

Minutes of the Lake Colby Association 8/14/20

This is our first ever meeting held through Zoom due to our unsettling of times with the corona virus pandemic. Lee kindly administered Zoom and hoped that all were doing as well as possible in the midst of this pandemic.

Meeting began at 4:03, for our 23rd year of the LCA.

Minutes from 2019 were sent through a link provided by Lee. Input for changes and corrections were sought. Motion made to accept the minutes by Debbie Neill, seconded by Lee Keet. Minutes approved.

Attending:

Sylvia Getman, Board Member, CEO Adirondack Health

Ann Greene, Board Member

Rod Greene

Lee Keet, Board Member, Treasurer

Glenn Keet

Nancy Keet, President

Dan Kelting, Executive Director, PSC ADK Watershed Institute

Ashley Milne, Harrietstown Council Board Member

Debbie Neill, Secretary

Hulda Scheidelman

Tracey Schrader, Harrietstown Council Board Member

Board member absent with prior notice: Jim Moore

Lee started by discussing the collected monies for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) harvesting, which are in our bank account. The State has frozen all payments: no grant money received, there is \$24,000 due from the DEC. Hopefully state will pay that eventually. For our \$100,000 project the State is obligated to put in \$50,000. Dues collected were around \$3,500.

Lee thanked the town for being a supportive partner and explained to Ashley their role. There was no EWM harvested this year.

Elections:

We must annually elect the board and officers for the Lake Colby Foundation, a 501c3, and the Lake Colby Association, a 501c4. The foundation allows us to accept tax deductible donations from contributors.

Board Election:

Board members remain the same with Sylvia Getman, Ann Greene, Lee Keet and Jim Moore. Motion was made by Rod to re-elect our Board and seconded by Debbie. Thank you so much to our continuing dedicated board members.

Officer Election:

Nancy, Debbie, and Lee are willing to continue in their offices. Motion to elect the president, secretary and treasurer was made by Sylvia, seconded by Glenn. Vote unanimously passed.

Finances:

Lee reviewed the finances.

We are very thankful for the Harrietstown matching grant monies.

Road Escrow: every 5-7 years to grade/crown the road; we are in good shape; maybe next year; resurfacing cost ~\$5,000 unless we have a broken culvert.

Water Quality:

Lee introduced Dan. We are very thankful to have Dan helping us for 19 years now, as he has been very instrumental in determining what we need to do for our lake. Lake Colby is a very

productive lake, nutrient reach and fragments can easily take root. Constant battle to stay even. \$20,000 per year or more for our little group is hard. Dan has some new potential solutions for our lake.

Dan began by explaining the boat steward program which everyone is excited about across our Adirondack Lakes and how it has been an immense help in monitoring lake usage. As far as Eurasian Milfoil, there were no teams in Lake Colby harvesting EWM - no one to hire.

Recap from last summer of 2019 - diver hand harvesting which was intensive work. Measured 370 bags w/800 hours of work, fast growth in July, larger plants. Lots of sun and warmth recipe for rapid growth of plants. Started in North Bay and moved to West bay. He would predict that 2020 would have been a lot like 2019 - hand harvesting would have been hard to do this year.

Dan participated in a panel, where he learned that the town of Minerva received a permit to use ProcettaCOR EC. This is an aquatic herbicide that is quick to react and quick to decompose. Dan continued with an explanation of how ProcettaCOR EC was used to treat Minerva Lake, at the cost of \$14,000. Dan was very impressed with the results: initially 41 acres were surveyed which had been full of EWM for a couple of years. When it was resurveyed, there was no EWM! Lee Walrath was the APA agent on the scene at Minerva Lake and helped with the application. At this point we need to talk with Lee W., Dan is in the process of working with him.

Dan approached the park agency and they were receptive to try a more cost effective technique. Dan thinks this is something that is worth discussing and seeing what the needs are from the agency. DEC will want to monitor what the effects are on native plants, fish, etc. Dan highly recommends that we consider talking with the park agency about this product and talking with Minerva Lake. We should consider the use of this herbicide in North Bay, West Bay and the Trestle - hospital area is under very good control with hand harvesting.

Lee asked what Renovate targets specifically, as it is similar to ProcettaCOR EC. Renovate did cause some curling of Hill's pondweed, which is considered an endangered species, but it did ok, even without a curtain. Question was asked if Minerva Lake is used as a water source for residents - it is not. Dan stated that folks drawing water from the lake should wait a week before using water from the lake after treatment. Rod asked who manufactures ProcettaCOR EC and Renovate - SePOR manufactures both of these products. The question was then asked what happens to all the dead plants: most likely the die off of plants will have a short term effect, the lake will flush them out and oxygen will be replaced. This product is used more in the southern lakes, not so much up here.

Ann & Rod Greene pull water for use in shower, toilets, sinks, etc. Ann would rather not rush into this use. Folks had a lot of questions and concerns. A lot to consider certainly... Camp Colby, village beach and swimmers. We would contract with a herbicide applicator - herbicide would be on the western side. It breaks down quickly so would not effect Lower Saranac Lake. Question was asked about using it on Little Colby Lake - would a curtain need to be put up and would that be a problem with blocking the outlet? Dan thought that "a spot treatment" might work there.

Dan explained that Loon Lake used 15,000 lbs? of Renovate to control 15 acres. There was much less use of ProcettaCOR EC on Minerva Lake for control. Dan thought that using ProcettaCOR EC would be more cost effective. Tracey asked about the effects on our nesting Loons on Little Colby Lake. Dan stated that the Table Toxicity showed there is no issue to water fowl. Hopefully not to fish as well.

Lee K. will research this product more. Discussion will continue as to the use of this herbicide. For 2021, we will have to make a decision as to what we should do - possibly a matting strategy since there will be a definite regrowth.

Water Quality: Adirondack Lake Assessment Program/ALAP for 17 years! Dan stated that we have done good work! Lake Colby is quite stable - persistent water quality issue is salt. LC has the second highest concentration in Adk's and has been fairly stable over last 10 years. Butternut Pond has a higher concentration. We still have the salt shed flushing into Colby Brook, but the salinity coming from the brook is decreasing, and more is from the highway. Tracey was on Lake Clear Zoom meeting and they might be trying another alternative on the roads along the lake. If successful, they will consider using the new product for the stretch by hospital.

DOT has been contacted for the past 20 years with concerns for the trees, salting, and lower the speed limit. Town and LCA paid for rather inadequate speed sign by the road which is unsafe. There is no help from Watertown DOT. Paul Maroun, on the Franklin County Board, seemed to have a little success. They have alternative techniques w/Mag Chloride solution that would be more effective in lower temps.

Dan continued: The problem with increased salt is increasing Calcium concentration. The calcium concentration is high enough to support Zebra Mussel habitat; ongoing salinization would allow zebra mussel to grow. Also, high salinization prevents turnover of the lake. LC used to turn over much more frequently. LC has a lot of wind energy which is a little bit of help.

Last thing to share: a lake steward from Lake Flower came to Lake Colby. Dan said 21 boats came from different watersheds. 11 of those are known to have invasive aquatic species- including curly leaf. Lake Champlain has zebra mussels therefore there is the possibility of ZM in LC. Mostly non- motorized boats were used in local waters. One boat came from Long Pond which has a lot of ZM. One piece of good news: all the boats that were inspected were clean which is really great. Boat owners were using good stewardship by self cleaning and checking boats, before going into the lake. Our use is mostly local but some of the boats coming from distance were exposed to ZM, and water fleas. This is very important data to have especially since it reinforces the need to be vigilant on reducing salt application, in order to reduce amount of calcium in water.

Lee talked about the significant increase in the height of the water. No sign of beavers as stated by the trappers. We appreciate the commitment of the County to come out quickly to clean out the grate. Right now it's a foot higher than normal. Higher water will continue to damage shoreline and docks along the lake. We would like to get the lake down before winter. Thankfully, the County has been very responsive and will continue to clean out the grate.

Debbie reported sightings of one pair of mating loons that hatched 2 chicks, only 1 survived and decided to finally fly off the lake the day before ice in! Also, muskrats, mink, chipmunks, squirrels, mice, blue herons, kingfishers, varied song birds, 2 Eagles & 2 eaglets, and deer.

Nancy thanked everyone for their concern for Lake Colby and Lee thanked everyone for their dues and contributions.

Lee made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Debbie seconded at 5:04.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Neill, Secretary