

## **Secretary's report of the July 9, 2005 Annual Meeting of the Keoka Lake Association**

The meeting called to order at the Wilkens Community Center by Charles Tarbell at 9:00 AM. There were approximately 37 present when the meeting was called to order.

### **Featured Speakers:**

Keoka Lake Watershed Project: Keith Anderson, OCS&WCD

Keith Anderson of the Oxford County Soil and Water Commission discussed the progress of the Watershed project. He reported that we are in Phase II of the project and we are in the final year of the funding cycle. To date, nine projects have been completed. All projects are associated with the HOT SPOTS identified in Phase I of the project. We were reminded that funds are still available to support abatement projects identified with the watershed project. In general, a project is funded partially through the expenditure the grant money and partly by donations from the owners of the abated land. The donation from the citizens may be of an "in kind" nature. Keith gave the example of the need for a culvert. The grant money could go for the purchase of the pipe with the land owner providing the installation labor as an "in kind" match.

In addition to the six projects – some large as the Hawk Mountain Road project – nine technical visits were made to property owners. These voluntary meets, held at the request of the landowner, are to discuss abatement plans and issues of soil conservation and erosion.

Keith asked for three project proposals for the final year of the program. Contact Keith at the OCS&WCD.

Keith ended with the point that while invasive plants have the public eye, the issues with Keoka Lake center on soil conservation and erosion control. These are critical and addressable issues now. Invasive plants are only a potential problem at this time.

There will be two "workshops" (really working sessions) put on by OCS&WCD this summer at Hawk MT Road: a session on water bar devices and a session of cleaning sediment from catch basins.

The Town of Waterford has strongly supported projects generated by the grant and survey. They have generously supported the program financially.

That Dam Project: Andy & Kilton Tabor, KLA

Andy and Kilton Tabor presented a slide presentation on the dam renovation project. Kilton managed the labor as part requirement for his Eagle Scout program. The Tabor father and son received a standing ovation for their efforts. Please visit the website, <http://keokalake.com/>, for some pictures and discussion of the project.

The one or two weekend project ran from January 9<sup>th</sup> through July 7<sup>th</sup> 2005. Over 474.8 hours of labor were donated by those who helped in the project.

KLA presented Charlie and Kilton Tabor framed certificates of appreciation for their contribution to the project. Each had logged over 80 hours on the job.

The Association gave certificates of appreciation for donating over 30 hours to the project to Jamie Walsh, Liz Tabor, Sean Lonsdale, Harper Dorsk, and Arne Keplinger.

Also recognized for service were Rick and Steve Bates, Charles Colburn, Sean Curran, Lucas Delahney, Ben and Lauren Ehlers, Adam Hamlin, Greg and Valerie Howard, Nick Martin, Glen Merrill, Kelsey Tristers, Matt Winfield, Leigh Wold, and six kids from Texas.

With the generous donation of labor, the dam restoration project was delivered at the budgeted amount. The Town of Waterford raised \$4,000 and KLA members donated \$8,000 for the project. Even at a low estimate of \$10.00/hour, the donated labor was a substantial contribution.

Curley-leafed Pond Weed: Tom Stockwell, KLA

Tom, and thus KLA, received a scare when plant taken near Rock Island was tentatively identified as Curly-leafed pond weed. Not so, apparently. Variable leaf pond weed is probably what it is. The plant defied easy identification because it was probably a hybrid of Variable Leaf and Robin Eye Pond Weed.

Pixie Williams became involved by the persistence of Tom Stockwell and will conduct a plant identification survey of aquatic plants in the lake. See Tom Stockwell if you see anything unusual for plants in the lake. Put the suspect plant in a plastic bag.

On site training is available if enough people are interested.

The Board of Directors was changed with developing a systematic response plan to be activated when and if an invasive plant is found in Keoka Lake. We were reminded that invasive plants “ring” the lakes around us and Keoka being relatively shallow and warm, is a prime spot for an explosion of a foreign plant.

Aquatic plant identification hand out from Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants. We are encouraged to post this handout in our camps.

Shoreline Zoning, Taxes: William Wheeler, Waterford Selectman

Selectman Wheeler gave his annual and much appreciated update on the state of affairs in Waterford *vis a vis* taxes and shoreline zoning.

There are excellent reviews of a series of zoning meetings in the Bear Facts and the Mutiny Brook Times.

The Selectman reported that the Town is under budget according to state standards of evaluation. The problem lies mostly with the valuation the land associated with shore property. The Town is working to correct the situation. The allocation to the county even. Although the Town has not settled its school budget, it can expect an 8% increase in school budget.

Transfer station ordinance: commercial haulers fee only. Universal waste collection site has been built and used. No burning, brush ok, but no stumps.

Finance committee will review all requests for money.

As reported in last year's minutes, the Town of Waterford is taking a lead position in developing a shoreline ordinance that takes into account the various definitions and regulations of many state agencies. Excellent progress has been made at settling the issues without a court testing of the agreement. However, the final few issues may well put the disputed issues before the courts. The Town is ready to follow the legal process to its conclusion.

On a related issue, a zoning item on the town's agenda was defeated. This is discouraging since 1/3 of those sites designated as scenic vistas have been building over since the town's master plan was put in place

Town will sponsor education problems and training for other lake associations in the area. Since KLA has been very aggressive and very successful in securing grant aid from the Lake Region Association and other sources and since the Town of Waterford has provided much of the matching funds, it seemed sound for KLA to share the wealth and sponsor training sessions for the area lakes. Betty Miller will be coordinating this project.

Keoka Beach Campground: KLA Board sent a letter to the selectmen of the Town encouraging continuation with the shoreline project. The Board supports the contention that Waterford Shoreline Rules will be controlling in disputes on shoreline land issues.

One remaining point of contention is the idea that if a building is year round it should tax as structure. This issue is before the courts now. The Oxford County Commissioners seem to agree with the position of Waterford.

New assessments. The last Land assessment was made in 1992. Structures were evaluated three years ago. There is a need by statute to have fair market value assessment. Shoreline property will be assessed at \$1400 per foot as opposed to the current value of \$400. Acre lots will be assessed at \$900. The assessed value for land over 1 acre will be \$400 per acre. This is to encourage larger lots on the water.

Shore land and subdivision rates will take the biggest increase.

### **Business Meeting:**

1. Secretary's Report

Motion to accept and second: accepted

2. Treasurer's Report

Motion to accept and second: accepted

3. Boat Inspection

Peter Morse: Interested people went to seminar in February. Peter thanked Town for support by raising \$3,600 for the inspection program. The Town will continue to act as

employer of record for the inspectors. The schedule of inspection was developed to cover busy time. This summer, 500 hours of coverage is planned. LEA grant also supports the effort with a \$1,500 grant. While last year we had one inspector, this year Peter will try to get four people involved with the inspection.

Inspections will run 8:00 AM-8:00 PM the week of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This is the busy season with another busy stretch coming August. Another busy season starts in August. No problems reported so far. .

Boating regulations will be given to all who put a boat in the lake.

No site available for boat washing station around lake. LEAS has been looking for us but have found nothing. We will keep looking.

#### 4. Plant Patrol

See Tom Stockwell report above

#### 5. Updates

- Erosion Control

In addition to Keith report, we are reminded that Hot Spot book is still available. The Association needs a volunteer to help Keith

- Water Quality

The state rates Keoka Lake a B- but steady. The oxygen content is the largest contributor to the low rating. The water is dark this spring because of run off. Obviously, this only points up the soil erosion issues.

- Water Safety

State report filed. Town float anchor moved. One buoy was stolen.

Notices (new) posted at public beach. Info packs will be made available in realtor packs at beaches.

- Membership

Approximately 120 letters were sent to lake residents with more than 80 becoming members.

- Public Relations/Merchandise Fundraising

Need to have help at breakfasts. 500 for kayak raffle.

- Website/Webmaster

News letters John Caldwell

- Loon Update

Loons are nesting. Three regulars.

#### 6. Recommendations for Donations:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Lakes Environmental Association	\$1,000
Congress of Lake Associations	\$200
Wilkins Community House	\$100
Waterford Swim Program	\$100
Waterford Fire Department	\$50
Stoneham Rescue Unit	<u>\$50</u>
Total Recommendations	\$1,500

Moved and seconded. KLA donation will be in memory of Mac Bean. Tom Stockwell, representing LEA, thanked the group for their support. Keoka is a big supporter. 80% of KLA are members of LEA.

7. Election of Trustees/Officers:

<u>Class of 2008</u>	<u>Officers – 2005-2006</u>
Dave Abbiati	Charlie Tarbell, President
John Caldwell	Joanne Eaton, Vice President
	Chip Mason, Treasurer
	Dave Abbiati, Secretary

Moved and approved

8. New Business/Other Business

Betty Miller will do invasive weed program for other lakes. Motor boats are not the only source: kayaks, canoe paddle, or personal. LEA videos are available at Bridgton Library.

We are still looking into aeration system for beach. Have some possibilities. Sense of the group is to go forward.

Adjourned 11:25

Respectfully submitted  
 Dave Abbiati  
 Secretary