Patchett expressed Hague's concerns regarding the lack of collaboration with the BoE and highlighted the need to revisit the school tax apportionment, which has remained unchanged for 45 years. His full statement was featured in the September edition of *The Hague Chronicle*.

A key issue discussed was the BoE's rejection of Hague's request to apply full-value assessments for Ticonderoga's energy projects in the school tax levy. The SAC has recommended more coordination between Hague and Ticonderoga, including involvement in future PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreements. In response, the Hague Town Board passed Resolution #91, calling for better communication, which was presented at the September 17th BoE meeting.

Despite repeated requests by Hague residents for BoE meetings to be streamed via ZOOM, the BoE declined, citing no legal obligation. However, the Hague representatives emphasized the importance of transparency and doing what's best for the community. A follow-up meeting between Hague and BoE leadership took place on September 19th, aiming to improve communication and collaboration. Encouragingly, streaming BoE meetings is now under consideration and future PILOT agreements will be discussed

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## LGA CONTINUES TO MONITOR EFFECTS OF PROCELLACOR ON LAKE GEORGE

As part of its ongoing monitoring of the effects of ProcellaCOR on the water, plants and soil of Lake George, the Lake George Association (LGA) released its second wave of results on September 24, 2024. As a reminder, the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) applied this herbicide in two bays on northern Lake George (in Glenburnie and Huletts Landing) on June 29th.

While the LGA and LGPC disagreed on the use of the herbicide ProcellaCOR for Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) management in Lake George, both organizations have an interest in utilizing the best available science to guide long-term management of aquatic invasive species in Lake George. In early September, they announced that they would work together toward this goal. Since then, the LGA has been openly and promptly sharing with the LGPC the results of the sophisticated scientific studies it is conducting with the Jefferson Project to determine ProcellaCOR's effects on Lake George. These findings complement and supplement the monitoring conducted by the LGPC and should help foster a science-to-solutions approach for management of EWM in Lake George. Although ProcellaCOR has been used in other Adirondack lakes over the past few years, no in-depth studies of the

herbicide's effects on those lakes' ecosystems have been conducted.

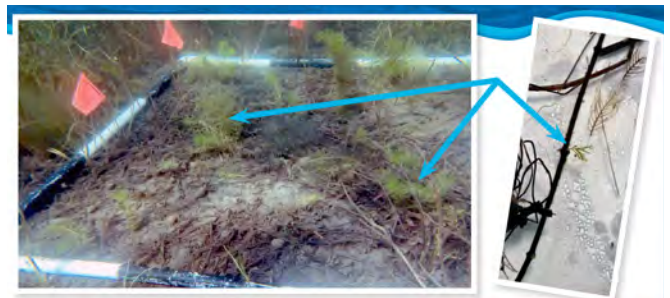
In its release of initial results in early September, the LGA noted that the ProcellaCOR application was effective in killing large amounts of EWM in the two treated bays, which was as expected and reported by the LGPC. However, in Blairs Bay (Glenburnie), an area of Eurasian watermilfoil along the northwest edge of the treatment area appeared to have been little affected, which was attributed to the circulation of the lake water at the time of the application.

### ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES

**Water:** Analysis of the water samples by an independent laboratory at the University of Connecticut aligned with the LGPC findings that the herbicide itself was below detectable levels within 24 hours. ProcellaCOR is understood to break down into degradants (chemical byproducts), the predominant one of which is also known to be an herbicide.

**Soil:** Degradants were measured in multiple sediment samples in both treatment and dilution zones. The longevity and any effect of the degradant are continuing to be monitored by The Jefferson Project.

*(Continued on p. 2)*



*Some of the findings reveal new EWM growth among dead plants.*

## SENIORS CLUB NEWS

by Pat Hintze



On a gorgeous September day, 30 seniors participated in the Revolution Rail Ride. We pedaled six miles on the railroad tracks in Hadley, crossing over the Hudson River. Everyone had a great time, from the oldest senior at 88 years old to the youngest at 54. After the ride, we went to Eddie's for the Snowbird Dinner, which 34 people attended. It was a long, but fun, day.

On October 3rd, we'll have Game Night at Maureen's house at 6:30 pm. Come join us for fun and snacks! Then, on October 10th, we are going south to Lake George for the Lac Du Saint Sacrement Luncheon Cruise. It should be another great day with dancing and fall foliage.

Finally, on October 22nd, we'll have our Halloween party at noon. Please bring a dish to share and dress in the "Country" theme. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Come on out and join the fun! ▣

## PROCELLACOR UPDATE, CONTINUED

Plants: In the 31 samples of plants collected June 29th - July 1st in both bays, it was found that ProcellaCOR adhered to both native plants and EWM. Further monitoring should provide information about the impact, if any, on non-target plants. In addition, divers observed new growth among the dead EWM plants in Blairs Bay. We still need to determine if this growth is from the highly impacted EWM or is the result of plant fragments that traveled from elsewhere.

Tap water samples were collected from riparian homeowners in each bay. One sample from June 29th proved positive for ProcellaCOR at 0.14 parts per billion, an amount that is almost undetectable. No trace of the herbicide was found in the tap water 24 hours after the application of the herbicide.

The scientists will continue to monitor, sample, and analyze the two bays'

## HAGUE FOOD PANTRY

The Hague Food Pantry is currently undergoing revitalization to better serve the needs of the community. Under the leadership of Amanda Peterson, Assessor's Clerk for the Town of Hague and the new food pantry coordinator, efforts are being made to bring the pantry back into full operation.

Donations of non-perishable food items are being accepted to help restock the pantry, ensuring it remains a resource for residents in need.

The pantry is also open for individuals to take what they require, with the aim of providing consistent access to essential items.

To gather insights from the community, a survey has been set up in the lobby of the community center. Residents are encouraged to fill out the survey to help determine the most needed items for the pantry. ▣

ecosystem, reporting findings as they become available.

"We look forward to collaborating with the LGPC," said LGA Board Chair Dr. John Kelly. "We will continue our studies together with the LGPC, and work in partnership with the Commission to manage invasive species and promote a healthy, native environment in Lake George."

LGPC Chairman Ken Parker noted, "The Commission's actions are always guided by science, and we're excited to partner with the LGA and Jefferson Project to ensure that Lake George management is informed with the best available data."

You can read detailed results from the LGA/Jefferson Project studies [HERE](#). To learn more about the LGPC's ProcellaCOR treatment sampling results, click [HERE](#). For more information about the LGPC's overall invasive species management and prevention programs, click [HERE](#). ▣

## HVFD

by Donna Trudeau



The Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) logged 325 volunteer hours in August, covering both fire and EMS activities. This included four fire drills, totaling 60 hours.

There were 16 fire calls and EMS assistance, totaling 189 hours. EMS handled 20 calls, adding 136 combined paid and volunteer hours. We also supported the annual open water swim and no water incidents occurred.

When I spoke at the recent town board meeting, I reminded the community that while it usually only sees us responding to emergencies, we're always here.

Our doors are also open to new members, no experience needed. We offer opportunities in firefighting, driving, scene support, fundraising, and more. Visit us at 4 West Hague Road or call us at 518-543-6059 with any questions.

EMS is raising funds for a new Lifepak monitor, which is a life-saving defibrillator and vitals monitor. Our current one needs to be replaced soon, so please support our fundraising efforts.

Now that we are in autumn, remember to plan ahead and be prepared for power outages. The HVFD will be open during any outages. ▣

## THE CAVE - HAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOCAL POINT 2025

They say if you can remember the 60s, you weren't really there. But can the same be said of The Cave? The Hague Historical Society is looking for stories, photos, signage, barstools, a foosball table, a pool table, or any other memorabilia you might have.



(Continued on p. 3)



## SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, CONTINUED

publicly. In all areas of mutual involvement, we agreed to practice professional courtesy above and beyond just compliance requirements.

Hague remains committed to fostering open dialogue in the pursuit of good education and fair school tax policies. ▣

## THE CAVE — HAGUE HISTORICAL, CONTINUED

These will all be part of our special exhibit in 2025 focused on The Cave (and the other commercial establishments that came and went on that property). We'll also be putting together a presentation as well as some other fun activities to bring this iconic Hague bar back to life even for just one summer.

We hope to hear from all you fans, bartenders, barflies, barstoolsitters, drinkers, tee-totalers, and everyone else! Send your stories to [haguehistorical@gmail.com](mailto:haguehistorical@gmail.com). Or, join in The Cave conversation on our [Facebook](#) page. And if you have memorabilia to lend for our exhibit, please send us an email. We can't wait to see what comes out of the woodwork! ▣

## UPDATES AND RIBBON CUTTING AT PEGGY'S POINT

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) recently completed improvements at Peggy's Point in Hague, extending the existing path to the waterfront and making the entire route universally accessible. The upgrades also include erosion-resilient plantings along the stream and shorelines, along with new amenities designed for accessibility.

These enhancements now feature ADA-compliant picnic tables and gazebos, allowing all visitors to enjoy scenic views of Lake George. The path, which is five feet wide and made of compacted stone, includes a turnaround at the trail's end. Along the way, visitors can enjoy flowering plants that line the path and populate Mary Lou's Friendship Garden. There are also several rest stops with accessible picnic tables and gazebos.

On Friday, August 23, 2024, a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrated the official opening of the upgraded park. It is open for activities such as picnicking, dog-walking (leashed, with waste cleanup required), and fishing. Passive recreation is encouraged; swimming is not permitted.

Parking is available on Route 8 or at the Hague Town Park and sidewalks conveniently lead to the park entrance. The park is open year-round from dawn to dusk, offering visitors the opportunity to enjoy its tranquil atmosphere.

The park is on land donated by Peggy Darrin of Hague. ▣

*BOTTOM PHOTO: From left to right: Helen Barton Benedict (LGLC Donor Relations Manager), LeeAnn Modestino, Mary Lou Doulin, David Darrin, Hague Town Supervisor Joshua Patchett, David Oakley, Mike Horn (LGLC Executive Director), Assemblyman Matt Simpson, Jamie Brown (New York Program Manager for the Land Trust Alliance), and Monica Dore (LGLC Conservation Project Manager)*

*Photo courtesy of Matt Courtright.*



## JOE MCDOWELL FURTHER RETIRES

*by Jack Bast*

Hague recently announced the further retirement of Joe McDowell. Joe served as Chief Operator at the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) from



August 2015 until January 2021, when John Sheehan became licensed. He continued working until Eric Kramer was licensed in September 2023. Since then, Joe has supported operations as a consultant and has helped on weekends and during vacations.

In August 2024, Joe reduced his responsibilities further. While no longer regularly scheduled on weekends, Joe remains a consultant and is available for emergencies. His presence will be missed and the town appreciates his dedication.

Joe holds a 4A New York State license and brought valuable expertise from his role as chief operator for Washington County. In 2015, Hague was subcontracting operations to Cedarwood Engineering Services, LLC when Joe stepped in, saving the town money and providing training for John Sheehan.

Joe also implemented cost-saving measures, such as bringing in-house repairs previously subcontracted. He contributed to the asset management program and computerized maintenance schedules, helping the town maintain compliance with state regulations.

Hague thanks Joe for his years of service and dedication. ▣

## HAGUE CHRONICLE NEWS:

Please send all news items to Editor Bobbi Bryant Taylor at: [editor@thehaguechronicle.org](mailto:editor@thehaguechronicle.org).

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 8/22/2024

Present were Chairman Robert Goetsch, Linda Mury, Tina Barth-King, and Alane Vogel, alternate. Also present were ZEO Ed Kirchberger, Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello, Erik Sandblom of SRA Engineers, and Randy Engler. Lee Cunningham was present via ZOOM.

Absent were Chris Navitsky and Jon Hanna.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS:

#### 1. CUNNINGHAM (OXFORD COTTAGE) (76.20-1-32) 4 SILVER BAY ROAD

The applicants are requesting an after-the-fact variance for a small shed attached to the cottage to house the water system. (Water tank, hot water heater, and sediment and UV filters.)

##### Zoning Issue: 160-50 B, (b) Shoreline Setback.

The applicant, Cunningham, spoke in favor, summarizing a letter she had sent to the ZEO with copies to the board members, explaining the present status of the project and asking for the board's approval of the variance. Several people spoke against the project, voicing the following concerns: the project should not be considered as a stand-alone issue, but rather as part of all the issues concerning the property, including the new structure that is being built on the property; the lot is overbuilt now with three structures; approval of this variance would set a precedent for others who could ask for after-the-fact approvals; and that the applicants will be running a substantial rental business on the property.

#### 2. ENGLER (43.5-1-26) 9077 LAKESHORE DRIVE (HP) VAR 08-24, (SP) 04-24

Replacement of existing retail single story building with a new two-story mixed-use building with retail on the bottom and a residence above.

##### Zoning Issues: 160-20 A Front Yard Setback, 160-65 Continuation of Non-Conforming Structure, 25% increase

Engler, the property owner, gave a brief summary of the history of the property. He believes that after working closely with the town and submitting another set of plans, he has addressed the residents' and town's concerns as best he can.

Some residents/business owners spoke in favor of the project, citing the need for more viable businesses in town and the possibility that this would represent an improvement to the property and the town in general. Those speaking against the project cited concerns about: traffic safety where Overbrook Road meets 9N; blocked views for the neighbors above the project; inadequate parking; increased traffic on Overbrook Road; the effect of the project on nearby residents' property values; the property owner's failure to keep the property well-maintained over the years; snow removal; the property's location being in a flood zone; accidents that have already occurred involving people entering 9N from Overbrook Road; stormwater runoff; the fact that the old gas tanks were not removed over the years; the setbacks and percentage of lot coverage; the possible need for a retaining wall; and the need for a possible additional variance.

A motion to close the public hearings was made, seconded, and passed (4-0).

### REGULAR MEETING

#### OLD BUSINESS:

##### 1. CUNNINGHAM (OXFORD COTTAGE) (76.20-1-32) 4 SILVER BAY ROAD.

The applicants request an after-the-fact variance for a small shed attached to the cottage to house the water system. (Water tank, hot water heater and sediment and UV filters.)

##### Zoning Issue: 160-50 B, (b) Shoreline Setback.

Goetsch expressed no major concerns about approving the variance. Barth-King expressed concern that granting approval will result in making a currently non-conforming structure more non-conforming as it relates to shoreline setback. After further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to deny approval of the after-the-fact variance for this application.

Barth-King then reviewed the Zoning Board Criteria. The motion to deny the variance passed 3-1 (Goetsch).

##### 2. ENGLER (43.5-1-26) 9077 LAKESHORE DRIVE (HP) VAR 08-24, (SP) 04-24.

Replacement of existing retail single-story building with new two-story mixed-use building with retail on bottom and residence above.

##### Zoning Issues: 160-20 A Front Yard Setback, 160-65 Continuation of Non-Conforming Structure, 25% increase.

Concerns were expressed about: the location of the structure being at a critical intersection; the lot size being non-conforming; the percent of increase in living space being excessive; the fact that the percent of lot coverage has increased significantly, which could impact surface permeability on a steep slope; the possibility of the need for another variance for a higher retaining wall; the fact that the structure is in a flood zone and is possibly within 50 feet of a shoreline, the Hague Brook; and the hardship was self-created. A motion was made and seconded to deny the variance.

Barth-King then addressed the Zoning Board Criteria.

Vote to deny the variance passed 3-1 (Goetsch).

##### 3. HARRISON (26.17-2-42.121) 9110 LAKESHORE DRIVE (HP) VAR 11-24

Retaining wall over four feet high. Previously gained development after-the-fact, but still requires a variance due to height.

##### Zoning Issue: 160-52 B Wall over four feet erected.

The board had received a forwarded letter written by John Cheslik, PE, of Cheslik Consulting to Harrison that had been stamped confirming the wall was built to engineered specifications. Concerns were voiced about the vague wording in the letter and that the board had previously received a letter from the town engineer, saying the wall was not built to standard. Several concerns were raised.

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, CONTINUED

Finally, a motion was made, seconded, and passed 4-0 to table this project and ask for a more definitive response regarding the engineering evaluation.

### 4. SMITH (43.5-1-32) 9104 LAKESHORE DRIVE

The applicant wants to replace an existing lawful nonconforming single-family residence structure, which contains a conforming use.

#### **Zoning Issues: 160-50 B (b) Expansion within shoreline setback and 160-20 A, Expansion within front line setback 12.18-1-11**

Sandblom, representing the Smiths, presented updated project drawings. The project had been tabled at the previous ZBA meeting for more information. A site visit took place on 7-24-24 with Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals members, followed by a sketch plan review on 8-1-24, in which suggestions were made.

The Smiths, now retired, plan to live in Hague full-time and wish to convert the house into a four-season home. After considering revisions, they decided it would be best to replace the structure entirely. The property has stormwater concerns on the north side and the foundation shows signs of heaving, making this an opportunity to address both issues. The current structure extends into the shoreline, front yard, and side yard setbacks, but the new design will reduce these encroachments. Lot coverage will decrease from 27.5% to 26.3%, and stormwater will be managed with two rain gardens.

A motion passed 4-0 to deem the application complete, with a public hearing scheduled for next month's ZBA meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **CUNNINGHAM (OXFORD COTTAGES) 76.20-1-32 4 SILVER BAY ROAD**

The applicants are seeking to continue living in what is now an accessory structure (formerly a dwelling) until such time as their new home is completed. They then plan to remove the plumbing for the kitchen and shower per the Planning Board decision of 9-1-2022. They have also requested leaving a functioning toilet and sink in the accessory structure once other plumbing is removed, as it will then be used as a business center for guests and family.

#### **Zoning Issue: 160-10 A**

ZEO Kirchberger reported that he conditionally lifted the stop-work order on the excavation between the Cunningham and Klingler properties, contingent on a full resolution of the issue. A new violation and stop-work order were issued when construction began on the applicants' new structure, which left them dwelling in an accessory structure without approval. The Planning Board had requested that they remove the plumbing from the accessory structure, but this was not done. Although the board permitted the toilet and sink to remain temporarily, the applicants must seek a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals to retain them permanently for a "business center."

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to deem the application complete and schedule it for next month's agenda. Vogel and Barth-King may visit the site before the next meeting to familiarize themselves with the property.

*This article was written by the editor of The Hague Chronicle from draft minutes of the Zoning Board of Appeals.* ■

## PLANNING BOARD - 9/5/2024

Present were Chairman Pamela Peterson, Sandra Powell, Edna Frasier, Judy Gourley, and Meg Haskell. Also present were Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) Ed Kirchberger, Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello, and Erik Sandblom.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **Mitchell (60.17-1-17) 30-32 Oneida Drive (TR1-R) VAR 06-24, VAR 07-24**

The owners are requesting subdividing a 1.16-acre lot into two parcels. Lot #1 would be 0.66 acres with 63 feet of shoreline and Lot #2 would be 0.50 acres with 112 feet of shoreline. The necessary variances were approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

Mitchell, the property owner, explained that the subdivision would divide the lot between two homes that have existed since the 1930s. No opposition was voiced. The motion to close the public hearing passed 5-0.

### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### **Subdivision: Mitchell (60.17-1-17) 30-32 Oneida Drive (TR1-R) VAR 06-24, VAR 07-24**

Kirchberger confirmed the subdivision had received approval and that the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) had submitted recommendations. A short-form SEQR was completed and the APA has 30 days to respond. The subdivision was approved 5-0 as long as there is no further increase in floor space, per ZBA conditions.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Engler:** This application was withdrawn from the agenda.

**2. Smith (43.5-1-32) 9104 Lakeshore Drive** The applicant seeks to replace a nonconforming residence. Zoning issues involve shoreline and frontline setback expansions. Sandblom, (representing the Smiths) explained that the new structure will reduce nonconformities. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed 4-1 (Haskell) to make a positive recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Oxford Cottages (Cunningham) (76.20-1-32) 4 Silver Bay Road**

The applicants seek to remedy safety concerns caused by excavation. Kirchberger reported that an engineer has been consulted to address the steep slope between the new structure and a neighboring property. Revised plans were



## PLANNING BOARD, CONTINUED

submitted and the board agreed that a variance will be needed.

*This article was written by the editor of The Hague Chronicle from draft minutes of the Planning Board.* ■

### TOWN BOARD - 9/10/2024

Present were Supervisor Joshua Patchett and Board Members Martin Fitzgerald, Jack Bast, Maureen Cherubini, and Chris Richards. Also present were Highway Superintendent Chad Dunklee, ZOOM Coordinator Tim Fiallo, Tom Jarrett from RU Holmes, and 19 community members. Ten additional attendees joined via ZOOM.

A moment of silence was observed for Ruth Shelton and Lillian McKeown.

#### PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held for a wastewater variance for Sally Markert at 9685 Lakeshore Drive, Hague, Tax Map #12.14-18-24. The applicant is seeking a septic variance to replace a failing septic tank with a holding tank in accordance with Town Code 132-11 B and C.

Audience members asked about fail-safe measures for the holding tank and the challenges posed by the lot size. Jarrett responded to these inquiries. A motion was made, seconded, and carried (5-0) to approve the variance, contingent on meeting the conditions in Cedarwood Engineer's letter dated September 6, 2024.

#### WELCOME GUESTS / PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Several attendees asked when the documents that are required for short-term rentals would be made available. Patchett stated the zoning office was working on them and that any questions should be directed to that office.

#### REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Administrative: (Patchett)** The 2025 budget process is on time.

**Buildings and Grounds/Community Center/Enhancement: (Patchett)** The stone pillars at the community center and at the beach are being repaired by the highway department.

**Highway: (Dunklee)** The department is preparing trucks and equipment for winter.

**Planning/Zoning/Stormwater: (Cherubini)** A monthly report from the Zoning Department has been given to the board.

**Recreation, Promotion, and Youth: (Fitzgerald)** Silver Camp went well this year. The bill has been received and authorized for payment.

**Sewer Districts 1 & 2: (Bast)** Joe McDowell has retired. (See article on page 3.)

**Environmental Concerns: (Richards)** The knotweed treatment program has been completed and all affected areas were addressed.

**Technology and Communications: (Bast)** The transition from the town's digital domain (.org) to a .gov domain is progressing. This change reduces vulnerability to spam attacks. The HagueNY.gov domain was approved and registered in early September and the transition will proceed with assistance from Warren County IT.

The town will eventually need to upgrade to Microsoft Office 365, which will improve email communications. Whether this upgrade will be before or after budget season is under evaluation.

**School Advisory: (Bast)** See the article on page 1 for the content of his comments.

#### COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Amanda Peterson will conduct an anonymous community survey to gather input on the wants and needs of the Food Pantry. The survey will be distributed via MailChimp and will be available in the waiting area at the community center.

The tree next to the handicap ramp at the community center needs to be removed due to blight and the damage it's causing to the building. Todd Fish has volunteered to remove it. Once removed, a replacement tree or shrubs will be planted.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Bertha Dunsmore has resigned as the Food Pantry Coordinator. Patchett thanked her for her years of service and also thanked Edna Frasier for her support of the program. A motion was made, seconded, and carried (5-0) to appoint Amanda Peterson as the new Food Pantry Coordinator. (See article on page 2.)

A motion was made, seconded, and passed (4-1) (Richards abstained) to appoint a two-person oversight committee for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. Ed Kirchberger and Chris Richards will ensure that New York State training and other requirements are met.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried (5-0) to approve the purchase of a Western MVP 3, 9'6" Vee Blade Snowplow for \$10,626.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried (5-0) to approve the purchase of a Western Marauder P220C Poly Sander for \$12,828.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried (5-0) to coordinate with the Town of Ticonderoga, the Ticonderoga Central School District, and its governing bodies for all PILOT agreements associated with the Town of Hague.

The board spent time in executive session to discuss personnel matters.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried (5-0) to charge non-residents a \$20 fee to use the Hague Boat Launch after Columbus Day.

*This article was written by the editor of The Hague Chronicle from draft minutes of the Town Board.* ■

## SOUNDINGS

**DIED:** Robert J. Maiaro, 88, of Hague and formerly of Tuckahoe, NY, on September 4, 2024.

Born in Yonkers in 1935, he was the beloved husband of the late Kathleen Medlar, with whom he had six children: Kathy, Maryann, Michael (deceased), James, Michele, and Arlene.

After Kathleen's passing, Robert married Margaret Porter and found close friendship and love for many years.

Robert is survived by his: wife, Margaret; five children; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. ▣



## SPECIAL SATURDAY MUSEUM HOURS AND SPEEDBOAT RACING PRESENTATION

The Hague Historical Museum in the Hague Community Center will have special opening hours on Saturday, October 5, 2024 from 11 am – 2 pm for all those who have not been able to visit the museum during the normal weekday hours. The current exhibit is about stock utility outboard racing in Hague from 1954-64.



In addition, Ginger Henry Kuenzel will give a presentation that day at 10 am in the community center about speedboat racing in Hague. Her talk, which includes photos and videos, covers the inboard races from 1901-1929 and the mid-century outboard marathons. ▣

## EDUCATION AND TAX UPDATES

by Jack Bast

### New York State 30x30 Plan

Scientists worldwide emphasize the need to protect 30% of land and water by 2030 to address climate change and species conservation. In 2022, New York State passed amendments to the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) to further conservation efforts.

Hague's School Advisory Committee (SAC), in collaboration with the Town Attorney and Assessor, submitted comments on the 2024 NYS DEC 30x30 plan revisions.

While they all support land and water preservation, they stressed that any additional land acquisition in Hague or Ticonderoga must include compensation and tax considerations, as these lands would no longer contribute to the town's development and tax base.

Currently, 48% of Hague's land—24,507 acres out of 50,992—is already owned by the state, surpassing the 30% goal. The town's future economic viability depends on available land for development and tax revenue.

The SAC has been monitoring Rockefeller Institute hearings on the Foundation Aid Formula for public education. Dr. Linda Fusco, a long-time educator and Hague property owner, submitted comments based on her extensive experience. She emphasized the need for:

1. Separate Foundation Aid Formulas for rural, suburban, and city school districts.
2. Updates to the Regional Cost Index.
3. Removing Special Education from the foundation formula.
4. Increasing the percentage of reserves school districts can retain to 6%.

Dr. Fusco's thoughtful recommendations reflect her dedication to supporting rural schools like Hague. ▣

## BAY-BY-BAY GATHERINGS

This year, the Lake George Association (LGA) hosted nine Bay-by-Bay gatherings around Lake George, engaging over 340 people. The initiative, started in 2021, connects property owners, business owners, and boaters in their communities to address local threats to the lake. The goal is to educate and empower participants to support lake protection efforts by:

- Minimizing stormwater and wastewater impacts
- Preventing the spread of invasive species
- Reducing road salt use

Each gathering included a 50-minute educational cruise on the Floating Classroom featuring talks from Jefferson Project Senior Research Specialist Brian Mattes and Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky.

The LGA is planning next summer's Bay-by-Bay events. If you'd like the LGA to visit your bay or are interested in attending, contact Tyra MacGuffie at [tmacguffie@lakegeorgeassociation.org](mailto:tmacguffie@lakegeorgeassociation.org) or 518-920-3807. ▣



Brian Mattes

## SILVER BAY HAPPENINGS

The team at Silver Bay is working hard to ensure guests can create memories year-round. Here are some key dates to mark on the October 2024 calendar:

- Harvest Festival: October 4th – 6th
- Community Open House: October 5th
- “Pain” Hall Haunted House: October 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th
- Zombie Hike: October 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st

For details, go to [silverbay.org](https://silverbay.org). ▣

## LGLC AMY’S ADVENTURE RACE

The Lake George Land Conservancy’s (LGLC) 8th Annual Amy’s Adventure Race for the Lake will take place Saturday, October 5, 2024 at 9 am in Amy’s Park in Bolton.



A virtual option is also available, so athletes can run the race at Amy’s Park or from wherever they choose, as long as it’s 4.5 miles.

Participants have the option to create individual and team fundraisers, with the highest individual and team fundraiser each receiving a prize.

The LGLC is also seeking volunteers to help with the race at water stations, check-in, and other tasks.

For more information about the race and to register, click [HERE](#). ▣

## HAIKU

by dl mattila

orb weaver  
incoming calls  
set to vibrate

## NAVITSKY SPOKE AT GEORGIA CONFERENCE

Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky spoke at the Sea Grant Week Research Colloquium in Savannah, GA, on August 21, 2024. The organizers were impressed by Chris’ research on chloride in ground and surface waters and how it has influenced local policies and the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force, of which Chris is a member.

Chris’ talk was on the LGA’s NYS Dept of Transportation Pilot Study, which has led to improved road salt practices by the state agency. Click [HERE](#) to learn how businesses and residents can reduce road salt use. ▣

## LGLC NEWS

### STAFF AND BOARD CHANGES

Janice Reynen is the LGLC’s new events and fundraising coordinator.

A year-round resident of Silver Bay, Janice has extensive experience in communications, marketing, and design, and has a multi-generational connection to Lake George.



Giulia Casella, who has worked for the LGLC since 2022, has moved into the role of Operations and Finance Manager after the retirement of Cornelia Wells.

In August, the LGLC Board of Directors voted to elect Bobby Von Werne as vice president of development, and Patty Hasbrouck as secretary. In addition, Lake George resident Elizabeth Avery, and Silver Bay resident Elizabeth Guest, were each elected to the board, and Jiné Andreozzi was appointed to the advisory board.

### EVENTS IN OCTOBER 2024

#### Discovery Series: Changing Trees - October 12th at Thomas Mountain,

**9 am - 12 pm:** Join a naturalist on a hike up Thomas Mountain observing how the local trees are changing before winter and learn some Adirondack tree identification. For more information and to RSVP, click [HERE](#).



#### Annual Fall Foliage Hike - October 19th at Cat and Thomas Mountain,

**9 am - 3 pm:** John Crist is back to lead this annual seven-mile trek that starts from the Thomas Mountain trailhead on Valley Woods Road, climbs to Thomas Mountain, then crosses the ridgeline to Cat Mountain’s summit, and goes back down and out.

For more information and to RSVP, click [HERE](#). ▣



## CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP AT TI-ALLIANCE

As of August 30, 2024, Donna Wotton retired from her role as the executive director of Ti-Alliance after six-and-a-half years. Wotton made her decision to retire in March to focus on her family and her health, but stayed on to complete the Ticonderoga Community Early Learning Center project. The center is now finished and operating.



Kathleen Coffman and  
Donna Wotton

(Continued on p. 11)





*Moon rising on September 16, 2024. Courtesy of Sandy Powell*

## LOOKING BACK

by Shelly Gautreau and Nancy Young

Quote from the Lake George Mirror, August 2, 1974: "The tornado moved into the Silver Bay Association from the west across Route 9N going through the center and out onto Lake George. The storm apparently did not touch down at any other point in Northern Warren County but several trees were down on Route 8 in the Town of Horicon and other trees were blown over by high winds at Rogers Rock Campsite further north on Lake George."

August 7, 1974 –  
Hague Historical  
Society  
account–Tornado  
Hits Silver Bay

A violent windstorm, classified as a tornado by the Weather Bureau, struck the campus of the Silver Bay Association on Monday, July 29, [1974] at 8:15 P.M. More than 100 trees were torn down or uprooted, many of them being century old pines. The campus was plunged into darkness as power was cut off by the falling trees.

Miraculously, only two persons were injured, a girl suffered a fractured arm and another girl received lacerations of the hand from flying glass. Property damage was limited to four buildings including the inn, which had part of its roof knocked down. A station wagon parked along a cottage was demolished and a smaller car sustained minor damage.

The Hague Fire Department responded and gave

immediate assistance and by 2 A.M., all persons on the campus had been accounted for. The Hague Highway Department was also on the scene removing fallen trees and other debris from the highway.

The following day, the Highway Department was back at work and scores of children were assisting the clean-up crews. A number of men were taken off a logging operation at Bolton Landing and brought to the scene...and to remove trees.

When the tornado hit, approximately 500 persons were attending the New York Year Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. There were also about 200 employees of the Association on the premises.

In appreciation for their help, the Association entertained the Hague firemen several nights later at a dinner in the Association dining rooms. In addition, a check in the amount of \$800 was turned over to the Fire Department, about \$600 of which, were receipts from the production of *Guys and Dolls* on August 15.

UPDATE: Today, the Inn at Silver Bay Association is as grand as ever.

Anyone interested in this historical happening (or any other historical or up-to-date information) should either visit SBA or contact SBA Historical Archivist Carol Kanis, who aided us in writing this article.

For more information, call 518-543-8833 or go to [silverbay.org](http://silverbay.org).



TOP AND MIDDLE ROW: tornado aftermath; BOTTOM ROW: The inn October 2024.



## CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP AT TI-ALLIANCE, CONTINUED

Wotton expressed her gratitude to the Ti-Alliance board, staff, and supporters for their dedication to the organization's growth and impact. She reflected on her time as executive director as bittersweet, noting the friendships formed and the lasting programs created.

Kathleen Coffman will step into the role of executive director. Coffman has worked as Ti-Alliance's financial manager for the past two years and is recognized for her organizational skills and familiarity with the organization's programs and partners.

Coffman holds an MBA from Rider University and brings experience in financial management, construction, and entrepreneurship consulting. The board is confident that she will continue Ti-Alliance's legacy and expand its community impact.

Although retiring, Wotton plans to remain active in the community. She will continue serving on the Champlain Valley Education Services Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Board and the Ticonderoga Board of Education, while staying involved with Ti-Alliance as needed. ▣

## TI ARTS GALLERY: UPCOMING EXHIBITS/CLASSES

The Ti Arts Gallery juried show "Sense of Place" will remain open until October 19, 2024. The gallery will host a new exhibit called "Out of the Woods" from October 24th – November 16th. The opening reception for that show will be held on Friday, October 25th from 5 – 7 pm. "Out of the Woods" is an open entry show, which

means that anyone can enter a piece of art. Detailed information is available by clicking [HERE](#).



October classes will include multimedia journaling, mask making, art critique, a four-session drawing class, holiday needle felting, and a Splash and Dash class. For more information and to sign up, go to [ticonderogaarts.org](http://ticonderogaarts.org).

The gallery is located at 119 Montcalm Street in Ticonderoga and is open Thursday through Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm.

*Programming at Ti Arts is made possible by the NYS Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the NYS Legislature.* ▣

**SUPPORTING THE HAGUE CHRONICLE:** You can make a tax-deductible donation to *The Hague Chronicle* any time [HERE](#). Our all-volunteer staff thanks you for the encouragement and the support you provide! We couldn't do it without you!

**THE HAGUE CHRONICLE** is a monthly news journal, which has been published by volunteers since January 1972. Current board members are Taylor, Quinn, McDonough, Schaffer, (see below) and Paul Budd.

Please send all news items and Soundings to [editor@thehaguechronicle.org](mailto:editor@thehaguechronicle.org) by the 20th of the preceding month. Please send any comments to [publisher@thehaguechronicle.org](mailto:publisher@thehaguechronicle.org).

**Publisher/Editor:** Bobbi Bryant Taylor  
**Layout Editor:** Chris Quinn  
**Secretary:** Pat McDonough

**Treasurer:** Charlene Schaffer  
**Staff:** Claire Best and Tina Barth King

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE FORT

Fort Ticonderoga will host its annual Heritage, Harvest, and Horse Festival on October 5, 2024, offering a day of autumn fun in the King's Garden. The event will showcase live demonstrations on the historical role of horses and other working animals, along with family-friendly activities.



Visitors can meet farm animals, explore a farmers market featuring local food and crafts, and enjoy the six-acre Heroic Corn Maze. The King's Garden will also have harvest vegetables and plants available for purchase.

In addition to the festival, guests can experience Fort Ticonderoga's regular programming, including the Carillon Boat Tour on Lake Champlain.

Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Defiance are open for visitation from 9:30 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Sunday, until October 27th. Tickets, which include the boat tour and other programs, can be purchased at [www.fortticonderoga.org](http://www.fortticonderoga.org) or at the admissions booth. General admission tickets are valid for two consecutive days. ▣

## MASON/STAR PUBLIC DINNER

A public roast turkey breast dinner, sponsored jointly by the members of Mount Defiance Lodge No. 794, F. & A.M. and Fort Ticonderoga Chapter No. 263, Order of the Eastern Star, will be served on Monday, October 28, 2024, from 4:30 until 6 pm at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga (across from the Stone House). Take-outs will be available. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 years old and under and will be sold at the door. Parking for this event will be available along Montcalm Street and at the Hancock House parking lot. ▣



THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

PO Box 748  
Hague, New York 12836-0748



ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

CALENDAR

October 2024

OCTOBER

1		October issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> is published	12	9 am – 12 pm	LGLC Hike at Thomas Mountain
3	7 pm	Zombie Hike at Silver Bay	14		COLUMBUS DAY/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY
3	7 pm	Planning Board Meeting	17	7 pm	Zombie Hike at Silver Bay
4	8 – 10 pm	"Pain" Hall Haunted House, Silver Bay	18	8 – 10 pm	"Pain" Hall Haunted House, Silver Bay
4 – 6		Silver Bay Harvest Festival	19	9 am – 3 pm	LGLC Hike at Cat and Thomas Mountains
5		Silver Bay Community Open House	20	6 pm	Deadline for the November issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i>
		Ft. Ti Heritage, Harvest, and Horse Festival	24 – November 16th		Ti Arts "Out of the Woods" show
5	9 am	Amy's Adventure Race for the Lake	24	7 pm	Zombie Hike at Silver Bay
5	10 am	Ginger Henry Kuenzel's presentation about speedboats	24	7 pm	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
5	11 am – 2 pm	Hague Historical Museum open	25	8 – 10 pm	"Pain" Hall Haunted House, Silver Bay
8	6 pm	Town Board Meeting	28	4:30 – 6 pm	Mason/Star Dinner
10	7 pm	Zombie Hike at Silver Bay	31		HALLOWEEN
11	8 – 10 pm	"Pain" Hall Haunted House, Silver Bay	31	7 pm	Zombie Hike at Silver Bay

TRANSFER STATION HOURS: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm