

Keoka Lake Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2024
Wilkins Community House

President Richard Orr called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

There were approximately 30 people present.

Meeting Business:

1. Secretary's Report

Rich Orr asked for a motion to waive the reading of the 2023 minutes, which have been posted on the website, and to approve the minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

2. Membership

Rich Orr reporting for Paige Nalipinski:

Membership numbers more than doubled from 2022 to 2023, largely due to members paying per person versus per family or couple. The By Laws specify that memberships are individual. The increase was from 63 to 141 individual memberships.

We are seeing a significant increase in membership in the younger generations although most of those are gift memberships.

To date in 2024 we have 89 members who have paid annual dues which is virtually the same as 2023 when there were 90 paid members by the annual meeting. Additional dues payments were made at the meeting.

Bill Robichaud asked when the dues must be paid and Rich said that we try to get payments by July 1 but will accept this year's dues until the end of the year.

3. Treasurer's Report

Rich Orr reporting for Liz Stockwell:

Operations

KLA ended 2023 with an operating profit (\$4.8k) and a strong cash balance.

- Total operating expenses were \$15.3k, with primary contributors being CBI, program operations, and grants.
- 2022 expenses were significantly higher (\$23.3k) due to the costs associated with the KLA50 celebration.
- Total operating income was \$20.1k, which is significantly higher than it was in 2022 (\$17.5k). Primary drivers of income were dues/donations, CBI grants, and merchandise, all of which were higher in 2023 than in 2022.

Assets

- Currently, our Key Bank operating account has a cash balance of \$23,020.62. Of that, \$1,700 is donations for the KLA 50 Capital campaign so that amount, along with any additional donations received, will need to be transferred over to Maine Community Foundation after our October Board meeting. The Operating account also contains reserves.
- As of the end of the first quarter of 2024, our total balance at Maine Community Foundation was \$216,176.57, a growth of about \$40,000. The stock market has performed well, although we recognize that there will be downturns. Of that total, \$170,346.03 was in the Capital Campaign fund, and \$45,830.54 was in the Unrestricted fund.
- The historic gift value for the two funds combined is \$175,326.52.

4. Water Quality

Charlie Tarbell reporting:

Due to rain this spring, water quality and clarity has been relatively poor, but is starting to recover and it is better than it was last year when there was considerably more rain.

Quality is measured by three criteria: clarity, levels of phosphorus, and levels of chlorophyll in the water.

The 20-year overall trend is positive, but Keoka is considered a moderate to high concern lake due to the large watershed relative to the size of the lake, and runoff from the watershed is our biggest concern.

5. Milfoil Prevention

Charlie Tarbell and Arne Klepinger reporting:

Charlie noted that we follow a three-pronged approach of (1) prevention (boat inspection), (2) detection (volunteer plant patrollers check the lake perimeter and LEA divers go into the lake to look at hot spots, the next dive being September 9, 2024) and (3) eradication (either pulling up plants by divers using an underwater vacuum or, when addressing a confined area, erecting a barrier to block sun so as to kill the plants).

Courtesy Boat Inspectors

Our courtesy boat inspector (CBI) program is funded, in large part, by grants from the town and the DEP. Currently, the cost of boat inspectors is \$9,000 a year. The grants from the town and the DEP cover \$5,200 (\$3,400 from the town and \$1,850 from the DEP) and the KLA treasury contributes \$3,800.

Plant Patrol

All of the incumbents except two are returning. Paige Nalipinski has agreed to take a segment on Stone's Cove, Arne Klepinger is seeking another plant patrol volunteer to take the remaining area.

6. Lake Smart

Rich Orr reporting

Rich reminded everyone that Lake Smart is a voluntary program that evaluates individual properties to minimize adverse impact on the lake. Our goal is to be vigilant about managing erosion.

7. Water Safety

Andy Tabor reporting:

Town Beach

KLA had a great turnout of helpers put in the docks at town beach on Memorial Day weekend. We hope to have a strong showing of volunteers to help with taking them out in October on Saturday of the three-day weekend.

Loons

The loons have produced two chicks. Andy reported that the nest platform was built in the late 1990s. He is going to repair and renovate it over the winter.

Buoys

The buoys are in. Last fall they were retrofitted with lights that are powered by solar panels on the top to keep the lights flashing. They blink once every three seconds. There are red and green ones at the boat launch lane and amber ones around Sunken Island and Rock Island. These are important safety features especially during night or low light navigation.

Some buoys and buoy moorings have been damaged by boats hitting them and will have to be replaced.

8. Streams

Kim Struck reporting:

Dr. Michael Kennison from University of Maine will lead a group of graduate students seeking to determine what kinds of frogs and salamanders populate the brooks and which are natural vs. invasive. The winter storms have changed some of the brooks such as the Struck's brook where trees have created a block.

There were questions about whether naturally occurring log jams should be broken up? Kim offered to consult Dr. Kennison about that.

Information on algae is contained in the report on the KLA website.

9. Communication and Outreach

Brenda Hambleton reporting:

KLA newsletters are sent monthly during the year and every other month during the winter. Roughly 175 people are on the recipient list and 150 open the newsletters. Half of those click through and read additional information! We also maintain a social media presence.

10. Education

Rich Orr reporting for Ginger Eaton

2023:

In July 2023 KLA put on a "Protect Keoka Lake, Invasive Plant Training Social Educational Event" in collaboration with Keoka Beach Campground. This included LEA providing hands on training in identifying invasive plants. Then participants went on boat tours of Keoka's high-risk areas. Ginger organized this event and LEA asked her to give a "How To" presentation on the event at LEA's annual symposium attended by over 40 individuals representing other local Maine Lake Associations. Ginger provided materials including handouts, posters, maps, flags, and invasive plant costumes. Ginger's presentation was featured in this month's LEA magazine!

2024:

KLA was represented at Waterford's 4th of July parade. KLA sold merchandise and raffle tickets for a donated paddleboard. Also, Ginger created banners for a pick-up truck with the KLA logo, boating visuals and the slogan "Preserve, Protect and Enjoy". In addition to tossing candy, Ginger and Sally Stockwell passed out KLA stickers to parade watchers.

We had gotten some feedback that KLA should reach out to the whole Waterford community, not just people connected to Keoka.

The banners and stickers were intended to be a means of outreach to the Waterford community.

11. Regatta

Al Struck reporting:

The 11th Regatta will be on July 27th, and this will be the 5th anniversary of the Camp Cup. Four summer camps are participating.

The Regatta is being hosted by Keoka Beach Campground which allows the use of its beach during the event. It is important to note that the speed limit in and out of the campground is 5 mph.

Al reported on safety boats, captain boats and buoys for the event.

12. Lighted Boat Parade

Bill Robichaud reporting:

The Lighted Boat Parade is on August 3, 2024. It will be earlier this year, starting at 7pm with a meet-up time of 6:45. There is a new prize for best decorated dock.

The parade starts at the Keoka Campground gas dock and goes counterclockwise. Judging will be done at the beginning at the gas dock. Brenda Hambleton will be the KLA judge. There will be a band at the Campground for an after party from 7:30 pm – 10:30 pm.

The lead boat will take care to make sure people on shore can see the boats.

Brenda noted that a lot of people watched the parade from Town Beach. We hope to have programming for kids at Town Beach while people wait for the boat parade.

Chris Searles would like a head count to facilitate the management of cars.

13. Merchandise Fundraising

Rich Orr reporting for Joanne Eaton.

Joanne reports that she made a huge order last year and sold the majority of it. She made a second order, and she plans to sell all of that this year.

An inflatable paddle board was donated by a friend of the KLA to raffle off. The raffle ticket pricing will be the same as previous years. There will be table sales at the breakfasts and the road race. There was a second table on the green at the 4th of July Parade

Joanne is looking for help at the merch table during the remaining breakfasts and October Road Race.

14. Community Donations

The Board proposed donations totaling \$1,700. A motion was made and passed unanimously to increase the Fire Department and Stoneham Rescue from \$50 each to \$100 each. The donations in a total amount of \$1800 were approved unanimously in the following amounts:

- LEA \$1,200
- Lake Stewards of Maine \$100
- Maine Lakes Society \$200
- Wilkins Community House \$100
- Waterford Fire Department \$100
- Stoneham Rescue Unity \$100

Treasurer Liz Stockwell sends out the donations, Rich will ask her to make a note in the transmittal to the Fire Department and Stoneham Rescue that these are increased donations.

Retiring Board Member Recognition (addition to the agenda)

Richard Orr reporting.

Rich Orr noted that David and Jo Lynne Johnson were not able to be present at the annual meeting last year. In their absence, they were recognized for decades of service, particularly their having served as co-chairs of the total KLA50 campaign, including the fundraising and the celebration Gala held two years ago.

David and Jo Lynne were at this year's meeting and Rich asked the membership to join him in thanking David and Jo Lynne.

15. Nominations and Election of Board Members and Officers

Rich Orr asked for a motion to approve the election for directors (listed below) to serve from 2024 to 2027. The motion passed unanimously.

- Joanne Eaton
- Jonathan Hasson (New)
- Andy Tabor
- Charlie Tarbell
- Melissa Tarbell

Rich Orr asked for a motion to elect the slate of officers for 1-year terms. The motion passed unanimously. The election of officers is effective as of the close of this meeting.

- Brenda Hambleton, President (New)
- Jonathan Hasson, Vice President (New)
- Elizabeth "Liz" Stockwell, Treasurer
- Riley Hasson, Secretary

A complete list of Board members and their terms following the election is attached.

16. New Business

There was no new business.

17. Announcements

Wilkins House breakfasts will be held On July 17, July 31 and August 14 from 7:30-10.

In response to a question, Charlie Tarbell reported that there is no update on the burned building near the campground.

18. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Courtney
Acting Secretary

**KEOKA LAKE ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS
2024-2025**

DIRECTORS

Directors elected to serve for 2024-2027

Joanne Eaton
Jonathan Hasson (New)
Andy Tabor
Charlie Tarbell
Melissa Tarbell

Directors continuing to serve for 2023-2026

Ginger Eaton
Jim Flynn
Tom Hammett
Bill Robichaud
Elizabeth "Liz" Stockwell (NEW)
Kim Struck

Directors continuing to serve for 2022-2025

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Brenda Hambleton
Riley Hasson (Elected in 2023 to serve the balance of an unexpired term 2023-2025.
Arne Klepinger
Al Struck

OFFICERS

Elected to serve for 2023-2024

Brenda Hambleton, President
Johnathan Hason, Vice President (NEW)
Elizabeth "Liz" Stockwell, Treasurer
Riley Hasson, Secretary

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