

Keoka Lake Association
Box 97
Waterford, ME 04088

Board of Trustees Meeting - Friday, May 28, 2021. 7:00 p.m.
Zoom call - Meeting minutes

Present: Joe Abbiati, Ginger Eaton, Joann Eaton, T'ing T'ing Doore, Jim Flynn, Brenda Hambleton, Tom Hammett, Doss Hasson, Haley Horgan, David Johnson, Jo Lynne Johnson, Arne Klepinger, Charlie Mason, Chip Mason, Rich Orr, Bill Robichaud, Tom Schaefer, Al Struck, Kim Struck, Andy Tabor, Charlie Tarbell, Melissa Tarbell, Dan Treadwell

Unable to Attend: Peter Morse, Ginny Raymond, Tom Stockwell

Charlie called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and commented that he hoped this would be the last Zoom board meeting. Given the restrictions for use of the Wilkins House for the summer of 2021 (no food, no use of the bathrooms, need for social distancing, etc), it was decided to do the spring Board meeting as a Zoom but weather permitting, the Annual Meeting will be held outside on the parking lot between the Wilkins House and the church. Charlie reiterated that the KLA Board of Trustees is a loosely knit group that comes together twice a year to be updated on the work various committees and individuals have done in the interim.

Secretary's Report – Jo Lynne Johnson is taking minutes for this meeting.

As the minutes for the Fall 2020 zoom board meeting have been posted to the website, she requested the reading of the minutes be waived. Motion made by Charlie Tarbell; seconded by Tom Hammett; unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Dan Treadwell

In advance of the meeting, Dan had emailed the board the Treasurer's report for review. The Balance Sheet reflects the monies in the KLA checking account as well as monies held for KLA/KLA50 at Maine Community Fund (MCF). Due to the pandemic, dues and POS receipts were down for 2020 reflecting a modest operating loss for the year. Fiscal year-to-date shows nothing unexpected. If all of the initial order of KLA50 books sell out, there will be a small profit. The balance in the MCF reflects market gain and investment income. Charlie noted that 2019 year-end numbers included a personal donation for the boat ramp. Motion made by Tom Hammett to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by JoLynne Johnson; unanimously approved.

Maine Community Fund Update – David Johnson

David noted that MCF is the 39th largest community fund in the country but consistently performs in the top 3% for returns. He had attended a Webinar in the winter and got an update from MCF. The CEO is retiring later this summer but the management team is deep and he feels confident that there will be a smooth transition. The KLA/KLA50 monies are 'parked' with MCF to provide safety and a good return so that if/when milfoil shows up in Keoka, we are well-positioned to act quickly to get divers in the water.

Invasives

Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI) – Charlie Tarbell

CBI's are the first leg of the 3-legged stool in the fight against invasives. Charlie feels the milfoil risk in Keoka is well managed. The Town of Waterford approved a grant of \$3,400 for the 2021 CBI program; Charlie applied for (and received) a grant from the DEP for \$1,600 and LEA will manage the scheduling of 500 hours of coverage at the Town Beach. LEA handles the 'back office' of the CBI program for KLA (hiring (now \$16/hr), scheduling, payroll, FICA, etc). There was no Milfoil Summit in 2020 nor in 2021 so there was no statewide status update but Charlie indicated that through his work with LEA, he would know if there were any major changes statewide.

Plant Inspections – Arne Klepinger

The second leg of the 3-legged stool, Plant Inspections, are critical to keeping invasives out of the lake. Arne sent out emails to last year's 16 Plant Patrollers, received 13 responses and he will be following up with the remaining 3. Bill Robichaud is taking on the KBCG stretch of shoreline; Sara Stockwell is changing her 'territory' and will use her paddleboard for surveillance; Brenda 'volunteered' her SIL for Brown's Cove as he is also a paddleboarder and swimmer. As a follow up, in late summer/early fall 2020, LEA did an extensive survey of the lake at the 5', 10' and 15' foot levels and found no invasive plants.

Water Quality

2020 Water testing – Charlie Tarbell

The report is complete and was emailed to board members on May 25th. It will be posted to the website as well. In the report, it was noted that Keoka is stable with perhaps a little improvement. Chlorophyll and phosphorus are decreasing; the bottom is still problematic. Key takeaway: Keoka is NOT backsliding!

Stream Surveys – Kim Struck

Over the course of the spring, Kim and T'ing T'ing Doore have tromped up 6 of the 7 streams that feed into Keoka Lake, looking for overbanking, erosion, flow blockage due to trees down/sticks/leaves, and other areas of concern, etc. Armed with black trash bags (and bug spray for the mosquitoes), they have cleaned up debris from the stream edges, engaged with landowners (and KBCG children) and noted a couple of areas of clear cutting right down to the stream banks. The regular surveys provide both a baseline and a record for future reference in Upland Efforts and/or Watershed proposals/studies.

Upland Efforts – Tom Hammett

The pandemic slowed efforts to educate the board and shoreowners about the importance of protecting and being vigilant for Keoka's 6 square miles of watershed as whatever happens within that area ultimately affects the quality of the lake. The tour of LEA's Holt Pond project with Colin Holme was postponed from last summer and Tom hopes to reschedule it for the end of summer 2021.

LakeSmart – Ginger Eaton

Summer 2020 saw 3 new properties inspected and the trio (Ginger, Doss Hasson, and Priscilla Treadwell) are looking for sign-ups for inspections during the summer of 2021. As a reminder to those who may have already received a LakeSmart Award, they are good for 7 years when the property should/must be re-inspected. Two of those present 'signed up' for summer 2021 inspections. The objective for summer 2021 is to reach out to neighbors/friends (with 'positivity') to encourage them to sign up for a LakeSmart inspection.

Education & Outreach

Education efforts – Tom Hammett

Tom reported that the educational efforts for this summer will concentrate on the importance of watershed management. Three years ago, there was an educational effort at KBCG that resonated well with the kids. Bill Robichaud reported that Chris Searles is on board to (hopefully) do something in July.

Membership – Charlie (for Ginny Raymond)

Membership numbers in 2020 were down, (pandemic? KLA50 Capital Campaign donation/pledge rather than dues? No POS opportunities to remind people to pay their dues?). KLA membership from lakeside property owners averages about 96% which is very high for lakes within the LEA area. Ginny sent out 165 letters (including 124 to KBCG) on May 1st to invite people to join KLA. So far, Ginny has received 11 new memberships; current membership stands at 56 (including 13 gift memberships). There are approx. 23 overdue dues (2017 to present) that fall into two basic groups. Charlie and Arne will tackle that list.

Website – Brenda Hambleton

The website is getting lots of new hits thanks to Claire Pendergast for the 'Newsletter' blog posts and Melissa Tarbell for the Social Media posts. Brenda's focus with the website is 1) information???, 2) engage the next generation and 3) building community. In June, there will be an announcement of a Summer Photo Contest with two categories (adults and those under 18 years old). She is in need of content writers and bloggers. Additionally, she would like a couple of volunteers: a database manager and a content manager.

Social Media Update – Melissa Tarbell

There is an on-going need for pictures taken on/near the lake. A couple of sentences as a description (where pix was taken, when, etc) would be helpful.

Sales – Joann Eaton

With no Community Breakfasts at the Wilkins House for 2021, POS opportunities are unclear. Ginger has made a 3-D printer model of the Keoka Lake watershed that will be a POS item for 2022. Joann has been, when possible due to the pandemic, shopping for clothing options, but nothing is planned for 2021. Brenda asked about doing some kind of 'standardized' design (e.g., lake map w/trails indicated?) that could be made up into multiple POS items (magnets, note cards, etc.). The availability of online sales for merchandise is still being explored. The main focus for 2021 is the KLA50 BOOK but Joann is going to be working on things in the pipeline so all is ready to go for 2022. However, if she was going to do anything in a larger scale, Joann would need help (staffing? Packaging? Mailing?)

LEA Landowner's Guide – Charlie Tarbell

Originally published in _____, LEA is reissuing its Landowner's Guide. Charlie is going to ask for 90 copies and intends to ask board members to hand them off to their neighbors as a way to make a personal connection. Suggestions: insert flyer with information about boat waking and possibly KLA membership brochure??

Water Safety

Dam – Charlie Tarbell and Al Struck

There is a need for one more person to work in rotation with Charlie and Al to monitor the level of the lake/dam/stream flow. Al reported the lake is now at the July level and the dam has been closed down. Rain is needed!!!

Water Safety, Loon nest – Andy Tabor

The new buoys, floats and swim line are at the lake and will be installed on Saturday, May 29th when the town boat docks go in (1 pm – strong backs needed). The loon nest and buoys are in place and one loon was most persistent as Andy was putting them in! There is one pair of loons on the lake but perhaps a third (rogue) loon as well. Joann reports there are two adult and two youth eagles on the lake as well!

Boat ramp project update – Charlie Tarbell

The top piece of asphalt along the highway is to be done ‘any day now’. Charlie reports he applied to the state for a grant for help with the boat ramp. He turned it over to the town, in the interest of good will, so the town basically got the boat ramp for free.

Town Beach Dock install – Andy Tabor

Andy appealed for additional Clorox bottles (as well as people with strong backs) for the town boat dock install – scheduled for 1 pm on Saturday, May 29th. Post meeting note: Thanks to Tim Blasko, Joann Eaton, Haley Horgan, Rich Orr, Tom Schaefer, C.J. Simonson, Andy Tabor, Charlie Tarbell & Melissa Tarbell for providing the latter.

KLWA Wake Boat document – Charlie Tarbell

With concern for the erosion damage done to shorelines, Charlie discussed the possibility of doing a brochure (similar to Kezar Lake’s) citing the wake boat rules/guidelines and cautions. Ginger and Joann will work on putting something together for the website (blog post) as well as designing a brochure for KLA. Al Struck questioned if something could also be done for jet skis?

Newish Business

KLA50 Update – Jo Lynne Johnson

In January, 2021, the KLA50 Anniversary Celebration committee agreed to put the party on ‘pause’ until 2022. The KLA50 Capital Campaign continues to accept donations; quilt raffle tickets are still being sold (and Social Media keeps that fundraising event ‘current’ with periodic postings with the picture of the quilt) but the Waterford Historical Society KLA50 exhibition has also been postponed to summer 2022. The BOOK is being printed and will be sold beginning June 2021 (see below). To date, 85.5% of lakefront properties have contributed to the KLA50 Capital Campaign – an impressive number! With an extra year to fundraise, the other 14.5% will be contacted over the summer to see how close to 100% participation we can come!

The 50th anniversary celebration will be held in the Eaton Meadow on Saturday, July 9, 2022 from 3-6 pm. Invitations to all current/paid KLA members will be mailed in the spring. Throughout 2021, Waterford-based businesses will be personally contacted about sponsorship/in-kind donations or other forms of support for the KLA50 Anniversary Celebration party itself. Postponing the party for a year does insure there is additional costs due to annual increases from providers/vendors. The committee is still looking for sponsorships, specifically to cover the meals for the band and their spouses, flowers/planters for centerpieces/decorations for the party and a myriad of other ‘opportunities’. Any board members interested in being a sponsor for the party should contact Jo Lynne.

KLA50 Book – Brenda Hambleton

The BOOK is being printed and is tentatively expected to be delivered the first full week in June. At 400+ pages, it is a tome – full of stories, histories and memories of families on Keoka; 160 have already been pre-ordered! The books can be purchased online or via snail mail with an order form that can be printed from the KLA website. The cost is \$35 cash or check and \$36 if using a credit card online. Once the books have been delivered to KLA, they will be available for pick-up at the Waterford Library during the Friday morning Coffee Cafes June 11 (tentative pending receipt of the books in time) –through July 2 and at the KLA Annual Meeting on July 10th (weather permitting). Additional copies can be purchased (cash or check) at any of those times. Additional Points of Sale for the book are to be determined.

Mason parcel – Charlie Tarbell

The parcel finally transferred this winter, but it did not include the deed for the dam. That has now been rectified and KLA owns 411 square feet of shoreline at The Mason Dam.

Dam Insurance – Rich Orr

Rich clarified the insurance question – the dam is currently not covered nor is the land surrounding the dam covered under the Commercial General Liability Insurance policy. Rich and Charlie have applied for insurance to include the dam. Current insurance is \$500/year; adding the dam doubles the price for \$2 million overall/\$1 million per occurrence coverage. Bill Robichaud questioned whether the amounts were enough and what was the board exposure? After discussion, Bill Robichaud moved that KLA get \$2million/\$1million coverage now and Rich will research/secure a quote for higher limits between now and the Fall Board meeting for discussion at that time. Al Struck seconded the motion; unanimously approved.

New Officers and Board members (July's annual meeting) – Charlie

Chip Mason will step off the Board at the Annual Meeting and Charlie is assessing the interest of the others in this year's 'class' re: continuing to serve on the board. Melissa Tarbell will be joining the board. The proposed slate of officers is: Rich Orr, President; Brenda Hambleton, V.P.; Dan Treadwell, Treasurer; and Jo Lynne Johnson, Secretary.

Charlie adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Lynne J. Johnson

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