

YMCA Camp Construction - Chapter #46A

At an April 2000 SLA meeting it was noted that the YMCA Camp received a stop work order from the Town of Castile zoning office on the construction there because it did not apply for a permit or submit a site plan. They would have to follow proper steps to continue, however, observers said it was still ongoing.

Ruth read a letter she received about the YMCA camp not obtaining proper building permits for the new building and pool which was resulting in erosion issues. It was said that the Water & Executive Committees were handling the issue. Mary Kay Barton, head of the County Planning Board recommended contacting the DEC. She suggested construction of a soil retaining wall at the waterfront. Rich Eliaz submitted photos of the erosion into the lake. The DEC & the Army Corps of Engineers were both involved.

The SLA had conversations and e-mails from two (2) individuals Greg Watson and Wess Audsley of the YMCA Camp. The board made them aware of the unhappiness by many Lakers with the amount of runoff to the lake with each heavy rainstorm. Wess offered to come and speak to the SLA at the October meeting. Dick Swanson questioned what Wess Audsley would speak about at the October meeting. Dick would like to see a committee prepare questions ahead of time for Wess, so he would be fully aware of what he needed to address. Bill Soules stated that the run off from the YMCA Camp was no different than what has been running into the lake from the tributaries for years. Rich Eliaz and Dick Swanson responded that this run off was newly created in this instance.

On Sept. 12, 2008, the DEC fined the contractor of the YMCA building \$1000 for not adequately controlling the run-off from construction. Possibly, the YMCA could be given an administrative fine of \$37,000. Rich Eliaz commented that if it were a private landowner, the fine would have been immediate.

At the August, 2008 Wyoming County Planning Board meeting, the YMCA camp submitted plans for construction of an in-ground swimming pool. The pool had already been installed. Chairman Smith stated that traditionally for several years the YMCA camp had ignored following the law concerning permit application. In the pool application, there were no site plans for the pool and adjoining buildings. The WCPB disapproved the application.

Wess Audsley discussed the YMCA Camp (which started in 1911) with the SLA board. Camp Hough was the least expensive in the Northeast and was committed to making the camp affordable for kids. Handouts of the phases of long-term plans were distributed to the SLA (Improve, Enhance, and Expand). He noted that the facilities were open to the public for meetings, training, and parties. The YMCA Camp wanted to be a "good neighbor". They followed all the guidelines they were given for the construction of new building & pool.

Sue Griffin stated that it was written in the Perry Herald (November 2007) that there was a legal announcement that there would be a hearing concerning an application from YMCA Camp to construct a lake-front building. She voiced her concern that those of us who were not permanent residents do not get the Herald in time to attend the meetings in Castile. She would like to see better communication from the town to all lake residents on a timely, monthly schedule as to what was going to be discussed at the meetings so that the seasonal residents may attend or write letters to the boards in advance. Sally Genco suggested that it might be a good idea to have a secondary newspaper of record voted on at the January organizational meeting to add to the Perry Herald. Many seasonal residents are from the Buffalo and Rochester area.

Wess said they repaired the sediment fence, planted new grass, and completed the drainage ditch ("French drain"). Dick Swanson asked if the YMCA planned to remove the sediment that had already gone into the lake. Wess said he was not aware it was such a problem. Judy Baumer wanted to know if anyone from the camp met with the DEC. Mr. Ward from the DEC met with Lissa Brown, Camp Hough Director at the camp. The DEC did not instruct her to make any changes. Lissa continued that the Water & Soil Conservation group was out to the camp 3 times; no one told

her any changes were needed to what they were doing. Wess said the camp fulfilled their requirements of the engineering & plantings. They met with the DEC and the Wyoming County Water & Soil Conservation District's Greg McKurth in the fall of 2006. There was no need for the DEC's approval prior to the construction. The camp was told that unless they impacted the water quality of the lake, the DEC had no jurisdiction. The DEC came again after complaints of runoff. Wess added that a boardwalk & a rock wall were constructed, landscape fabric and plantings would be added to help soil retention and the silt fence would be fixed.

At a Watershed Commission meeting, the Camp Hough waterfront problem was discussed, and Chairman Stan Klein stated that since there was a Castile Town Board member (him), and Castile Planning Board member (Rich Elias) on the Watershed Commission board, and was aware of the issue, that they would be working to institute changes to make sure similar problems don't happen down the road.

A meeting held at the YMCA Camp Hough October 20, 2008, as per Wess Audsley's invitation. Wess Audsley, Eric Fix, and Tim Hens the YMCA's new President of their Board of Directors who was also the head of the Genesee County Highway Department attended this very positive meeting. They went to great lengths to explain what they have done thus far to take care of their runoff and drainage problems. The SLA was thrilled to know that they were working to mitigate runoff problems on their 12 acre parcel as further development continued there. However, an immediate concern was seeing the lakefront addressed before winter set in to make sure that the other half of the loose soil from the excavation of their waterfront building did not end up in the lake when the spring rains came. Wess promised it would be addressed, starting with their Board of Directors meeting (10/21/08), and further contact with Greg McKurth at Wyoming County Soil & Water.

Wess and Tim were sent a follow-up letter after the SLA meeting regarding the possible solutions for addressing their waterfront, and it elaborated further on a couple things the SLA had touched on. Both men replied that they were in contact with Wyoming County Soil & Water and had a plan in the works.

Wess Audsley was contacted by the SLA 11/07/08, to get updated information of the progress to date toward shoring up Camp Hough's waterfront before winter set in. Wess noted that Greg McKurth was in the process of finalizing plans for the Camp's waterfront (which Tim Hens indicated it would include the use of rip-rap), and that a contractor was scheduled to do the work. Wess also reiterated what Joe Gozelski had already said; Greg McKurth at Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District was working to secure grant money to take care of fixing Camp Hough's waterfront.