

Keoka Lake Association  
Box 97  
Waterford, Maine 04088

July 11, 2020 Keoka Lake Association Annual Meeting

The zoom meeting was called to order by Charlie Tarbell at 9:02 a.m. Quorum confirmed (approx. 50 members signing in at varying times during the meeting).

Secretary Report: The reading of the minutes was waived as the minutes are posted on the website.

Motion made, second and approved

Treasurer Report: Chip Mason will post the current year-end Treasurer's report on the website. Dan Treadwell, upon his election to the board at this meeting, will take over the Treasurer duties from Chip. Motion made to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded and approved.

Membership: As Ginny Raymond was unable to attend today, Charlie stepped in to give her report. To date, there are 61 paid members in 2020. For full year 2019, there were a total of 98 members and a total of 103 in 2018. Of those there are 18 gift memberships. One hundred and seventy membership letters were sent out May 1<sup>st</sup>; the letters mostly went to KBCG with 30 or so mailed to local Waterford residents or non-members around the lake. So far, there have been two new members in 2020, three 'lapsed' memberships that have renewed and four KBCG members paid through 2019 (two in 2020). The two real-estate-type boxes at the town beach and Gage beach are being maintained. There has been some turnover on the lake; members are encouraged to talk to new landowners and promote KLA membership.

Water Quality: Charlie reports he has been snorkeling and this year he has seen a better than average water clarity at the surface, but in the deeper parts of the lake, there continues to be less clarity and a concern about low oxygen levels in deep water. The long-term threat to oxygenation continues to be the run-off from the shore line. The Optic Brightener test results have indicated a problem with three septic systems, two of which have been replaced in the past year. The Optic Brightener test (a proxy for septic system pollution) will be repeated in 2020; there is a 'watch' area near Kedar brook's inflow into Keoka Lake. There has been an effort by landowners around the lake to replace their septic systems which has been very helpful and much appreciated. There was a discussion about where the testing was done near the entrance of Kedar brook. There is a large beaver dam on the brook this spring and there is a question re: whether that was affecting the concentrations in the lake. The 2020 Optic Brightener testing will be done in the next two weeks and results will be shared on the KLA website. Kokosing notes they have not opened their camp this summer, and as such, their boats are not available to LEA for testing operations. Charlie reports LEA will have their own boat. In 2019, Keoka was a 'beta test' for LEA and their Sonde test device. The results indicated that temperatures differ by time of day and the data collected didn't really yield any substantial differentiation by site, so LEA is going to work to refine/recalibrate their device to get a better set of data.

Charlie would like to acknowledge and thank this summer's Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI's) for their effort to keep milfoil out of Keoka Lake. He encouraged members to stop by the town

beach to thank them for their efforts. In addition, he thanked the Town of Waterford for its grant of \$3400, the Maine DEP for their grant of \$1500 which leaves the balance of the CBI costs for 2020 to be borne by KLA. Current budget allows for approximately 500 hours of CBI inspection. For years, Peter Morse supervised the CBI's, but in recent years, LEA has taken on the job of hiring, scheduling and processing the payroll for this program. LEA is KLA's 'back room'. Due to COVID-19, the Milfoil Summit was not held this spring. It was noted that Long Lake had a discovery of a possible infestation of milfoil at its north end; LEA has been dealing with this.

Plant Patrol - Arne Klepinger has been talking with landowners about surveying their sections of the lake for aquatic plant activity. He is pleased that his Plant Patrollers, who were concerned about being able to return to Keoka this summer, have in fact been able to return. He advised that if LEA is unable to identify a plant, it is sent to the labs in Augusta. LEA will be doing a dive inspection in August; Charlie invites people to come during this 'socially distanced' event – Please contact Charlie if you would like to participate.

LakeSmart: Ginger Eaton continues to work with landowners on best practices of reducing run-off from properties into the lake. Ginger, Priscilla Treadwell and Doss (Hammett) Hasson did their training on how to survey properties through the Maine Lakes Society's virtual platform. Thus far, they have talked with three property owners and have three more lined up for discussion. LakeSmart gives landowners the opportunity to be supported while working on how to help reduce run-off to improve the lake's water quality. This year, there is a Stream Survey component as well as a LoonSmart component. Ginger requests that KLA members/shore property owners reach out to their neighbors to encourage them to take advantage of this program to keep Keoka 'clean'.

Water Safety, Dam, Mason Parcel, Boat Launch, Streams, Regatta: Andy Tabor reported that on May 4, the loon nest was placed on the lake. On May 24 with the help of Charlie Tarbell and Rich Orr, Andy put out the town beach boat launch dock and float. The following four weekends were not conducive to place the warning buoys due to high winds. The warning buoys have now been placed for the boat launch at the Town Beach. As of the Annual Meeting, the loons were on the nest platform and so the placement of the loon buoys will wait until the loon eggs hatch. (Update: two loon chicks hatched but it appears that the coordinated efforts of two eagles, one of the loon chicks did not survive. Additionally, after the parents moved the remaining chick to Johnson Cove, an adolescent mall loon attacked the chick and it succumbed to its wounds). Andy hopes to move the loon nest a little more toward the beach of Stone's Cove (away from the Schaefer's dock) and set permanent anchors to make installation of the loon nest an easier task in years to come. The loon buoys will also be placed to keep people/boats away.

The dam has been functioning well with Charlie, Al and Bob Spencer keeping an eye on the flow rate. The dam is currently set at 2 inches, which is the optimum level for this point. The mouth is clear of debris. Assuming we continue to get rain, the water level is 'where we want it'. (Update: due to subsequent drought conditions, the lake level is down).

The Mason Parcel has a few more legal matters to complete the transfer to Western Foothills Land Trust. These will hopefully be completed by Labor Day, allowing KLA to own the land at the dam and Western Foothills Land Trust to own the remainder of the property.

The boat ramp weathered the winter well. The design effectively diverted water run-off from Waterford Rd. which has been good to maintain the integrity of the own Beach. The asphalt

layer at the top of the ramp will be completed once the municipal road repairs are completed. In process is a state grant to cover part of the cost and it would be awarded upon completion of the ramp project. Charlie thanked the anonymous donor from KBCG who helped to underwrite the KLA portion of this project.

#### Streams Surveys:

Surveys include:

1. Lenassi Brook - the landowners are agreeable to brook surveyors accessing the brook using their land. The mouth of the brook was deep enough this year to paddle up to the first rock fall. The water is low despite the rain; there are plenty of frogs and the banks appear the same as last year (no big difference noted in erosion.)
2. Stones Cove Brook - has standing water at the mouth; the brook quickly dries further up despite the recent rain. Very mossy and overgrown enough with moss that Kim quickly lost the channel.
3. Johnson Brook is running low but clear. Closer to the road there is a thicket of alders obscuring the brook but doesn't seem to impede the flow. There wasn't any trash noted off the road in the brook.
4. Kedar Brook is running high with the recent rain and clear especially further up by the Fillebrown home. Half a bag of trash was picked up roadside. The landowner has allowed increase alder growth to anchor the banks to reduce over banking. There is a beaver dam near the mouth of the brook; thus far there hasn't been over flow from the dam as before the rain it was very dry.
5. Sucker Brook has been running higher in the last month with the rain. There is always a great deal of debris after the winter which Al and Kim plan on working on later in the summer when the brook has a lower flow. A full bag of trash and a tire was pulled out of the brook closer to the campground.
6. Perch Brook – can't find

Al Struck reports that, due to COVID-19, the Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta has been canceled for 2020. There would be no camp participation. Perhaps an informal (socially distanced?) sail could happen this summer?

Developing Communication Strategy and Plan: Charlie thanked Brenda Hambleton for the work transitioning the website to the new platform. In process is a new access to the membership data base for the newsletter, KLA50 Anniversary Celebration invitations, etc. Also in the works is the availability of Epayments for membership dues, donations, etc. Social media has taken on an Instagram presence with the help of Charlie's daughter, Melissa. Currently under consideration is a possible Keoka Lake web camera feed of the lake with current conditions for those who are not currently 'at the lake'. Brenda made a request to KLA members to blog to the KLA website (keokalake.org). People interested in blogging can email Brenda at blhambleton@gmail.com.

Education: Due to COVID-19, educational programs are deferred to 2021. Ginger reported that they had explored setting up a table at the weekly Waterford Farmer's Market to share educational information, sell KLA merchandise, etc but this year, the Waterford Farmer's Market is following guidelines that restrict 'vendors' to those selling 'essentials' – so no! Tom has been working on putting together an educational plan that includes the work being done by LakeSmart with Ginger, Doss and Priscilla. There is also the opportunity to have programming made available through the recent Climate Action group through the Waterford Community Church; Nick Lund was the latest speaker from the Maine Audubon. Tom and Ginger continue to

discuss the possibility of starting a 'Hey You!' program on Keoka - for local school students once the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us.

Tom and Ginger are open to suggestions for other educational opportunities.

Merchandise Fundraising: This action has been deferred due to COVID-19 as unfortunately KLA is unable to set up a table at the Farmers market. Going forward, as part of the 'Board Succession Planning', Charlie is looking for someone who would be willing to take on Joanne's merchandising/fundraising efforts.

KLA50: Jo Lynne and David Johnson reported that the 'Quiet Phase' of the KLA50 Capital Campaign ended on Memorial Day weekend. At that time, 80%+ of the \$50k goal (\$1k for each of KLA's 50 years) had been reached. The 'Public Phase' letters were mailed in late June and it is hoped that the remaining 20% to put the Capital Campaign over the top will be reached by Columbus Day 2020 weekend. The KLA50 Anniversary Committee, co-chaired by David and Jo Lynne have several ambitious projects in process:

- The Capital Campaign – to raise \$50k for KLA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021
- The publication of a book of stories of the building of family camps/cabins/houses around the lake and the family memories/histories centered around those properties. If shore owners have not completed their LakeShore Owner Questionnaires with the info for their properties, they are encouraged to visit the KLA website ([www.keokalake.org](http://www.keokalake.org)) to access the questionnaire. Submissions should be sent/delivered/mailed to KLA50, PO Box 97, Waterford, ME 04088 or emailed to [kla50.2021@gmail.com](mailto:kla50.2021@gmail.com).
- A KLA retrospective at the Waterford Historical Society during the summer of 2021. Anyone with artifacts, pictures, etc. are encouraged to either digitize them or loan them to the Waterford Historical Society – contact: Nancy Marcotte ([nuances49@gmail.com](mailto:nuances49@gmail.com)) or email information to [kla50.2021@gmail.com](mailto:kla50.2021@gmail.com)
- A 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, is being planned for the afternoon of the 2021 Annual Meeting. Watch for the 'Save The Date' announcement in the KLA Fall 2020 newsletter and stay tuned to the KLA website for COVID 19 updates.
- A 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative Quilt Raffle – "Windows on Keoka, Seasons of the Lake". Tickets are available for sale now. A sheet of tix was sent to all KLA members with the KLA Spring 2020 newsletter; the flyer is available for preview on the KLA website ([www.keokalake.org](http://www.keokalake.org)) and tix are available either from the website or by emailing [kla50.2021@gmail.com](mailto:kla50.2021@gmail.com)). With no other POS fundraising efforts this year, the quilt raffle is it!

Appropriations: The recommended Appropriations were listed in the agenda for the July 11, 2020 meeting. They are as follows:

Organization	Amount
Lakes Environmental Association	\$2,200
Congress of Lake Association	200
Wilkins Community House	100
Maine Lake Stewards (VLMP)	100
Waterford Fire Department	50
Stoneham Rescue	50
Total Donations	\$2,700

Election of Officers and Board Members: Charlie discussed the effort to create a 'succession plan'. To that end, Richard Orr has agreed to be named Vice President for the next year and will move to the President position at the 2021 Annual meeting. Chip Mason will move to Treasurer Emeritus with the election of this year's new board members (and Dan Treadwell will step into Chip's (large) shoes). A motion was made, seconded and approved to invite Dan Treadwell and Bill Robichaud to join the KLA board and reelect Kim Struck, Ginger Eaton, Tom Hammett, Jim Flynn and Joe Abbiati to the KLA board for the term 2020-2023.

New Business: Martha Eaton shared a story about a recent visit from Penny Carson. These two women are the sole remaining members of the original KLA board. They enjoyed reminiscing on the past and we look forward to celebrating both women at the KLA50 Anniversary Celebration in July, 2021!

Meeting adjourned at 10:11am

Respectfully Submitted

Kim Struck, Secretary