

**SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
March 13, 2026**

The fifth meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lakewood, N.Y., was held, Friday,
March 13th, 2026, 4 PM

Present:	Ben J. Troché	Deputy Mayor/Trustee
	Ellen E. Barnes	Trustee
	John L. Shedd	Trustee
	Scott A. Cooper	Trustee

Also Present:	Apryl Troutman	Village Clerk/Treasurer
	Shaunah Pilling	Deputy Clerk
	Kimberly Fairbanks	Deputy Treasurer

Absent:	Randall G. Holcomb	Mayor
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*Deputy Mayor Troché began the meeting with a moment of silence for missing Village resident,
Daniel Emerson.*

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Holcomb could not attend this meeting, but Deputy Troché spoke on his behalf stating that if the Mayor was here his vote would be aye for the proposed resolution.

The Board of Trustees tabled the CLP's submission of an application for Article 15 permit(s) for application of herbicides to areas of Chautauqua Lake bordering the Village of Lakewood on Monday, March 16th, 2026. This special meeting was requested by Trustee Barnes for the Village of Lakewood to be apart of the CLP's permit application before submission and for the Board to speak directly to Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC via Zoom.

Deputy Mayor Troché thanked the Village Office personnel for the quick turnaround getting this meeting put together. He also thanked Trustee Barnes for all the effort she put into organizing this meeting.

Trustee Barnes introduced Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC via Zoom, who has been doing the permitting here on Chautauqua Lake for many years. He has 33 years in Lake Management, a certified lake manager, has his bachelor's degree in science from environment studies from Rutgers, a 20-year Board member and past President of the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society and President of NYS Aquatic Managers Association. Mr. Sullivan has agreed to attend to answer any questions the Board may have and explain the general information regarding the permit.

Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC spoke via Zoom. Mr. Sullivan wanted to explain some of the changes they have made this year versus in years past on the permitting side. They are now required by the DEC to have wetlands permits, which is actually not a big change

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year to year but a big change from the last five to ten years. The big difference between wetland permits from pesticide permits is that they have more flexibility to their regulations. Wetland permits are often harder to get, but are typically longer permits most being up to five years. Pesticide permits are well documented and easy to follow because of all the regulations. There are three major changes this year.

First, is that the Towns and Villages aren't the permittee this year, it is the CLP making them a riparian owner. So instead of the CLP just organizing the permits and Ready Scout, LLC facilitating them through the Village. The CLP is now the permittee. The DEC requested this resolution to approve the submission of the application.

Secondly, their team has created "Navigation Zones." These zones are marinas, hotels, main channels where they recognize a need for more broad-spectrum control of plants, as opposed to what has been done for the last ten years, which is controlling most invasive species. They found last year especially, that controlling both native and invasive plant species is important to maintain use of the lake, good navigation channels, and allow the function of businesses. This is apart of one of four permits being submitted this year. The permits are for the control of Curly Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Milfoil, and Starry Stonewort, which is an aggressive, invasive algae. These navigation zones would be using copper-based herbicides, which are broader spectrum and not as long lasting.

Lastly, the biggest change is that they are casting a wider net on the front side of the permitting front. Historically, what they have done is taken the previous fall survey, and worked out treatment areas based on those survey results, and then submitted them for approval. Once they were approved, they would do a preliminary survey immediately before treatment, which essentially confirms that the target plant is there and treatment could begin. In previous years, their team was targeting a specific plant and it was just outside the permitted treatment area, so they were not actually able to treat there. This year the potential treatment areas are much larger and they will be surveying much earlier. They will survey first then the permit would be approved based off of the results of that survey. The survey will be done by Mr. Sullivan and the DEC, which is scheduled for March 31st of this year. These are the three biggest changes this year.

Mr. Sullivan also wanted to address the comments about the presence of Eurasian Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed in the south basin not being there. Using results of the fall survey conducted by North Carolina State University there are roughly 2350 acres, which shows that the south basin does support it.

Trustee Barnes asked about the Geographical Boundaries/Limitations when the surveys are done and permits are approved, would this type of permit help us more if the plant growth is not found in the surveyed area.

Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC stated that the DEC is allowing them to do a permit for two treatments early on unlike in years past. This way they can go back to an area that didn't have a problem in the Spring, but maybe towards the end of Summer it has gotten bad, they will be able to treat that area.

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Trustee Cooper asked when the application takes place how does wind direction impact how they treat.

Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC informed the Board that wind really does not affect their process as it takes place under the water's surface.

Trustee Shedd asked Mr. Sullivan to describe the impacts of the Copper herbicide products.

Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC said that Copper is a broad-spectrum herbicide or algaecide. This product burns the green part of the vegetation but does not affect the root systems. There won't be any kind of extended control, but if they can control the plants enough boats will be able to navigate easier. Copper, in general, is a necessary element for people, many of our bodily functions require copper. From a fish perspective trout are especially sensitive, other species are Koi and Goldfish, but they will not be encountering them. Most warm water species like bass, perch, muskie, are not affected by copper treatment. There is an impact on zooplankton, because its affecting phytoplankton as well. Copper sulfate is the most commonly used copper algaecide. It is not only used widely in potable water treatment throughout the state and the country, but it actually has a permit exemption in the state of New York, so residents don't even need a permit to treat potable water with copper in the state of New York. There are two copper products he is permitting for one is called Captain XTR, which is an algaecide and the other is Komeen Descend which is herbicide. What they are trying to do is find two starry stonewort sites that aren't being managed by mechanical or manual means, and use each of these two products in one of the sites and see which ones is providing the better control.

Trustee Barnes asked about the toxicity of the copper.

Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC stated copper is relatively heavy in the water column, meaning that it won't stay in or float around the water for any length of time, within hours it will settle down in the sediment. Copper is natural in the sediment. He imagines that if they were to treat ten times a year, for ten years, the copper residual might increase above a threshold that we don't want to reach. But about ten years ago, the DEC got interested in copper in the sediment and had them do some very elaborate testing of copper in the sediment to see if it was creating a toxicity down there. After about two seasons of some extensive testing, they just canceled the program because they weren't finding that. Mr. Sullivan does not see it as a concern for Lake users at all.

Trustee Shedd said his question may sound a bit radical but to him it would indicate the safety of these copper products. While understanding you put this product into certain quantities based on the amount of water you are trying to treat. He asked if you were to put this product in a glass of water in the right proportion, would Mr. Sullivan drink it.

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Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC said he would drink it. He would not have a problem drinking copper at one part per million because it is significantly below any other threshold.

Trustee Shedd asked what zones the copper products would be used in.

Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, if found they hope to treat Starry Stonewort with the two trial products. Primarily, the Komeen Descent would be used in the navigation channels in areas that are access points like marinas, hotels, and two large channels that facilitate boat movement. He believes it is important to have a path for boats to move in and out without getting stuck in the plants.

Trustee Barnes asked if the copper-based products become inert once they reach the bottom.

Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC said once the copper reaches the sediment it doesn't not rerelease or anything. Copper is prevalent in the soil, so there should not be any difference.

Mike LaTone, member of the Chautauqua Lake Partnership, back in December, Certified Lake Manager and Aquatic Ecologist, AJ Reyes, begin working on the navigation zones in commercial areas with the DEC. That is when he contacted Glenn Sullivan so they can all work together. By working together, they are finding the best items and areas to work on.

Trustee Barnes asked if by doing just one permit if this is making it easier for those involved.

Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC said yes, it is easier for both him and the DEC.

Jackie Damore, Chautauqua Lake Partnership's Director, commented on the suggestion to expand the CLA's capacity to keep the navigation zones open with the harvesters. Last year, everyone was aware of the valiant efforts and the big improvements that the CLA made, but in spite of that it just was not enough given the plant volume in the water. This is why navigation and commercial zones are in need of treatments.

Trustee Shedd assumed that in early Spring, the plants haven't gotten too big, but what happens to the dead weeds. Where do they go, specifically?

Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC stated that they decompose at the bottom. The biomass accumulation from decaying plants is less in a season if you're able to control it and control it early, and they do target very early. One of the reasons we've been treating the curly weed in late April the last two seasons is because if treated before the water temperatures hit 60 degrees or about that, it prevents it from forming reproductive structures, therefore decreasing the amount of growth the following year.

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Trustee Shedd asked when plants die off, are they contributing to the nutrient load in the lake that could lead to algae.

Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC said that they don't, they needed those nutrients to grow in the first place. It's almost a return of the cycle nutrients, provided to the plant to grow. The plant dies, the nutrients are back where they were at the beginning.

ANYONE TO BE HEARD

John Jablonski, 213 Spruce Street, is both a property owner in the Village of Lakewood and Town of Ellery, he asked how they justify treating the Eurasian Milfoil if according to the maps from North Carolina State University there was very little dense milfoil.

He also stated that the overall abundance and density of milfoil has decreased considerably in the northern basin over the last decade, but that doesn't seem to be the case in the southern basin. In other lakes Eurasian Milfoil has decreased naturally.

Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC, this year they are identifying where there might be nuisance growth of plants and after the survey, they will determine whether or not there's enough there to treat. Eurasian watermilfoil rarely decreases on its own in abundance.

Jane Conroe, Chair of the Chautauqua-Conewango Consortium, stated the 20-year progression of Eurasian water milfoil has been a reduction, except in the southern basin especially in the last two years. She wants to know why here and not in the north basin. She also asked Mr. Sullivan to once again explain the nutrient cycle because to her understanding when a plant grows, they suck up the nutrients, those nutrients don't disappear, they stay in the plant. As the plant dies, the nutrients stay in the living roots to help the plant grow. Then next spring, nutrients are released to the new column of water because the plant is decaying. She asked for a clearer answer to indicate that the nutrient cycle is not affected by the herbicides.

Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC, stated that there is a cycle, and that is the plants absorb the nutrients, they take them from the lake itself. When they die, those nutrients return to the lake. It's not an accumulation of nutrients, it's a cycle of nutrients.

Ruth Wahl, a member of the Winchester Dock Association & member of the Alliances Lake Management Committee, for over ten years herbicides have been used to treat Eurasian Milfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed without making any difference. They are just pouring money into these treatments.

Trustee Barnes asked what happens in the space after a spot treatment has been done, do these plants come back.

Glenn Sullivan, President of Ready Scout, LLC, if there is medium sized site that has been affected by Eurasian Milfoil for 10 years, it's going to be difficult for native plants to repopulate

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that area. If there is a smaller site and can control the Eurasian Milfoil, the lakes native plants are going to come right back. If Eurasian Milfoil hasn't been there that long and the native plants are only somewhat suppressed once the Eurasian Milfoil is eradicated, the native plants are going to do extremely well.

Patrick Walker, 137 Front Street, said life is better with herbicides. After living on the lake since 1975, he truly believes herbicide treatments have to be done. Harvesting is not the answer as it makes a mess for the lakefront owners.

RESOLUTION #25-2026 – to approve the CLP’s submission of an application for Article 15 permit(s) for application of herbicides to areas of Chautauqua Lake bordering the Village of Lakewood as follows:

WHEREAS, the Chautauqua Lake Partnership is considering whether to undertake the application of herbicides to areas of Chautauqua Lake bordering the Village of Lakewood’s jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 15 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and Part 327 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation must issue a permit prior to the application of herbicides to waters within the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Lakewood is a riparian owner;

Now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lakewood does hereby approve the Chautauqua Lake Partnership’s submission of an application for Article 15 permit(s) and a New York State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (if so required) related to the application of herbicides to areas of Chautauqua Lake bordering the Village of Lakewood.

Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Cooper to approve the approve the CLP’s submission of an application for Article 15 permit(s) for application of herbicides to areas of Chautauqua Lake bordering the Village of Lakewood.

Deputy Mayor Troché asked Clerk/Treasurer Troutman to pull the Board.

- Trustee Copper: Aye
- Deputy Mayor/Trustee Troché: Aye
- Trustee Barnes: Aye
- Trustee Shedd: Nay

MOTION WAS CARRIED

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Trustee Shedd stated he appreciates this application and the fact that it is a targeted approach that is more responsible than what has been done previously. In most cases, he does believe the navigation lanes need control, his concern is that herbicide treatments have been going on for quite a long time with not many results. He is also concerned with the ecology of the lake and the potential health implications. He believes that there's a negative impact on the lake when the weeds are killed and exposes the surface of the lake. Another opportunity can be created for an internal load of nutrients to come into the water column and feed the algae, which, in his opinion, is the biggest problem on the lake. Trustee Shedd is a boater, on the lake all the time, so he does understand the situation. He wanted to represent the people of the community who do not want herbicides. The fact that the community is spending a lot of money on it and not seeing a long-term impact. He would like to focus that money toward long term solutions to this problem, including watershed management, which prevents nutrients from going into the lake, as well as some pilot projects that can try to solve the problems that are creating the nuisance weeds and algae. That is why he voted no.

Trustee Troché wants it to be known that the Village Board takes this topic very seriously and that is why this was tabled at the last meeting. They all did extensive research before voting. He also wanted to thank the public for attending the last couple meetings and voicing their concerns.

Trustee Barnes would like it to be known that the Army Corps will just go in and kill all the plants in Southern lakes similar to Chautauqua Lake, then they plant a lower weed plant. She does believe herbicides have a place and would like to see more treatment areas to see the impact. She thanked everyone for attending.

REGULAR MEETING (Adjournment)

Motion by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Shedd and unanimously carried to adjourn the Special Board of Trustees meeting at 5:01 PM.

Adopted: 4 ayes, no nays (Barnes, Cooper, Shedd, Troché)

Shaunah Pilling

Deputy Clerk