

Keoka Lake Association
Box 97
Waterford, Maine 04088

July 14, 2018 Keoka Lake Association Annual Meeting

Agenda

Present: 37 present at the Wilkins House

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Tarbell at 9:01 AM

Welcome:

Charlie Tarbell started the meeting with a stated goal for the care of Keoka Lake. The lake is small but complicated; it is a system that has to be managed day-by-day to ensure the continued health of the lake ecosystem. KLA loves the volunteers who take on tasks like being watchful of new vegetation in the lake or counting loons.

David Abbiati is stepping down from the board as Secretary. His son, Joe, has volunteered to succeed him. . The Board thanked David Abbiati for his 20 years of service on the board!

Keynote:

Charlie Tarbell presented an overview of the changes at Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) as Peter Lovell, the Executive Director for 47 years, retired this spring. He is succeeded by former Operations Director, Colin Holme, a resident of Waterford. In addition, there are several changes on the LEA board. Due to term limits, Treasurer Julie McQueen has left the board and has been succeeded by Charlie. KLA board member, Tom Stockwell, also timed off the LEA board. LEA has 9 full-time employees and is involved in monitoring and testing for a 40 lake service area. By handling the payroll and hiring/scheduling of the Courtesy Boat Inspectors for Keoka Lake, LEA is really the association's "back office".

Charlie recently attended an LEA workshop on cyanobacteria (of which Gloeotricia, or Gloeo, is one). His handout from the workshop is attached to these minutes. Cyanobacteria is not something to be worried about at this time; it is not algae but it bears monitoring. The science of cyanobacteria, especially as it affects the overall health of lakes, is just getting started and some of the research is being at the Lake Science Center in Bridgton. LEA is monitoring the gloeo levels in Keoka Lake as the conducted readings are high compared to other lakes. Testing begins in mid-July and continues through Labor Day. The readings were high in 2014, 2016, and 2017. Thus far, there haven't been any complaints of rashes created by this bacteria.

Secretary's Report :

The reading of the minutes was waived as they are posted on the website.

Treasurer's Report:

Charlie presented Chip Mason's report. The Association is in good financial shape; the liability reserve has been capped at \$10k; the Milfoil Reserve has no cap and will continue to increase as an emergency fund should milfoil ever be detected in Keoka Lake.

Membership:

Ginny's report of membership reveals in 2017 there were 99 paid members (down from 107 of 2016). As of July 13th, there are 41 paid 2018 members, including 8 KBCG active members and 14 gift memberships. Of the 75-80 properties on the lake, only 8 are non-members. Ginny has sent out 169 letters to non-members, 46 to local Waterford properties (on and off the lake), and 123 to KBCG non-members.

Education and Outreach:

Ginger Eaton has been working diligently in building relationships with property owners, including the Keoka Beach Campground. She has held a couple of events at KBCG to introduce the idea of stewardship of the lake. This year's Outreach and Education event will be held July 28th at the new yoga studio, Good Health Is A Habit, that just opened up in Round's store. The event is open to all who have an interest in the health of Keoka, and will include representatives from LEA, KLA and Maine Audubon. Ginger has created topical graphic maps of the lake that show how the brooks feed in and out of the lake and 3D maps with color depicting the depth of the lake. The education outreach is also created to foster a sense of community around the lake and to encourage people to help be good stewards of the lake we all enjoy so much.

Water Quality:

The lake is once more considered as a HIGH concern lake due to water quality. The issues are largely the deoxygenation in deep water which is not good for trout in the lake. At this point, the state continues to do a full stocking of trout, but that might change. LEA will continue to monitor Gloeo levels in Keoka this summer. Natural runoff into the lake and the heavy rainfalls have introduced phosphorus into the lake that impacts the water quality in Keoka. The lack of rainfall this summer means less runoff into the lake and great water clarity. Don Rung reported that the last SECCHI disk reading was 12 feet.

Keoka Lake is an ecosystem that needs to be managed. KLA does that in the following ways:

1. LakeSmart program – which serves to protect the 100' buffer zone. The LakeSmart program has exceeded the goal of 15% of shoreland property

owners availing themselves of the free property inspection, but KLA would like to see more properties inspected in an effort to educate property owners as to ways to reduce runoff from their property and thereby improve the water quality in Keoka. Jim Flynn (583.2277) is the contact for property owners to discuss best practices to mitigate runoff through buffer zone protection and roads management.

2. Muni-Hot Spots – Charlie is working with the town to maintain the improvements made to municipal hot-spots. KLA has a budget item to purchase materials as needed for this mitigation. Waterford DPW provides the manpower during the summer season.
3. Streams – monitoring the streams that feed into Keoka by walking the streams to assess over banking and clogged culverts. Charlie is looking for volunteers to join this effort.
4. Septic Systems – in a study of the plumbing permits compared to the map of lake property owners, there are 20 properties with no post-1974 plumbing permit, meaning the system is really old or there is an outhouse in use. Charlie will be reaching out to those property owners to encourage them to assess the health of their individual septic system. A simple dye test can be done to determine the health of the system.

Invasives:

The lake continues to be clear of milfoil thanks to the effort of the Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI's) and Plant Patrollers who regularly inspect Keoka. Statistics are getting more sophisticated in modeling; but prevention (CBI program), detection (Plant Patrol program) and early eradication (Milfoil Reserve to be used to put divers in the water immediately if milfoil is ever detected in Keoka Lake) are key to maintaining an invasive-free lake. The town approved \$3400 to KLA to help fund the CBI program, as managed by LEA. The remainder of the annual expense is a budget line item for KLA.

Plant Patrol Program – all property owners are encouraged to take the time to acclimate themselves with the flora in front of their property shoreline. In addition, the lake has been divided into segments and volunteer Plant Patrollers monitor the flora and fauna along assigned segments on a regular basis. Arne Kleppinger heads the program for KLA and he is actively looking for more volunteers. If there is a question about a plant that is found and is not easily identifiable by the Plant Patrollers, the plant can be taken to the LEA office in Bridgton for their assistance in identifying it.

Water Safety:

Andy Tabor now has the combination for the lock and has removed the upper mechanism from the dam and cleaned and oiled the operating mechanism. The water level in the lake is being monitored. The dam is 13 years old and was recently evaluated as part of the state's 12-year cycle of inspections; it is classified as a LOW HAZARD dam.

Andy reports the navigation and safety buoys are all on station. There was discussion about the town boat launch and how to make this work with the dock that people use for putting and taking out their boats. There is some degree of confusion on who is responsible for putting the docks in and out. In addition, there was discussion on the condition of the boat launch and possible suggestions as to ways to mitigate the safety issues of the speeding traffic through that section of highway; the angle at which vehicles have to be in order to safely launch a boat and the erosion of the area near the concrete pad in the water. As the boat launch area belongs to the town, an idea is for people who are interested in furthering the discussion of safety concerns is to go to the next selectmen's meeting and bring up these concerns.

On May 5th the loon nest went out in Stone's Cove: the mating pair have two chicks; there is also a baby eagle in the eagle nest near Kokosing.

New Business:

- The Mason parcel of 16 acres is to be donated to Western FootHills Land Trust with an easement for the dam and is considered a conservation parcel. Bruce Rood will be contacted to help with the legal wording for the easement. KLA thanks Charlie Mason for the donation.
- In November, David Johnson submitted the paperwork and KLA's 501(c)(3) status was approved by the IRS.
- Appropriations – approved as follows:

ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT
Lakes Environmental Association (LEA)	\$2,350
Town of Waterford – muni hot spots	1,000
Maine Lakes Society (formerly COLA)	200
Wilkins Community House	100
Maine Lake Stewards (VLMP)	100
Waterford Fire Department	50
Stoneham Rescue Unit	50
TOTAL DONATIONS:	\$3,850

- New board members/terms – KLA is working to revise its Bylaws and Charlie expects to present the new bylaws for membership vote at the 2019 Annual Meeting. New Board members joining the board in 2018 are Kim Struck, Secretary, Jim Flynn, LakeSmart and Joe Abbiati, webmaster.