



TOWN OF LONG LAKE
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Clay A's Hometown Down

"All the news going down in town."

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GENERAL BUSINESS

I wanted to reach out with a summary of the damage from the July 10-11, 2023 storm event, flooding, and resulting damage. I also want to detail what we have been able to accomplish to date to repair some of that damage, and the challenges we have ahead of us.

JULY 10-11, 2023, STORM AND FLOODING

During the night of July 10th, into July 11th, there was a storm that released between 5-10" of rain on different sections of Town, other parts of NY, and Vermont. In Long Lake, this resulted in beaver ponds being overwhelmed uphill from Shaw Pond. As these beaver ponds broke it created a cascade of water down the hill, eventually overpowering the last beaver dam that impounded Shaw Pond. This head of water then destroyed the culvert and road to the Town's water reservoirs and filter plant. Once this culvert was gone, the debris and water overwhelmed every culvert downstream all the way into Jennings Pond. Route 28N was heavily damaged, and multiple property owners suffered damage to their properties along this route. Once the head of water reached the pond, it overflowed the embankments. This overrun caused extensive washout at the Town Beach, flooded the Adirondack Hotel, and caused substantial damage to private property on the lake side of Rt. 30. Eventually, the embankment adjacent to the spillway dam failed, and Jennings Park Pond drained into Long Lake proper.

Overall, this storm was overwhelming to both natural and manmade structures in the area. We are fortunate to have had only property damage, and that no one was hurt. Our hearts go out to the property owners who suffered damage and lost homes during this storm.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Raquette Lake Water District. The Raquette Lake Water Pump House suffered a lightning strike, which has been repaired by the Long Lake Water Department.

Long Lake Water District. As detailed above, our water system was hit hard – but it never failed! The reservoirs, filter plant, their access road, and multiple lines were affected by this storm. Hamilton County has been a huge help in rebuilding temporary access to the filter plant and Little Sandy Reservoir. We are working with engineers to create a plan for the permanent fix which will span Shaw Brook at that point.

There were multiple spots where the water main was exposed by washout and the crew has been covering these as they get to them. They have also been working closely with Slate Hill (the State's road construction contractor) along Rt. 28N to replace, repair, or otherwise improve water service hookups to the properties along that section. Some of these were damaged, and for others, it was the perfect time with the road being dug to work on them before they became problematic.

The damage to this section of the water system brought to light the need for a way to isolate it, so the Water Department had a new isolation valve installed across from Bruce Jennings to allow Keith Austin, Long Lake Water Superintendent, to be able to isolate this section when necessary.

Bissell Pit Pump House was also hit by lightning, and we are waiting for a new flow meter to complete repairs. The delivery of this flow meter has been delayed by the same supply chain issues that have affected other equipment.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Other Town areas that suffered washout damage were Tarbell and Jim Bird Roads, Stanton Hill Road, the parking lot at the bottom of Mt. Sabattis along South Hill Road, Owls Head Lane, Emerson Road, and some sections of Sagamore Road in Raquette Lake.

NYS Highways Rt. 30 and Rt. 28N suffered incredible amounts of damage. There were road washouts, culvert overruns and damage, and the destruction of the Fishing Brook Bridge. Hamilton County's North Point Road had multiple washouts and bridges overrun.

The Highway Department repaired many of the damaged roads, culverts, and ditches that were damaged within a few days of the storm. Their hard work was extraordinary, and they did a great job.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The C7B snowmobile trail connecting Long Lake and Newcomb suffered several wash outs and damage from the storm resulting in the need to replace 5 culverts, replace bridge decking on two bridges and fix two large wash outs. A complete inventory of damage has been submitted to the DEC for review. The Parks and Rec Department has garnered permission to access the Upper Hudson Easement from F&W Forestry and awaits final permission from the NYS DEC. We plan on sending the Parks and Rec crew to start repairing the Long Lake damage before hunting season. Myself and the other 5 Towns Supervisors met with NYS DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos and his staff on August 11th, in Ray Brook. We expect DEC to work hand in hand with the Towns and property owners to repair and reopen this important travel route. This is essential to our winter economy, and to public safety as this is the main access to many isolated camps in the area.

JENNINGS PARK POND AND SPILLWAYS

The pictures of catastrophic damage suffered by our Jennings Park Pond spillways and the resulting draining of our Town Park Pond have, at this point, become ubiquitous on TV and newspaper stories portraying the effects of this storm event. The repair of the spillway(s) will be an ongoing project for the foreseeable future. Ownership issues, permitting, engineering, and the opportunity to improve resiliency, safety, and aesthetics will take time. This will be complicated, and not nearly as simple as it was to originally build it in 1934. We have had multiple meetings with Town Engineers, the Town Attorney, and State Agencies on this matter.

SUPERVISOR THOUGHTS

This newsletter would be far too long to mail if I were to detail all the support offered by our local fire departments, surrounding Towns, Hamilton County, NY State, the Federal Government, and many private individuals during this time. Myself, the Town Board, and my staff have spent many hours meeting with these agencies and are hopeful that the outcome of all of this will be better than we could have imagined when we first began to survey the damage on July 11th.

During the initial assessment and start of road reconstruction, there were many community members stranded on the east side of Long Lake. During those two days, neighbors checked on their neighbors. Town Staff that were stuck on the East Side were able to assist with communications and opened the Transfer Station. Updates were delivered via email, website, and phone calls as road construction and transfer station announcements were made each day. Thank you to Highway, Parks and Rec, and Transfer Station crews for changing their hours as well as providing garbage drop off at Mt. Sabattis to mitigate traffic during the road reconstruction to reopen regular access to the East Side.

I thank everyone in Long Lake and Raquette Lake for their support for the Town and its employees during all of this. I especially want to thank everyone who has given so kindly to assist those in need, as these property owners have had devastating losses. We are only just beginning down the road to recovery, and I know Long Lakers will continue to come together with love and support for each other as we not only recover but improve our beautiful Town.

Be well,

Clay J Arsenault
Town of Long Lake, Town Supervisor

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