



Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee, 967 County Highway 33,
Cooperstown, NY 13326 (607) 547-8778

Breiten Will Discuss Otsego Lake Shoreline Protection Through Planning at WQCC Meeting

COOPERSTOWN – The topic of the next Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting will be optimum regulatory and design strategies for the Otsego Lake shoreline, as Thomas Breiten presents an outline of his landscape architecture master's thesis. Breiten, former Otsego town supervisor, is currently pursuing his master of landscape architecture degree at Cornell University.

Breiten's thesis is based on the premise that current land use laws in the surrounding towns of Middlefield, Otsego and Springfield have not only failed to address issues of water quality, but also have resulted in missed opportunities for enhanced aesthetic value and for carefully managed development in the Shoreline Protection District of Otsego Lake. His hypothesis is that design solutions can not only improve water quality in the lake, but would do so in ways that accentuate aesthetic values and enhance economic benefit to the larger community.

On Wednesday, March 31, Breiten will briefly discuss the scientific, cultural, and political components of his draft dissertation prospectus, as well as the current regulatory framework, communities that may be appropriate for case studies, best management practices that could be used in local situations, and potential design solutions. In sharing this information Breiten seeks to open up a dialogue with water quality professionals and public officials as to how his work can be tailored to the needs of the community and be better put to use, in hopes that his research will eventually be practically applied. The meeting, which begins at 1 p.m., will be hosted by the Otsego County Planning Department at 140 Cty. Hwy. 33, Cooperstown.

This event is free and open to the public, particularly municipal officials and lakefront property owners; pre-registration is required by Friday, March 26. Those interested in attending should e-mail hmt5@cornell.edu or call (607) 547-2536, extension 226.

This event is made possible thanks to the Otsego County WQCC which, in order to better satisfy the educational component of its mission, has restructured its monthly meetings to include public information sessions. The OCWQCC was established in 1992 as a sub-committee of the Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District. It is comprised of a diverse group of people representing state and local government agencies, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and lake associations. These members have technical expertise and knowledge and are committed to working to improve and maintain the quality of water in Otsego County through the reduction of nonpoint source pollution within its boundaries.

For more information on the WQCC, visit www.otsegoilandwater.com/waterqualitycc.html