



Looking north to the Dean Islands

Long Point Board Update - April, 2020

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President's Message

What a strange and troubling time we are living in. Looking over past spring newsletters, I see a recurring, if unsurprising, theme of hope and expectation, looking forward to another season at the Point. Reassurance that the water will be turned on May 1st, a calendar of community celebrations -- the Independence Day picnic, the ice cream social, the regatta -- opportunities for community service like clean-up day and committee membership. A reintroduction to the privilege, pleasures and responsibilities of owning a camp on Long Point.

Not surprisingly, this year's newsletter is different. You'll still see information about the water system and the calendar of events. But in the wake of the governor's emergency order aimed at controlling spread of the coronavirus, <https://governor.vermont.gov/covid19response>, you'll also see pieces on the virus and its impact on Long Point. And there's an article on the board's plan to address the coming infestation of emerald ash borers which, by all accounts, ultimately will kill all but a few of Vermont's ash trees. Quite literally, plague and pestilence.

Barring developments after publication, Long Point will open for the season May 1, but if you'll be coming from out of state it may be best to wait until at least May 15, and possibly later, before coming to Long Point. Otherwise, as explained in Bunky's piece on COVID-19 measures, you'll have to spend the first two weeks inside your camp.

Please take a few minutes and review the information in this newsletter. I look forward, eventually, to another season on Long Point, to spending time outdoors, to seeing old friends and hosting family, to enjoying as much of what we love about the place as possible, within the limits of official guidance. Each of us must make our own calculation of the risks involved in coming to Long Point, as we must with nearly everything, we do these days. This season will be different, but I hope much that we love here will be the same.

– Gary Gray, Long Point Board President

Covid 19 and Long Point Update

A version of this article was sent to you by email April 12. If you've already had the opportunity to review that email, we encourage you nevertheless to pay special attention to the paragraphs below addressing the use of unpaved Long Point roads and the Long Point playground, which are new or have been revised.

The Covid situation is evolving quickly, and what is recommended today may change tomorrow. The board will keep abreast of the situation as it evolves and issue updates via email to all shareholders when changes occur. Questions may be directed to me at the contact information printed at the bottom of this article.

As campers prepare to return to the Point, Vermont Governor Phil Scott, has just announced an extension of his State of Emergency Declaration until May 15. This has three parts of interest to us on Long Point.

The Stay Home Stay Safe order remains in place. Restaurants and public gathering places remain closed, and everyone is advised to make only essential trips to the grocery or pharmacy. Social distancing recommendations continue. All are asked to remain six feet apart and avoid social gatherings. Frequent hand washing with soap and water and liberal use of hand sanitizer

remains an important way to avoid contact with the virus. People may walk or bike for exercise, keeping appropriate distance from others. The Vermont Health Department asks everyone to wear a cloth mask whenever they are outside and to avoid touching their face.

Those who have outside contractors open their camps should consider leaving at least five days between when the contractor leaves and the camper arrives. Coronavirus remains active in the open air on surfaces for only a limited period of time and allowing this empty time will diminish the risk of contagion. Disinfecting or washing with soap and water smooth surfaces as countertops and doorknobs is a wise measure, especially if you arrive within the five-day period.

The quarantine order for travelers from out of state also remains in effect. That means if you come to the Point from outside Vermont, you are required to remain at home for two weeks to make sure you are not carrying the coronavirus. During that time, one may not travel out of the home, even to obtain groceries or medications. And those in quarantine should avoid walking and other outdoor activities during this time. Receiving out of state visitors resets this two-week clock, of course.

The quarantine order means that if you travel here, you should bring groceries with you. There is a shopping service, Instacart, that you can download on your smartphone or visit on your computer ([instacart.com](https://www.instacart.com)). Using this application, you can have someone do your shopping at Shaws and deliver the goods to your doorstep. The process seems to take at least 2-3 days, so plan ahead. Drivers are paid in part by tips, so it may be that offering a generous tip may shorten the wait.



Finally, **the Governor's order banning short term rentals** in Vermont continues. At the moment he is permitting advanced reservations from June 15 onward. That ban applies to cottages on the Point, and everything is subject to change. I am waiting to hear from the Governor's office how he defines short vs. long term rentals, but early information is that long term refers to apartments that are rented for more than a year. Cottages that are rented for the entire season might be considered long term, but I would make sure of that before proceeding.

We are all aware that among our neighbors are people over 70 years old and those with chronic health conditions that place them at high risk for complications should they become infected with Covid-19. Whether by age or infirmity, I believe that well over 50% of us fall into this category, and this makes the Long Point community unique. As a preventive health measure, the Long Point Board has posted signs asking all people to use only the paved road for exercising and avoid walking the unpaved lanes on the Point, leaving these for access to local camps only. These signs will remain up until the risk of Covid spread has diminished. Hopefully, for those who enjoy walking for exercise on the gravel lanes, this will be soon.

Since the signs have been posted, a few shareholders objected that such restrictions were too onerous. The board's recommendation to restrict use of Long Point roads reflects its best judgment of how to balance the needs of all shareholders. At this time, the board asks

shareholders and their guests who wish to walk on Long Point's unpaved roads for more than camp access to wear a face mask. We rely on everyone, out of concern for the most vulnerable among us, to remind anyone walking on the gravel roads unmasked to wear a cloth mask.

The playground is another area where Coronavirus spread is impossible to control, and most municipalities have closed their playgrounds. It is not possible to sterilize playground equipment, and the virus may spread among children and then to their families from contact in the playground. Please avoid using the playground while social distancing restrictions are in place.

The good news is that the strong measures taken by our Governor and health officials seem to be having a good effect. Vermont has one of the highest per capita testing rates of any state in the country, and still a fairly low level of infection. To date, there have been 768 cases in Vermont and 35 deaths. Life seems quieter here without the hubbub on the roads, and it is nice to look up and see clear sky without vapor trails. Long Point remains a refuge and a nice place to be.

There are, however, many area workers severely impacted by these restrictions and unable to work. The United Way of Addison County is coordinating relief efforts through Addison County Responds and welcomes donations: <https://unitedwayaddisoncounty.org/covid-19-response>

Reliable sources of information for the Covid-19 epidemic in Vermont are Vermont Health Department: www.healthvermont.gov In particular, the guidelines for quarantine and social distancing are displayed in a [chart here](#). The text of and updates to Governor Scott's order may be found [here](#). The Governor's website is <http://governor.vermont.gov>. The Vermont Hotline (dial 211) has staff to field all questions related to the coronavirus.

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Annual Assessments are in the Mail

Although our new fiscal year begins each year on May 1, April sees the first official order of business: The mailing of the invoices for the annual assessments. The assessments are made up of three parts: the lot lease fee (\$120 per full lot and \$60 for a half lot), the water assessment for those who use the community water system (\$280), and the annual dues (\$360). Those shareholders with a single lot who use the water system will see an annual assessment of \$760. Payment is due by the end of May.

The assessments are based on the budget passed at the annual shareholder meeting last August. Revenue from the assessments is used to maintain the roads and public facilities on Long Point, pay the taxes, insurance, legal and accounting expenses, support the office and salary of the secretary, and maintain the water system. The success of our community depends on these assessments. If you do not receive an invoice in the mail in May, please get in touch with Nikki (email at longpointcorp@gmavt.net or phone at 802-545-2067) so that she may update our mailing list.

This year's economic turmoil associated with the coronavirus epidemic may present financial

challenges to some of our shareholders. If you expect difficulties paying your fees on time, please contact Nikki to work out a payment plan. Thank you for your prompt attention to your invoice and for helping to get the new season off on a sound financial footing.

– *Bunky Bernstein, Long Point Treasurer*



Positions Open on Long Point Board of Directors

Bunky Bernstein will be leaving the Board this August after two three-year terms. Pete Ross's board position will also be open. He has served the final year of a three-year term left open after a resignation last year. Pete has expressed a willingness to continue to serve if nominated.

The Nominating Committee has begun reaching out to prospective candidates. On the committee this year are Larry Colvin, Nancy Zahniser and Mike Wood. The committee will be looking for candidates with a strong commitment to the Long Point community, an interest in the stewardship of Long Point, time to devote to the work of the Long Point Corporation, and a willingness to share in that work. An ability to work well with members of the Board, the Long Point Community and others is also important. Professional skills, such as business experience or an interest in dealing with issues involving Long Point's lands may also be helpful but are not necessary. The Nominating Committee will recommend two candidates to the Board to fill the upcoming vacancies. The Board will consider the candidates recommended by the Committee and, if qualified, the Board will approve the recommendation for a vote of the shareholders at the Annual Meeting in August. At the Annual Meeting additional candidates may be nominated from the floor before voting by the shareholders. If you are interested in serving the Long Point community on the Board of Directors and believe you have the qualifications, or know of such a person, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee or the Board.

– *Gary Gray*

Water System

The Long Point water system is scheduled to go online for the 2020 season on schedule. The system will open on May 1 and close October 31. As you know, ours is a seasonal water system and can only be operational for six months.

The State of Vermont has instructed this year that all water systems, no matter the size, be chlorinated. This does not affect our system because we have always been chlorinated. The State has assured us that the Covid-19 virus does not live or survive in water. The presence of chlorine is just insurance that the water is perfectly safe from anything. Our water sample testing schedule meets the State requirements overall and, at system startup, exceeds what the State requires. If you find any leaks or other system problems, please call Dick Preston at 802-373-403.

– *Larry Colvin, Water Committee chair*

Lake Weed Management

Greetings Long Point community. I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy during this challenging time. The possibility of seeing some of you at Long Point this summer is very comforting!

I have been asked to write a short piece about managing lake weeds according to state guidelines. As you may know, the board decided not to move forward with plans for a weed harvester this year after polling the shareholders and learning that a majority of the respondents did not favor action at this time.

The extent of this summer's weeds is hard to predict. If it continues to be fairly dry this spring, the water level will be low. This will increase the likelihood of significant weed growth due to more light reaching the underwater vegetation earlier in the season (longer growing time) and a shorter distance to the surface.

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has published a document entitled [Controlling Nuisance, Native Aquatic Plants and Algae](#). In it, you will find a comprehensive review of what is permissible in weed control. According to DEC, permits are required "for those activities in State waters that have a potential impact on water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic and shoreline vegetation, etc." By following DEC regulations, you can support them in their efforts to protect water quality and fish habitat.

Here is a very brief summary:

- The only weed control methods that do not require a state permit are hand pulling and raking.
- All other control methods require a permit: powered mechanical devices, biological or structural controls, chemicals, benthic barriers (plastic, etc.), sand, and dredging.

You will find links within the document to address your specific questions, as well as steps you can take to help reduce the flow of weed-feeding nutrients into the lake.

Thank you for reviewing the guidelines. If you have questions or concerns, you may contact the DEC regional office in Rutland at (802) 786-0040.

With warm wishes for your continued safety and hopes for an opportunity to see you at the lake.
– *Linda Patterson*

Update on Mandatory Food Scraps Recycling in Vermont

Food scraps the parts of food typically discarded such as shells, pits, coffee grounds or uneaten plate food – even though every ice cream bribe was attempted – are to be banned from trash beginning July 1, 2020. You may consider:

- Composting – Composting is very easy and a great way to boost the soil in your (or maybe your neighbor's) flower bed. *Please consult with your neighbor before adding your compost.*
- Waste Management Company – If composting isn't your thing, your trash collection service will have food scrap totes for you to use.
- Vergennes Trash and Recycling center – According to the Addison County Solid Waste Management district website, the Vergennes location will have food scrap collection available for all of our Haul-It-Yourselfers.

Want more info? The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation has a very informative website at: [Food Scraps | Department of Environmental Conservation](#)

Addison County Solid Waste Management District also has some handy information at: [Act 148: Vermont's Universal Recycling Law](#)

Note: As of April 13, 2020, Vermont Legislators have not yet determined if the food scraps in the trash ban deadline will be advanced to January 1, 2021 in light of COVID-19. Please check with the DEC Vermont website, your trash collection service or the good folks at the Vergennes Collection Center for updates.

– Mary Lou Ivey, Long Point Board Vice President

Emerald Ash Borer Update

The emerald ash borer, an invasive forest insect, has been killing ash trees in 32 states and three Canadian provinces. EAB larvae overwinter under the bark of ash trees, where they feed on inner bark tissue. Within three to five years an infested ash will weaken and die, eventually becoming so compromised that arborists will not climb them and instead must use bucket trucks to take them down. We are advised by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation that, if untreated, 99 percent of infested ash succumb. [Link to VT FPR info](#) Trees may be saved by injection of pesticide every two to three years for the foreseeable future. The state recommends that the pesticide be applied by a licensed professional.

In the spring of 2019, the EAB was discovered in Bristol, Vermont. [Link to VT EAB map](#) Although the EAB move only one to two miles a year unaided, they have spread much faster largely because of the transportation of infested firewood, moving from Michigan, where they were originally detected in the United States in 2002, to Vermont in 18 years. Towns around Vermont, including Charlotte, Burlington and Montpelier, have already begun cutting down ash. The reason for beginning that process early is to get out ahead of the problem, spread out the cost of tree removal, minimize incurring the higher cost of cutting when competition may drive up the price of those services, harvest uninfested wood, and open up the infested area to other species to maintain ecological diversity and restore the canopy.

With the exception of the town's right-of-way along Bay Road and Long Point Road, the Long Point Corporation, as a private property owner, is responsible for managing its own woods and

trees. The LPC board is preparing a plan for addressing the coming infestation of ash at Long Point. Pete Ross and a team of volunteers have conducted a rough inventory of ash trees. The committee identified and tagged more than 350 trees, 5 inches in diameter or larger, on corporation land leased to shareholders, and on unleased land along Long Point roads and near the tennis court, the playground and park, the boatyard, the community garden, and other areas where falling trees could endanger people and property. Because of that risk, the trees will have to be removed or treated. Removal would take place in phases over several years, depending on the final number of trees and the overall cost of removal. Other ash trees on shareholder lots and unleased Long Point woodlands will be left alone. Although we expect the great majority of the remaining trees to die, because of their location they do not pose a significant threat to people or property. In addition, the few trees that survive may provide EAB-resistant genetic stock from which the ash population eventually may regenerate.

Before taking down any trees on or near a shareholder's lot, the board will notify the shareholder and ask whether the shareholder would prefer to save the tree by agreeing to treat it on a prescribed schedule. The current cost of treatment is between \$12 and \$15 a diameter inch every two to three years. Trees preliminarily identified for eventual removal are tagged with a water-based paint.

More information about how Long Point will deal with the EAB will be released this summer before the annual meeting. Meanwhile, the process of inventorying ash trees and gathering removal and treatment costs is ongoing. Please feel free to contact any board member if you have questions or comments about this issue. *–Pete Ross and Gary Gray*

Common and Shared Access Areas

As we wrote in the fall newsletter, the board commissioned a Common Land Management group to develop a policy to clarify the use of common water access areas along the Long Point shoreline. The board's action was prompted by several disputes, one resulting in litigation, over use and access to the areas. The group, composed of one board member and four stockholders, each with a camp located on or near one of the 10 access areas, examined how the areas have been used since the Long Point Corporation was established and reviewed 68 leases near the areas. The board is now reviewing a proposed policy document submitted by the Common Land Management group and expects to publish a draft policy for stockholder comment this spring. *–Gary Gray*

Route 7 Traffic Signal Update

Here's an update on the project to install traffic lights at the intersection of Route 7 and Old Hollow and Stage Roads from North Ferrisburgh resident Judy Chaves. Thanks to Long Point residents Charlie and Diane Gottlieb for helping to move this forward.

– Schedule: VTrans has created detailed, preliminary plans for the intersection. These plans are expected to be finalized by this summer, and the job to be put out to bid in the fall. Construction would start in the spring of 2021 and probably be done by the end of that summer. One of the reasons the project can move so quickly (and yes, this is quickly!) is that it is entirely

federally funded (i.e., no matching required from the State). Another reason is that the work will be done entirely within the State's right-of-way and will not require the lengthy process of gaining permission from private landowners. (That said, VTrans will continue to communicate with abutting landowners about the work being done.)

– Overall design: There will be two posts for the traffic lights, one at the northeast corner of the intersection (Jimmo's motel), the other at the southwest corner (post office), each with arms extending over Route 7 and either Old Hollow or Stage Road. The current lane configuration on Route 7 will remain as it is, with left-turning lanes for traffic going from Route 7 onto Old Hollow or Stage Road. There'll be no change in the current number or placement of road cuts (i.e., the Mobil Quickstop, the post office and Cookie Love), though the turning radius at a couple of the corners will be tightened.

– Lights: During busy times, there will be "protected" turning lights for those turning left off of Route 7. During quiet times, left-turn lights will flash, rather than be protected. Fancy detection equipment at the intersection will enable lights to respond to the amount and speed of traffic. Apparently, there's even a way the lights can respond to oncoming cars so as to prevent red-light running. Efficacy of the lights will be carefully monitored by VTrans, who will fine-tune the lighting sequences, timing, etc. in response to need.

– Pedestrians: For pedestrians crossing Route 7, there will be stripes painted on the road pavement between the southwest corner (post office) and the southeast corner (Pleasant Valley) connecting to a sidewalk at each of those corners. The sidewalk at the Pleasant Valley corner will be extended a bit to meet the footpath along Old Hollow, and the sidewalk at the post office will run from the corner to the post office/Cookie Love road cut on Route 7. There will be a button for pedestrians to push, to stop Route 7 traffic, at each of these two corners. Underground conduits will be installed across Stage Road as part of the current project, so that if a pedestrian crossing from the post office to the Mobil Quickstop is deemed necessary in the future, it wouldn't be a major project to create one.

– Bus stops: For buses heading south on Route 7, the bus stop will continue to be where it is, south of the intersection. For buses heading north, Green Mountain Transit has agreed to relocate the bus stop from its current location north of the intersection, to a location south of the intersection. Relocation will occur after the lights are installed.

Welcome to Long Point! Two properties have new owners

Hello everyone! We are Caroline and Sean McKibben and we are the ecstatic new caretakers of Lakewood (238 North Road, formerly Koch). We live in Colorado, but as a Vermont native who grew up in Charlotte, Caroline has been trying to find a way to return to summers spent on the lake. We have two young boys (ages 4 and almost 2) and are excited to make many lasting memories here. We enjoy everything about being out on the water, traveling, hiking and sharing a laugh over a home cooked meal with friends and family. We are looking forward to meeting everyone and joining the Long Point community!

and...

Hello to the Long Point community. The Truchon and Barber families are so excited to have found 82 North Road (formerly the Forsyth) and this piece of paradise – we're calling it "Camp Johnson" (yes, there is a story). Know that this is the culmination of two long years of looking. Last summer we looked at over 30 camps in areas that went as far south as Middlebury and as far north as Isle La Motte. Our hope is that this camp will be one that our families can share for generations to come. Kevin and Sue Barber are two of the owners. Kevin is a teacher and Sue is a nurse. They have two daughters, Katie and Molly. Katie is a nurse while Molly is just finishing up at UVM. The Barber family live in Essex. Brent and Amy Truchon are the other owners. Both are educators in the Burlington School district. They also have two children, Blake 13 and Lilly 16. Both are active in many sports including hockey, lacrosse, field hockey, baseball, and soccer. The Truchons are from South Burlington. Both of our families love our time at the lake. We're looking forward to finding our way in the community. We plan to have a variety of lake toys including canoes, kayaks, and will also have a 18 foot runabout for waterskiing and slow tours around the lake. Please feel free to stop and introduce yourself this summer. We'd greatly appreciate any tips/tricks that you might offer.

Planning on Renting Your Camp?

If you are considering renting your camp, first check with the state regarding current regulations in light of COVID-19. If it is allowed, then please review the [Long Point Camp Rental Agreement](#). Available on the [LPC web site](#), the agreement spells out the established LPC regulations, to which all owners are bound for the safety and enjoyment of all concerned. The regulations include things like occupying in a quiet and orderly manner, outside fires, leash law, trash/garbage, the no-wake rule, speed limit and parking. It also explains that camp owners must ensure the occupancy of any rental camp does not exceed the design capacity of the wastewater system for that camp. The number of individuals prescribed in the design capacity of the camp wastewater system equals the number of bedrooms times two persons per bedroom. It is the owner's responsibility to make certain that renters acknowledge this limitation. Please have your renters fill out and sign the rental agreement, and then file a copy with [Nikki Fitzcharles](#), the Long Point secretary.

Recreation Committee

The Long Point Recreation Committee hopes to hold two community-wide social events on Long Point this summer, if conditions and the state stay-at-home orders permit.

The Independence Day Picnic is planned for Saturday, July 4 at Laflam Park at noon. As always, we will provide burgers/hot dogs and beverages. Long Pointers attending the picnic are encouraged to bring a dish to share.

On Sunday afternoon, August 2, at 3pm we hope to get together at the tennis courts for our Annual Ice Cream Social. We will have lots of free ice cream with all the toppings for everyone! Please bring your own spoon and bowl.

If anyone would be willing to help the extended Koplinka family for either one or both of these events, we would certainly appreciate the extra hands! It's a fun way to see many summer friends and get involved in two annual traditions for Long Pointers. Please contact me at nunnkaty@hotmail.com if you can assist us this summer.

– Katy Nunn

2020 Events

The following events will be held to the extent possible, consistent with state guidelines then in effect. Planning is underway for a virtual annual meeting, if that becomes necessary. We will provide email updates as each of the events draws nearer.

Long Point Clean-up Day, Saturday, June 27, 2019, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meet at the Farmhouse and bring gloves. If you arrive after 8:00 a.m., go to the Bay Road beach where there will be plenty of action. Rakes and shovels are also appropriate. If you have a truck to help move debris to the Stump Dump, please bring it. As in past years, Mike Wood will be leading the effort.

Independence Day Picnic, Saturday, July 4, 2020, Noon to 2:00 p.m. See above.

LPC Annual Meeting, Saturday, August 1, 2020, 9:00 a.m. Coffee and treats beginning at 8:30 a.m. Location: Ferrisburgh Town Hall. This is our important shareholders' meeting held to conduct the business of Long Point Corporation. **It is important to attend or submit your proxy, if you are unable to attend.** In July, you'll receive the annual report. Please bring it with you to the meeting.

Annual Regatta in the Bay, Saturday, August 1, 2020, 3 p.m. This year, the Regatta will take place on Saturday afternoon, following the Annual Meeting. Dianne Kett of North Road will once again be Commodore Kett and will be awarding prizes to participating canoes, kayaks, small sailboats, and paddleboards!

Ice Cream Social, Sunday, August 2, 2020, 3:00 p.m. See above.

Connect with others through Nextdoor Long Point

Just a reminder – Nextdoor Long Point is a private social network for the Long Point community. Need help finding a lost pet? Have a kayak to sell? Nextdoor can help. It's an easy way for Long Point neighbors to talk and share information online. If you have not yet signed up, please contact Duncan Adamson at dsadamson@gmail.com and he will send you

an invitation.

Do we have your email? Your correct contact information?

We need up-to-date personal contact information for Long Point records. We also include this information in the annual report so neighbors can keep in touch. If your USPS address, phone numbers or email addresses have changed, or if they were incorrect in last year's report, please send corrections to Nikki at longpointcorp@gmavt.net by June 1. You can also reach Nikki by phone at (802) 545-2067. See you soon at Long Point!



First boat in the water this year! Steve Leary and a friend head out to work on Steve's camp on the Dean Islands.

Photo credits: Leo Godley for Dean Islands, Pete Ross for the sign, Cynthia Myers for all other photos. Thank you!