



Little York Lake Preservation Society Fall Meeting minutes September 13, 2025

Meeting called to order 11:05 AM
by Gary Lawrence at Preble Town Park Pavilion

Board Attendees:

President	Gary Lawrence	Treasurer: Marie Ferro
Vice President	Robyn Fisher (absent)	Secretary: Julie Palermo
Past President:	Paul Stepien	
Directors:	Jarrett Regard, Bridget Cox, Don Fisher (absent)	

Minutes from June Annual Meeting Review: Julie Palermo

Andy Young made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2025 June Annual Meeting, Paul Norris 2nd motion. Motion carried.

Elections

None.

Treasurer Report: Marie Ferro

Financials were reviewed for 2025 to date. Current balance is \$14,611.92. Our financials are running pretty much as expected with no unusual expenses.

- \$10,200 for harvester expenses still need to be paid. This is not including dockside harvesting.
- \$7,714 in treatment expenses, a portion of which will be reimbursed from the tax district
- \$976 in treatment income which was from the dockside/shoreside harvesting program. This will eventually be paid to SWCD to pay for the harvester services
- Over the next month or so we will settle up with SWCD and the tax district
- A final accounting for the tax district will be released later this year

While we have ample funds for now, we need to start working to raise money from the community for ongoing efforts. With changes in the tax law, everyone will be able to deduct charitable donations beginning next year even if they don't itemize. This should make donating more appealing going forward.

Discussion about our tax rate % was brought up with Gary Lawrence. The advisory board for the tax district has suggested raising the tax rate from .94 to .99 which will increase our yearly funds from 18k to 18.5k.

Paul Gutches made a motion to accept the report and Dick Albro 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Treatments were done on 6/30/2025, which was the last day allowed given the DEC permits. This was later than planned and the delay was due to needing Wetland Permit approval which is a new requirement from the DEC and the state was backed up with approvals. We believe had we been able to treat earlier our results would have been better.



- Lake Harvesting by SWCD was started later than we would have liked. This was due to late arrival of the new harvester, the need to train employees, and needing to do after treatments were completed. Next year we plan to begin in early June which should provide better results.
- Dockside harvesting was done for all homeowners who requested it. The pilot allowed for harvesting by homeowner with a flat fee of \$100. Most homeowners were happy with the results, however, we all agree we need to work with homeowners to make the program more equitable based on the area required by each homeowner.
- CSLAP testing was conducted monthly this summer.
- Buoys on the lake are for the sediment study started earlier this year in coordination with SWCD. The main areas where the buoys are located is to measure sediment build up off of the channel from Goodale Lake along I81 and the creek coming into the lake from Green Lake. Discussion as to why there isn't a buoy down by the pipe into the lake from run off from Mount Toppin by the Vilardi property was brought up. Gary Lawrence agreed to follow up with SWCD to understand why that location was not considered as well.
- Homer Billboards are back burnered by the Town of Homer while the board works with a committee on a comprehensive plan for the town. This means no progress for at least 3 years. There are 2 board member elections this fall and new candidates are running who are against the billboards. Please consider voting to ensure these individuals are successful in their bids if you are against billboards in the town.

New Business

- 2026 Harvesting and Treatment plans.
 - o Harvesting plans for next year should begin in early June 2026. The board will discuss whether it makes sense to begin harvesting at the south end of the lake first and work up the channel and to the main lake. Homeowners in the channel believe this would allow for less build up of weeds at the end of the channel.
 - o Treatments next year will likely need to be more extensive given the build up of milfoil in particular. This could be more costly than we have funding in the tax district.
 - o The board is looking for 3 volunteers, to do rake harvesting of weeds with identification of the weeds to help us better understand new weed growth as input to the treatment plan. Paul Stepien and Marie Ferro volunteered for their areas on the lake. The need is to collect and take pictures. Gary Lawrence can find the right people to identify the weeds.
 - o Dockside harvesting will be done next year but to ensure it's more equitable based on the lake frontage of property owners the cost will be based on a fee per ½ hour. SWCD is currently anticipating a \$100 fee per ½ hour.
- Dredging



- o There was a lot of discussion about the cost of dredging and the need for dredging of the lake. While everyone understands that this is a cost that is way beyond the lake association's ability to achieve, the following was suggested:
 - Could the board spend some time better understanding the process if funding was achieved.
 - George Griffith suggested that he believes there are possible funding sources. He agreed to meet with Paul Stepien and Paul Gutchess to talk through ideas that he has. He also has ideas on how to better show the public the beauty of the lake and the challenges of the various areas on the lake.
 - There was discussion about whether there is a benefit to hiring a professional grant writer which could cost 10-20k as that might be more likely to make progress on outside funding.
 - There was discussion about 20-25 years ago and the effort to use NYS pork money to fund dredging which at that time would have cost several million dollars. Now with pork money dried up, we're looking at upwards of 20 million dollars to achieve dredging. This is funding that can't be raised by the lake association.
- New rail line: Amy Bertini sent a letter to the rail company where a parallel line was built to park rail cars and they did agree to consider building a barrier to hide the rail cars in the future. While we agree this would be nice to hide the view of the rail cars, the community is also concerned that if this were built on the east side of I81 it would likely increase the highway noise which no one wants.
- Lake draw down will begin on October 1st. There's a permit approved by DEC for 5 years that dictates this date. It was suggested that we ask the DEC whether this date can be moved to after Columbus weekend (mid October) as it used to be. Gary Lawrence will follow up and if they cannot move the date, the board will work with the county and DEC to see if the next 5 year permit can be moved out.
- Discussion regarding upcoming elections both in the Town of Homer and Town of Preble were brought up. All are encouraged to vote this fall to get some new individuals in our local town board leadership.

Dick Albro made a motion to adjourn at 11:55 am. Motion carried.