

Keoka Lake Association Annual Meeting Minutes July 9, 2022 Wilkins House

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

Given the gorgeous weather, the meeting was held on the lawn between the Wilkins House and the church. Approximately 40-45 members were present for the majority of the meeting.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Randy Lessard, Chair, Waterford Select Board was the keynote speaker. He described the high intrinsic value of the lake and how grateful he was to KLA for not only the good nature of its members, but the fact that with initiatives put forth by this organization, we are “thinking globally and acting locally.” Randy said the town appreciates KLA as evidenced by the fact that the annual request for an appropriation for courtesy boat inspectors is always approved without any questions.

The conversation was opened up to questions and he thoughtfully fielded questions regarding the impact of wake on wildlife, in particular loon chicks, speed limit enforcement on Waterford Road in the Flats and stream setbacks.

In response to questions about the rationale for certain ordinances, Lessard noted that the ordinances were approved by the voters of the Town, not enacted by the Select Board. If someone wants an ordinance changed, there is a process for that.

BUSINESS MEETING

Prior to the initiation of the business meeting, each person present introduced themselves. Rich thanked Arne Klepinger for restoring the coffee and donuts tradition. Paige Nalipinski served as Acting Secretary

Secretary’s Report – Motion to waive a reading of 2021 Annual Meeting passed unanimously and the minutes were approved. Minutes of Annual Meetings and Board Meetings are at www.keokalake.org.

Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Dan Treadwell briefly reviewed the balance sheet and income statement. The overall message was that KLA is fiscally healthy! He explained the distinction between “operating” and “other” income and expense. Dan also summarized the two KLA funds maintained at the Maine Community Foundation – one to hold the money raised by the KLA50 capital campaign and a separate unrestricted fund. His report was unanimously accepted.

Maine Community Foundation (MCF) – Board member David Johnson is the liaison with MCF. He was unable to attend because of preparing for the KLA Celebration party. Richard Orr reported on his behalf that MCF has a high-quality management team and is highly rated relative to similar foundations. We have confidence that our funds are secure despite recent market volatility.

Membership – Paige Nalipinski reported that there are 48 total paid memberships in 2022 as of 7/7/22 (vs 58 by this time last year). There are a total of 150 current members listed in membership (persons who paid dues in the last 3 years being treated as current). This includes 10 gift memberships (2 of which are new gift memberships). The membership list includes 28 members who have not paid since 2019. She reported that it is a little hard right now to gauge the exact number of paid memberships because with some payments there is some ambiguity about whether payments were for membership, a donation to KLA50 or a general donation. Also, when people pay early in the year, it is sometimes not clear if it was for their 2021 membership versus 2022. One attendee suggested that KLA specify a specific cutoff date to govern the year to which dues were applied.

Water Quality – Charlie Tarbell reported that LEA does water testing annually and that the report is available on the KLA website. Water quality ratings for 2021 are moderate for each of the key measures (clarity, phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a). Better still, the five-year trend is favorable for clarity and phosphorus and stable for chlorophyll-a.

Milfoil Prevention – Charlie Tarbell and Arne Klepinger provided a quick overview of the three prong approach to protection from Milfoil. Courtesy Boat Inspections help assure that invasives are not introduced to Keoka on boats coming from elsewhere. Plant patrollers monitor the plants along sections for shoreline to look for suspicious plants. The KLA50 capital fund has created a “war chest” that will fund eradication efforts in the event of an infestation of milfoil or other invasives.

Lake Smart – Priscilla Treadwell reported on the success of last year's training and Lake Smart visits. She encouraged KLA members to sign up for an evaluation. She reminded everyone that it is an educational process and not regulatory. The result of the evaluation is recommendations for improvements to shoreline property, but whether to adopt those recommendations and when is up to the owner. There is no reporting to governmental authorities.

Water Safety, Dam, Boat Launch, Loons - Andy Tabor highlighted his chilly April placement of the loon's nest and buoys. The nest later migrated but was restored. Currently there are two chicks on the lake. Andy managed the installation of the docks at the town beach and installation of buoys around the lake. Andy urged people to volunteer for dock removal on Columbus Day weekend.

Streams - Kim Struck reported the stream walking continues to be invaluable in understanding upstream impacts on the lake's health. She and her fellow stream walker, T'ing T'ing Doore welcome volunteers to join them. It's a great opportunity to not only understand the contribution of the streams to the lake, but to get to know the landowners where the streams travel and provide education regarding runoff, etc.

Regatta – Al Struck gave a brief report about the success of last year's event. This year's event will be on July 30. At least three camps have signed up for the Camp Cup. They are hoping for more entries in the Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta. They're excited about their new buoys purchased by KLA and have applied for a permit from the state for running the regatta.

Communication & Outreach – Brenda Hambleton, Claire Pendergast, Priscilla Treadwell, and Melissa Tarbell each spoke briefly about the current communication and outreach measures including the new website and the active Instagram account. The newsletter is issued electronically each month during the summer. They would love to have submissions for the newsletter from people who would like to write. Priscilla offered her services to help guide any inexperienced or shy writers if they have an idea they are interested in submitting. The committee reminded members that any photographs being submitted should be sent in the largest possible file size so that they are reproducible with good quality.

Education – Tom Hammett explained the importance of upland areas in the watershed to lake health. He is hoping to organize a program with LEA be held in their Bridgton Educational Facility for Board members and others who are interested in learning more about this topic.

Merchandise Fundraising – Joanne Eaton reminded members that merchandise will be available at the Wilkins House breakfasts and other events throughout the summer. They sold \$1200 worth of merchandise on July 4! Joanne offered that people could contact her directly if they had requests for merchandise and could not get to a breakfast.

KLA50 – Jo Lynne & David Johnson were not at today's meeting as they were busy preparing for the wonderful KLA Celebration that took place later the same day. On their behalf, Rich Orr summarized reminders about the event. He also reminded folks that The Book about the lake could be purchased at breakfasts, the road race or at the library.

Appropriations- Richard Orr presented the appropriations recommended by the Board for 2022. They were the same as 2021.

- Lakes Environmental Association \$2,200
 - This includes the cost of water testing, balance is a donation
- Lake Stewards of Maine. (VLMP) \$100
- Maine Lakes Society \$200
 - Lake Smart; previously Congress of Lake Associations
- Wilkins Community House \$100
- Waterford Fire Department \$ 50
- Stoneham Rescue Unit \$ 50

Total \$2,700

The appropriations were approved unanimously.

Nominations and Election of Board Members and Officers - As provided in the By Laws, the Board proposed the following slate of Directors to serve for a three-year term, 2022-2025.

Arne Klepinger
Brenda Hambleton
David Johnson

Jo Lynne Johnson
Al Struck

An additional nomination was made from the floor, Ting Ting Doore. The slate of directors, including Ms. Doore, was approved unanimously.

The following directors will continue to serve the terms for which they were previously elected:

2021-2024

Joanne Eaton
Richard Orr
Ginny Raymond
Andy Tabor
Charlie Tarbell
Melissa Tarbell

2020-2023

Joe Abbiati
Ginger Eaton
Jim Flynn
Tom Hammett
Bill Robichaud
Kim Struck
Dan Treadwell

As provided in the By Laws, the Board proposed the following slate of officers to serve one year terms for 2022-2023

Richard Orr, President
Brenda Hambleton, Vice President
Dan Treadwell, Treasurer
Jo Lynne Johnson, Secretary

The slate of officers was approved unanimously,

New Business

- Historical information signage for City Brook Trail. The Friends of City Brook has asked KLA to provide interpretive signage about the history and operation of the dam. KLA owns only the dam, not the land around it. KLA will need to consider whether such signage is desirable. KLA has already posted signs warning people to stay off the dam because of potential danger/hazards. Interpretive signage might be contrary to that message. The board will consider the issue.
- City Brook Trail Dedication. KLA was asked to provide a docent for the August 11 dedication event for the City Brook Trail. Rich asked that anyone willing to volunteer contact him.

- Recognizing Invasives Training. Rich asked if members of KLA would be interested in attending training on recognizing invasive plants in 2023. Many members indicated that they would be interested in attending. The training would be a joint activity with Bear Pond which had recently approached KLA. Training is provided by Lake Stewards of Maine and will be held on Bear Pond.
- Boat Ramp Road Signage. Ginny Raymond asked about the absence of signage on the road approaching the boat ramp because the visibility on the corner is poor. Charlie Tarbell responded that this was in the jurisdiction of the state or the town and volunteered to look into it.
- Boat Parade of Lights. Bill Robichaud made a proposal for a Parade of Lights on Labor Day weekend. The concept is that at dusk a group of boats, displaying lights, start to circumnavigate the lake and as they pass lake front properties, other boats join the parade. Many members enthusiastically supported this. Bill agreed to take the lead on organizing this to include both KLA and Keoka Beach Campground.

At 10:25 a motion was made to end the annual meeting and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Nalipinski, Acting Secretary