



LAKE • GEORGE
WATERKEEPER®

PO Box 591, Lake George, NY 12845

Tel: (518) 668-5913 Fax: (518)-668-5915

Email: lgkeeper@nycap.rr.com

www.lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org

June 4, 2010

Mr. Frank McCoy, Supervisor
Town of Lake George Planning Board
Old Post Road
Lake George, NY 12845

Re: Proposed Local Law #4
Banning Phosphorus fertilizer use in the Town of Lake George

Dear Supervisor McCoy,

The FUND for Lake George and the Lake George Waterkeeper fully support your proposal to ban phosphorus fertilizer use in the Town of Lake George. Phosphorus is a key nutrient that feeds aquatic plants and algae in Lake George and its tributaries. The high level of phosphorus loading from unnatural sources, including fertilizers, is contributing to declining water quality of the lake.

It was a pleasure discussing the importance of shoreline, stream and wetland buffering and the restriction of chemical use within the watershed (specifically the Critical Environmental Area) during the Town Board / Planning Board workshop on May 6, 2010. As you were able to see during my '**Lake George Water Quality is Changing**' presentation to the Town of Lake George Boards and again at that workshop, it is not only phosphorus and phosphorus fertilizers that are harmful to our water quality, but other nutrients and the pesticides that are being used in large quantities around the lake are having an impact on the environment and the lake's water quality.

Attached are photos that I took documenting a large algal bloom just offshore of a property that "...routinely uses only "*Phosphorus Free fertilizers.*" It's important to note that even phosphorus free fertilizers load nutrients to the lake that stimulate aquatic plant growth and algae. We do not believe that any fertilizers are necessary given the lush landscape around the lake, and the abundance of hearty native plant species that flourish with no fertilizers or attention.

We hope that your initiative will be replicated by the other towns within the Lake George watershed and by the Lake George Park Commission, applying consistent regulations within the entire watershed. The lake does not recognize town boundaries, although the Town of Lake George's proposal will help make a difference.



THE FUND for LAKE GEORGE

In conclusion, we encourage the Town of Lake George to move forward with a town wide ban of phosphorus fertilizers, but also include in this *'phosphorus fertilizer ban'* required shoreline buffering as a final defense to block stormwater runoff carrying sediment, nutrients and pollution into the lake with every rain storm. In addition, restriction of all chemical use (fertilizers and pesticides) in close proximity to the lake, streams and wetlands would more effectively protect Lake George and the health and safety of the community, its residents and guests.



**20 feet offshore of a property in Kattskill Bay that "...routinely uses Phosphorus Free fertilizer..."
Lake George (Queensbury) 2008 / 2009**

Thank you for your efforts to make the Town of Lake George *'phosphorus fertilizer ban'* a reality. This simple change will lead to better stewardship of Lake George. It is our collective responsibility to both protect and restore Lake George's water quality. The Lake George Waterkeeper continues to look forward to working with the Town of Lake George in defending the natural resources of Lake George and its watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KSL Bozony". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Kathleen SL Bozony
Natural Resource Specialist / Lake George Waterkeeper

- cc: Brian Grisi, Adirondack Park Agency
Michael White, Lake George Park Commission
Town of Lake George Town Board members
Mayor Robert Blais, Village of lake George
Ron Conover, Supervisor Town of Bolton
Robert Banks, Supervisor Town of Dresden
Gayle Hall, Supervisor Town of Fort Ann
Dan Belden, Supervisor Town of Hague
John LaPointe, Supervisor Town of Putnam
Dan Stec, Supervisor Town of Queensbury
Debra Malaney, Supervisor Ticonderoga