

BLIND SODUS BAY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 100
FAIRHAVEN, NEW YORK 13064
<http://www.bsbia.org/>

April 30, 2010

Dear Fellow Blind Sodus Bay Improvement Association Members and Constituents,

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you, as a member or prospective member of our Association of activities related to Blind Sodus Bay. If you are not a member of the Blind Sodus Bay Improvement Association, please send in your \$75 dues to help pay for an open channel to the lake during the boating season. We are sure that you will see the value that the Association offers and want to stay in the loop for future meetings and notification of newsworthy updates.

Blind Sodus Bay Improvement Association is a Not For Profit Organization whose membership is made up from the Home and Cottage Owners, Seasonal renters and Seasonal Campground Residents who rent boat slips on the beautiful shores of Blind Sodus Bay in the Northeastern most corner in Wayne County and Northwestern Cayuga County. Our annual dues are \$75 per year for residents and boat slip renters. Through the monies in dues that are collected and the fundraisers that we host throughout the season, we use the proceeds to dredge our channel to Lake Ontario and provide ingress and egress between the first week of June and Labor Day. An open channel provides for our Bay to remain at the same level as the Lake and caution is always recommended when using the channel as it is known to fill in with stones between our scheduled dredging. Our primary objective of the BSBIA is to keep a clear and open channel to Lake Ontario for safe ingress and egress. At our last meeting it was decided to open the channel this year during the week of June 6th to the 11th, hoping to have the channel ready for the weekend of the 12th, using Dates Construction. This was decided to avoid the late May winds and storms that close it in, or partially close it back up a majority of the time. This ends up costing us to reopen the channel later in the summer again for a second and usually third dig. A planned second dig will occur if and when needed, later in the season. This action was voted on and approved at our last meeting. At the current time, our bank account is at ~\$10,000, enough to cover the cost of the first significant dig this year. We will also have some onetime costs this year, such as reinstating the 501c3 status as there is additional information that will be needed to do this. This has not been done in years. We also hope that you enjoy our website: www.bsbia.org. **Our spring meeting this year will be on June 5thth, at 10 am Shady Shores.**

In addition to the regular meeting topics at the spring meeting, we will be inviting a few people to speak at the meeting and update us on the status of activities related to the Bay. Those topics of interest to all will be in the beginning of the meeting. Those of interest to the bay residents and tax payers will be later on in the agenda. We want to briefly address some of those topics now, to get your thoughts together

before the meeting. If you are not able to come to the June 5th meeting, but as a paid member, you would like to formally register your opinion on a specific topic, please feel free to write to the Board and your letter will be read and opinion noted and registered at the meeting.

Meeting Agenda and Information to be reviewed

Election of Officers

- a. Tom Agnello, President
- b. Hal Bernardi, Vice president
- c. Donna Siegfried, Treasurer
- d. Diane Banks, Secretary

Channel Update – Chris Lee, Channel Master

Sewer Update.

There was a survey completed that has evaluated the opinions of residents regarding the implementation of sewers for our Bay. Following this newsletter, there is a letter from the Town of Wolcott, Kim Park, Supervisor, providing an update on the sewer survey and the next activities. We will have her and the Wayne County Water and Sewer representative there again at the meeting to answer any questions. Depending on the availability of grants and long term loans, we can probably replicate the costs and timing of the Fairhaven system at a target of \$ 750 per year beginning in 2012, again depending on the level of offsetting government funding available. This is one half of the costs estimated at last years meeting.

As you can see from the agenda, while in the past we have focused our efforts on an open channel, it has become clear to us that there should be additional areas that as an official Association, we can discuss and agree on a direction to take with our government officials. Water quality, water levels from Lake Ontario, weed harvesting and access through dredging or a permanent bay channel and tourism in general can all be focus areas, with a common voice to our elected officials. With this kind of focus, we can expand the mission statement of BSBIA and our activities through potential public grants and fund monies available for these expanded "water initiatives". A focus on a seasonal open channel, without regard to weeds, water quality, water levels and source contaminates, is short sighted.

We wish you an enjoyable spring and summer on the Bay and the Lake and look forward to seeing or hearing from you at the June 5th meeting. Please forward your \$75 dues today to support our organization.

If you wish to have this newsletter emailed to you in the future, please include your email address on your check.

Our activities will have a direct impact on your taxes and fees, enhanced services that you receive from our Federal, State, County and Town government and ultimately the value of your property and enjoyment of the open clean waters.

Regards,

Tom Agnello
BSBIA President
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Letter from Kim Park

Town of Wolcott Supervisor

I am sure many of you have questions regarding the pending public sewer project for Blind Sodus Bay (BSB). Let me answer as many questions as I can and give you a little background on the project. As many of you may remember last summer a survey was sent around asking for comments regarding BSB property owner's opinions on topics such as water and sewer. Once these surveys were returned they were reviewed by the Town Board. Factoring in all of the information regarding funding opportunities, water quality and public comment the Town Board felt it was the correct course of action to move ahead with the project.

To date, a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the project has been completed, including an estimated overall capital cost and the projected annual costs to BSB property owners. Upon other pre-eligibility requirements being completed the PER will be sent to USDA Rural Development as part of a preliminary application for funding. Conversations have already taken place with this funding source and have given us a general idea of what funding scenario we might hope to expect. We are working in cooperation with the Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority (WCWSA) and Cayuga County Water and Sewer (CCWSA) to implement a project that utilizes common infrastructure and shares resources in a cost effective manner. To that end, CCWSA will be constructing a pumping station and force main for its own sewer project in the near future and these facilities will be sized to accommodate the BSB area as well. The estimated capital cost for the BSB sewer system incorporates a 400,000 dollar capital contribution to CCWSA for an equitable share of the cost of these facilities. The total project is approximately 2.3 million dollars which includes the 400,000 dollar capital contribution to CCWSA. The PER proposes a one million dollar Rural Development grant coupled with a 1.3 million dollar Rural Development loan to finance the project. With these figures it is estimated that the annual cost per house (including capital debt service and sewer use) will be approximately 713 dollars per year per house.

The preliminary layout of the project includes small diameter, low pressure sewers and 136 grinder pumps, one for each residence, which will be owned by the sewer district and maintained by the WCWSA. The grinder pump will be installed as part of the contract (if you choose to hook up to the system immediately) but will need to be hooked up to the homeowner's electric and plumbing services at a "one-time" cost to the homeowner estimated by our engineers to be in the range of 1,000 to 2,000 dollars, depending on your plumber or electrician and the circumstances at your home. Another "one-time" cost will be to abandon your current septic system and fill the septic tank with gravel at an estimated cost of between 500-1,000 dollars, again depending on your own circumstances. It will be most cost effective to hook up immediately at the time of project completion and not wait. This is because if you hook up later you will still pay the same one-time costs outlined above, plus the additional cost of approximately 1,000 dollars to install the grinder pump and inspect the installation. If you hook up immediately, the installation of the grinder pump and inspection are part of the project cost.

Based on our preliminary funding application, after Rural Development comes back to us with firmer numbers and a pre-eligibility determination, an information meeting will take place this summer to answer more questions regarding the project. Assuming solid public support for the project at that time, the Town will establish a formal sewer district to implement the project. Construction would be anticipated in the mid summer of 2011 with initial hook-ups in the fall of 2011. Next summer is when you would receive official hook-up information.

I must make one last comment on this project. When we first started looking at this project the projected cost per year for capital debt and sewer service was almost 1,500 dollars per household. Because of the large grant portion we hope to be eligible for, largely due to the available stimulus finding, the estimated cost per residence is now half that amount at 700 hundred dollars per year plus. That having been said, I must also caution that these numbers are based solely on our funding request to Rural Development, and may not reflect the funding scenario that Rural Development actually offers. We will present the funding scenario that Rural Development actually offers at the information meeting this summer.

The project is certainly needed to clean up our embayment and I believe we will never have a more attractive grant package potentially available. Therefore there is no better time to embark upon this project and clean up our bay.

If you have any further question you may email me at wolcottsupervisor@rochester.rr.com

Sincerely,

Kim Park

Wolcott Town Supervisor