

Keoka Lake Association
Box 97
Waterford, Maine 04088

Keoka Lake Association Annual Meeting
July 13, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Present: 47 present at the Wilkins House

Charlie Tarbell called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Keynote Speaker:

Colin Holme, Executive Director of Lakes Environmental Association (LEA), presented the projects taking place on Keoka this summer. A special analysis of water quality has been used since the 1970's in the deepest part of the lake, recording temperature, oxygen level and water quality. However the middle is not the most used part of the lake, so beginning this summer, LEA will be trying out a new form of testing on Keoka, allowing for water quality along the shore land to be tested. A machine called a Sonde will be towed behind a boat; the machine takes in water to determine water quality and a GPS reading will be taken at each testing point. This information will be used as an educational tool on how run-off or potential septic leaks around the lake impact the water quality. KLA will offer to collaborate with landowners to help manage any issues that arise from the testing. As the lake continues to see a rise in development, it is important to involve and educate landowners on the impacts that may occur when building on or near the lake.

The University of Maine and Colby College are both interested in helping out with a project named The Watershed Project. With a grant from Patagonia, the colleges will help develop a hot spot map around the lake to help determine how to reduce the damage. More in-depth information about this project is in the most recent LEA newsletter. Colin encouraged landowners to become members of LEA to keep abreast of developments of projects around the lake, the watershed and surrounding areas.

Colin is grateful for the KLA community as that it takes such a strong interest in the health of Keoka and its support of LEA. Keoka is a unique lake because of this community support.

Old Business:

Secretary Report:

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

Treasurer's Report:

Chip Mason distributed copies of the current year-end Treasurer's Report as well as year-to-date numbers. Two CD's are maturing in June and will be placed in the checking account ahead of a transfer to the Maine Community Fund. The Milfoil Reserve Fund currently stands at \$37,000. Chip indicated at the beginning of the year, checks written could include KLA merchandise sales and memberships, making it more difficult to put monies in correct budget categories.

Invasives:

Charlie Tarbell reported he attended the 19th Annual Maine Milfoil Seminar in April. Thus far, Keoka Lake has not had a milfoil infestation, largely due to Courtesy Boat Inspections and the vigilance of those who self-inspect their boats before launching them into Keoka. Boat inspections have played a huge role in monitoring boats in an effort to stop milfoil being introduced into water bodies in the state. After the new York (ME) tollbooths are complete, LEA is working with the state to consider setting up a boat inspection/washing station on I-95 (Maine Turnpike) at the site of current tollbooths. Colin Holme addressed this possibility of an inspection at the new toll booth, but the Department of Transportation reports it would be hard to enforce an inspection of boats entering the state.

In conjunction with vigilant Boat Inspections, having an organized Plant Patrol is very helpful to quickly react to any possible milfoil invasion. A reminder: if there is ever a question about a plant found, LEA is happy to identify it.

- Arne Klepinger is looking for new Plant Patrollers to augment the current list. He has sent cards out to the campground to recruit people to help conduct plant patrols along the beach in front of KBCG. He will do a new Plant Patroller map that will be uploaded to the website

Water Quality:

The water quality report for 2018 shows the clarity of Keoka Lake is better at the surface but as the water becomes deeper, there is less clarity. There is still concern for the lack of deep-water oxygenation. *Gloeo* continues to be an issue; LEA will not be using its resources to test for *Gloeo* this summer as they have 5 years of data. Instead, they are going to utilize Citizen Scientists to continue the testing. Bill and Sara Stockwell have volunteered to be trained as Citizen Scientists and will test for *Gloeo* in hot spots.

LEA will be launching a new program on Keoka Lake. As Colin mentioned in his presentation, a new water tester called a Sonde will be used on Keoka this summer. It will help to determine water quality at systematic points around the lake and a GPS reading will be taken at each testing site. This will provide a more complete testing report for Keoka. This information will be used to educate landowners on what septic leaks can do to the lake and offer joint collaboration to help manage any issues. A motion is proposed in the Appropriations section of the agenda to recommend to the general membership at the Annual Meeting that KLA pay LEA \$2,175 for its complete water test proposal.

Stream Surveys:

- Kim has begun stream surveys.
 - Sucker Brook had three tires removed and a bag of trash. There are three major obstructions of big logs that should be removed. Anyone with a chainsaw and work gloves is invited to help with the removal.
 - Johnson Brook was running clear with a couple of debris removals of small logs.
 - Kedar Brook downstream is flowing with little debris. Upstream Kedar Brook saw removal of trash and an opportunity to speak with landowners about the health of the brook and how to help maintain the health.
 - The remaining brooks to be surveyed by the fall KLA board meeting are Perch Brook, Stone Cove Stream, Neimi Stream and Youngs Brook.

- The purpose of the surveys is to look for any evidence of over-banking or other trouble spots that might endanger the health of the lake. The survey also serves to clean up the streams of plastic and other trash.
- Any help is appreciated, please phone Kim at 207-272-9557 if you are interested in stumping up brooks.

LakeSmart:

Jim Flynn discussed LakeSmart. He has recruited Doss (Hammett) Hasson to join his team when she arrives for visits this summer. The discussion included an increase of boats on the lake that weigh down their sterns, creating a larger wake for recreation. Even when a boat of that type is 200 feet off shore, the wake still comes up over people's docks during the summer levels. Kim has spoken with Game Warden Miller and asked what the options are to target the issue. GW Miller will pass along the concerns about the wake boats to the officers who patrol the lake in an effort to educate boat owners what the wakes do to shoreline property (even 200 feet offshore). GW Miller will also make a note in their computer system of calls from landowners around the lake reporting difficulty with wake boats. GW Miller suggested Kim contact the Department of Conservation in August about the issue; there is a possibility that no wake zone buoys could be placed around the lake. Charlie will start conversations with the campground and Kokosing boat owners to educate about detrimental effects of this.

Education and Outreach:

Ginger Eaton has made many connections over the years and has been able to educate landowners around the lake about the effects that people and properties have on the water and wildlife. Tom Hammett reports he is putting together an outreach program for the Waterford school to educate and encourage students to help take care of the lake. Ginger suggests canoeing around the lake for a meet and greet with owners. With the 50th celebration upcoming, the KLA50 Shore owner Questionnaire can be a good opener for getting to know people. Tom and Ginger will coordinate this effort; Brenda Hambleton has offered to help.

Membership

Ginny Raymond reported that she sent out 107 membership letters to Waterford property owners with an interest in the lake as well as to members whose memberships have lapsed. Seven letters came back; there were a couple with forwarding addresses. Ginny will resend these when she is able to track down new addresses. These letters led to three renewal members and three new members. The boxes have been put out at the two town beaches with membership brochures in them. Brenda has worked up a new tri-fold membership folder that will also be put at the Town Clerk's office and the Library.

Website:

Jo Lynne Johnson is working with webmaster, Joe Abbiati, to feed 2018 report information to be uploaded to the website. Typically the spring upload contains the 2018 water quality/health reports as well as the new Dues Form, 2019, Dates to Remember, etc. KLA will be moving to a different website platform over the next few months. The new website will allow for online dues payments and donations in addition to being more interactive.

Merchandise:

At the 4th of July breakfast and parade, thanks to Joanne Eaton's hard work and help from KLA members, total sales of merchandise for the day was \$1,000. She has new t-shirt designs as well as raffle tickets for a paddleboard for sale. Merchandise will be offered at the remaining Community Breakfasts and at the Fall Foliage 5K on October 13, 2019.

LEA membership:

Charlie, as a new member (and Treasurer) of the LEA board, highlighted the work that the LEA does for all lakes in Maine. He reiterated the LEA is our "back room" as it handles the recruiting, staffing, and accounting for Keoka's CBI program. All KLA members are also encouraged to become LEA members. This is an important organization. Colin has also encouraged landowners to join LEA as he talked about the programs that the membership supports for the lakes in the area. We all impact the care of the lakes, not just Keoka.

Water Safety:

Andy Tabor put the loon's nest out on May 4, 2019; two baby chicks have been spotted with the adult loons. Andy is requesting funds to add buoys to the loon's nest to warn boaters and to discourage people from getting too close to the nest. (Ed: one loon chick hatched on July 16 and the second on July 17 – watch Facebook for pictures)

- The boat ramp is being replaced! Jeff Ward has donated his time and equipment but has been delayed due to the wet spring and high water levels. Current date of installation is August 2-3. KLA is grateful for Jeff's effort in doing this work, for the anonymous donation by a KLA member from Keoka Beach Campground and for the Town of Waterford's allocation of monies for this project. KLA will provide the remainder of the funding. KLA will now be responsible for setting and removing the boat launch docks.
- 7th Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta - Al Struck shared that the date for the 7th Annual Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta is July 27th with a rain date of July 28th. Al and John Wait talked to Chris Searles, owner of Keoka Beach Campground, and he has agreed to host the regatta launch and the awards ceremony at KBCG. There will be a race for kids from four local camps (for the Camp Cup) and one for the adults (for the Bud Lazott Memorial Regatta plaque). Posters for the race have been printed and posted around town and at each of the camps. The text includes the KLA sponsorship and the use of the Campground. The Regatta and KLA thank the Chadbourn's for hosting the regatta at their beach for the past 6 years. Due to the different classes of boats, Al has enlisted the assistance of John O'Brien and Peter Leslie for their help in handicapping the boats and starting the race. Volunteer spotters are still needed; if you can help, please contact Al Struck.

New Business:

- Mason Parcel: This is an ongoing work in progress. Charlie Mason is donating 17 acres at the outlet/by the dam to the Western Foothills Land Trust. KLA will have ownership and responsibility for the dam and must also have a right of way (actual = 400 sq. ft.). Charlie Tarbell shared a survey map that showed how the parcel is delineated.

- KLA50
In 2021, KLA will be celebrating its 50-year anniversary. David and Jo Lynne Johnson have agreed to chair the committee and are working with Bill Stockwell and Charlie Tarbell on the early planning (currently in the “quiet” phase).
 - In preparation for the 50th year celebration, a committee is working on gathering ‘lake property stories’ from each current (and past) lakeshore owner. The newsletter contains information about this project and a Questionnaire to get the lakeshore owners started on their property stories. Each shore owner is asked to complete a Questionnaire with information, history and stories about their property. These stories will be combined into a book that will be available in 2021.
 - During the summer of 2021, there will be a celebration event to commemorate the founding of KLA. More details will follow. Anyone else interested in volunteering, please email Jo Lynne at KLA50.2021@gmail.com
 - Additionally, in conjunction with the Waterford Library and the Waterford Historical Society, there are plans for an exhibit during the summer of 2021 that will highlight the history of KLA, life on the lake and in Waterford over the past 50 years. The committee is looking for pictures and memorabilia for the exhibit. Please contact Nancy Marcotte at the Waterford Historical Society.
- Bills in the 2019 Maine Legislature of interest:
 - LD235 calls for an increase of the milfoil sticker price. Proceeds will go to continued efforts to prevent and eradicate milfoil infestations.
 - LD216) has been passed and signed into law by the governor. It calls for mandatory septic system inspection for all property transfers in the shore land zone.

- The By-Laws

Richard Orr reviewed the by-laws at the meeting. He explained how the new by-laws would help with the on-going operations of KLA, providing full transparency for the public as KLA makes decisions during the two board meetings in the spring and autumn. There was no discussion. A motion was made to accept the new by-laws; motion accepted and passed. An attested copy of the new bylaws will be uploaded to the website.

- Appropriations

Based on the proposed appropriations as listed (including the increased donation to LEA to cover the Sonde testing) on the meeting agenda, a motion was made to accept the board’s recommendations; motion was passed.

- Election of Board Members

There was a motion to elect Arne Klepinger, David Johnson, Jo Lynne Johnson, Brenda Hambleton and Al Struck to the KLA board for the 2019-2022 terms. Motion was made, seconded and approved. Welcome to the new board members, Brenda and Al!

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Struck, Secretary