

Keoka Lake Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2023
Wilkins Community House

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

There were approximately 30 people present. Rich asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

Meeting Business:

Secretary's Report

Rich Orr asked for a motion to waive the reading of the 2022 minutes, which have been posted on the website, and to approve the minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Liz Stockwell reporting:

KLA ended 2022 with a very healthy balance. There is \$14,000 in the operating account at Key Bank. There is approximately \$190,000 at the Main Community Foundation, which is divided into the KLA 50 Capital campaign fund of over \$150,000 and approximately \$40,000 in unrestricted funds.

For 2023 to date, income and operating expenses are looking similar year over year.

Membership

Paige Nalipinski reporting:

KLA membership is ahead of last year with 90+ paid members plus approximately 18 additional members who have paid in past year but have not yet paid dues for 2023.

Water Quality

Charlie Tarbell reporting:

Due to rain this spring, water quality and clarity has been relatively poor, but is starting to recover. Quality is measured by three criteria: clarity, levels of phosphorus, and levels chlorophyll in the water. The 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.

Milfoil Prevention

Charlie Tarbell reporting:

Keoka is considered a high-risk lake for invasive plants because (a) it has shallow coves which are an ideal habitat, (b) we are near other lakes with milfoil, and (c) we have a public boat launch, which means that boats from other lakes can freely enter Keoka.

Our courtesy boat inspector (CBI) program is funded, in large part, by grants from the town and the DEP. There are two reasons KLA may need to find other financial solutions to pay the

inspectors in the future. First, the cost of paying inspectors is going up as wages increase. The inspectors are employees of LEA, but KLA reimburses LEA for the fully loaded cost of labor including taxes etc. Second, there has been some indication that DEP is considering transitioning its financial focus to eradication rather than prevention. If the DEP grant goes away, KLA would have to make up that amount to be able to maintain the same level of inspections. 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 \$1,800 from the DEP) and the KLA treasury contributes \$3,800.

Lake Smart

Ginger Eaton reporting:

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. It is a good idea to walk your property during or after rain to check for runoff. Last year, the Lake Smart team handed out 3 awards to property owners whose property met the standards for promoting a healthy lake.

Water Safety

Andy Tabor reporting:

The loon nest was put out on the 15th of May. The loons immediately populated it and had two babies on the earlier side!

KLA put in the docks at town beach on Memorial Day weekend. Because of storms over the winter and earlier this spring, there was a lot of debris on the beach this year. KLA volunteers cleaned up the beach while putting in the docks. Three trailer loads of debris were hauled to the dump.

KLA has replaced 2 buoys. The buoys have been placed in the middle of the lake as well at places like Rock Island and the dam.

Streams

Kim Struck reporting:

All the brooks are up and running fast. Sucker brook and Lenasi have the most tannin. We got 8 inches of rain in June and are at 0% drought. The streams team suggests keeping an eye on your brooks and what is coming out of them.

Communication and Outreach

Brenda Hambleton reporting:

KLA newsletters are sent monthly during the year and every other month during the winter. Roughly 200 people are on the recipient list and 150 open the newsletters. 75% of those click through and read additional information! We also maintain a social media presence.

Education

Ginger Eaton reporting:

The event with Keoka Beach Campground is this afternoon and the goal is to bring more awareness to invasives. LEA will be providing training on spotting invasive species. Following

that, seven pontoon boats will be taking participants around the lake and surveying five at risk areas.

Regatta

Al Struck reporting:

This is the 10th anniversary of the regatta and there is now an online registration form. The regatta is on Saturday, July 29th at 2 pm. Several camps in the area will be competing. It is important to note that the speed limit in and out of the campground is 5 mph.

Lighted Boat Parade

Bill Robichaud reporting:

The Lighted Boat Parade is on August 5, 2023, from 8 pm to 9 pm. They will be lighting obstacles in the lake this year to promote safety. There is a new prize for best decorated dock. There will be T-shirts for sale and proceeds from the sales will go to sponsoring other events.

Merchandise Fundraising

Joanne Eaton reporting:

The prices are increasing by \$5. Merchandise sales brought in \$3,000 last year.

The books about Keoka, created as part of KLA50, are being sold at Keoka Beach Campground and 26 have been sold so far.

Donations

The Board proposed donations totaling \$1,700 (outlined below). The donations were approved unanimously.

- LEA \$1,200
- Lake Stewards of Maine \$100
- Maine Lakes Society \$200
- Wilkins Community House \$100
- Waterford Fire Department \$50
- Stoneham Rescue Unity \$50

Retiring Board Member Recognition

The President recognized outgoing board members for their dedication and years of service to the KLA.

Ginny Raymond was recognized for decades of service, particularly her work on membership and in maintaining the map which shows the ownership of all the lake front lots.

David and Jo Lynne Johnson were not able to be present, but 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 a year ago.

Rich Orr presented plaques to Ginny and the Johnsons as a small tribute to their many years of service.

Nominations and Election of Board Members

Rich Orr asked for a motion to approve the election for directors (listed below) to serve from 2023 to 2026 and for Riley Hasson to serve the balance of an unexpired term, from 2023-2025. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Rich Orr asked for a motion to elect the slate of officers for 1-year terms. The motion and passed unanimously.

- Richard Orr, President
- Brend Hambleton, Vice President
- Elizabeth “Liz” Stockwell, Treasurer (NEW)
- Riley Hasson, Secretary (NEW)

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

New Business

Rich Orr reporting:

There is a plant patrol training in partnership with Bear Pond and the Lake Stewards of Maine on Wednesday, July 26th, 2023. The training is from 9 am to 12 pm starting at the Bear Mountain Inn. Participants will learn how to observe invasives, recognize them, take a sample, and document the location, and how to bring the sample to the LEA. Anyone interested in participating should contact Rich or send an Email to the KLA Gmail account which is keokalakeassoc@gmail.com.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:10 am. Many members stayed to help set up the tables and chairs for the next Wilkins House breakfast.

Respectfully submitted,

Riley Hasson
Secretary

DIRECTORS

Directors serving for 2023-2026

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

Directors serving 2022-2025

T'ing T'ing Doerr
Brenda Hambleton
Riley Hasson (NEW) To serve the balance of an unexpired term 2023-2025.
Arne Klepinger
Al Struck

Directors serving 2021-2024

Joanne Eaton
Richard Orr
Andy Tabor
Charlie Tarbell
Melissa Tarbell

OFFICERS

Elected to serve for 2023-2024

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