

**Land Information Committee**

**October 26, 2015**

**Minutes**

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sauve at 6:30 p.m. in the Niagara Town Hall.

Members present:        Ted Sauve                    Gilbert Engel                Mary Noll  
                                      Robert Holley

Members  
Absent/Excused:        Alice Baumgarten        Clancy Whiting                Fred Meintz

Others present:        John Lefebvre, Director  
                                      Mark DeClark, Niagara Town Board  
                                      Lisa Comp  
                                      Todd Comp  
                                      John Marchewka  
                                      Miles Winkler, WDNR Dam Safety  
                                      Roland Phillips  
                                      Bruce LaLiberte  
                                      Arnie Haavisto  
                                      Dan Schroeder  
                                      Dick Payette, Niagara Town Board

2. AGENDA  
Motion (Holley/Engel) to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried. No negative votes.
3. TOWN OF NIAGARA ZONING AMENDMENTS  
Motion (Engel/Holley) to recommend to the County Board approval of the Town of Niagara Zoning Code amendments to Section 1X, B1. Business District, Section C. 1. incorporating wood grinding/chipping as light industry and banquet halls as retail. Motion carried, no negative votes.
4. PUBLIC HEARING ON CREATION OF LAKE SHANNON DISTRICT  
Motion (Holley/Engel) to open the hearing. Motion carried. No negative votes. (Hearing was opened at 6:35 p.m.)

John Marchewka stated that the creation of the district would allow the property owners within the District to make a bad situation right. The developer of the lots around the lake walked away from the ownership, maintenance and operation of the dam. The riparian property owners through the creation of a lake district would be in the position to acquire the dam from the County and maintain and operate the dam in accordance with state rules and regulations in a manner that will benefit all property owners within the district. Removal of the dam would be devastating to the property values around the lake and the recreational value the lake currently affords. The dam is currently unauthorized (not permitted) by the WDNR. The process involved with authorizing the dam would consist of a study to determine the extent of the floodplain if the dam were to fail thus keeping any future development downstream from developing within this floodplain unknowingly.

Lisa Comp it is essential for the Lake District to be formed to provide the necessary financial assurance associated with ownership and operation of the dam. The Lake District structure will allow all riparian land owners an equal say in the maintenance and operation of the dam. In addition the formation of the Lake District will allow the riparian land owners

to promote ecologically friendly practices that promote sustainability of the natural resources.

Bruce LaLiberte asked what if any affect the creation of the Lake District will have on the Town specifically the enforcement of Town Ordinances. Mr. LaLiberte was informed that all who live within the district will remain obligated to comply with all Town ordinances. In addition the Town will be required to appoint one member of the Town Board to be one of five members on the Lake district Board of Commissioners.

Miles Winkler, Dam Safety Engineer for the WDNR updated those in attendance on the status of the dam and what needs to be accomplished for the WDNR to authorize the dam.

Roland Phillips stated that he was on the Town Board when the lots were created and he was not in favor of providing public access to the Shannon Lake. He believes the riparian landowners should be responsible for the dam and what takes place with the lake.

Motion (Holley/Noll) to close the hearing. Motion carried. No negative votes. (Hearing was closed at 6:58 p.m.)

5. ADJOURN

Motion (Engel/Holley) to adjourn. Motion carried. No negative votes. (Meeting adjourned at 7 pm)

Minutes Prepared by:

  
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John Lefebvre  
Land Information Director

Amended on 11/16/2015