



Skaneateles Lake Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 862 • Skaneateles, NY 13152

September 22, 2019

Mr. John Clancy
Supervising Forester
NYSDEC Region 7
1285 Fisher Avenue
Cortland, NY 13045

Re: Carpenter Falls Public Access Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Clancy:

The Skaneateles Lake Association (SLA) submits this letter to communicate our concern regarding the Carpenter Falls Public Access Improvement Project as it relates to our not-for-profit's mission in advocating for the protection and promotion of Skaneateles Lake through best management practices in watershed stewardship and sustainability.

SLA is, first and foremost, interested in the reduction of limiting nutrients, such as phosphorus, from entering into Skaneateles Lake. It is our expectation that the NYSDEC will take the necessary measures to ensure this project goes beyond maintaining the current levels of nutrient loading by making nutrient reduction improvements based on best management practices (BMPs). With the recent increase in reports of Harmful Algal Blooms occurring on Skaneateles Lake, it is even more critical that nutrient reduction practices are sustained as the highest priority for the NYSDEC in any of its activities in the Skaneateles Lake watershed.

Firstly, SLA requests that the NYSDEC collects and analyzes water samples from both water sources entering the project site and those exiting the project site before, during, and after construction to help ensure the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce nutrient loading as a result of the project and as a monitoring mechanism during construction. With successful implementation of nutrient reduction BMPs, it will be an opportunity for NYSDEC to show the community its support in further protecting the water quality of Skaneateles Lake through its leadership.

Secondly, SLA commends the NYSDEC for incorporating a rain garden as part of the parking lot design and stormwater management component. Please find below additional recommendations that SLA would like to see as part of the design as well:

1. Sufficient landscape and planting designs to improve root structure in areas surrounding the boardwalk, stone stairway, beneath and around the observation platform, and in the area downslope from the parking lot between the rain garden and the “tree clearing limit”.
2. Water bars/breaks along stone stairway to reduce potential of stairs becoming a concentrated runoff route. Our assumption is that the Adirondack Mountain Club as a consultant has offered similar solutions, but we wanted to ensure its consideration.
3. Reduction of nutrient loading via right sizing of culverts and instituting nutrient reduction BMPs for roadside ditching across the road from the proposed parking lot and other project site areas. Also, please consider the potential for a retention pond just prior to the culverts that can be periodically dredged as they accumulate sediment after runoff and rain events.
4. Installation of interpretive and regulatory signage as well as an adequate increase in patrolling and enforcement to better ensure visitors stay on the designated walk areas and don't contribute to erosion, plant destruction, and additional nutrient loading.

SLA appreciates the NYSDEC's consideration of these expectations that take a leading step in protecting the lake's ecological integrity, water quality, and quality of life for the community.

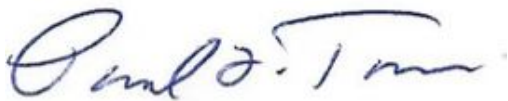
We look forward to a response regarding our requests.

Sincerely,

For the Board of Directors, , Skaneateles Lake Association, Inc.



Frank Moses
Executive Director



Paul Torrisi
President

Cc: SLA Board of Directors (listed below); City of Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh; Niles Town Supervisor Joan Jayne; NYS Assemblyman Gary Finch; NYS Senator James L. Seward; Cayuga County Legislator Charlie Ripley; Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District Executive Director Doug Kierst; NYSDEC Staff

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