

Lake Colby Association, Inc.
Colby Foundation
www.lakecolby.org
Minutes from Annual Meeting
2nd Friday - August 14, 2015
Held at the Keet shorehouse, 62 Moir Road

In Attendance:

Kelly & John Dobek, new members
Fred Dunlap, DEC
Rod Greene
Bonnie Keet
Lee Keet, Treasurer, Water Quality Manager, Board Member
Nancy Keet, President
Bob Keet
Dan Kelting, Adirondack Watershed Institute
Dick Leopold
Jean Leopold, Board Member
Debbie Neill, Secretary
Roger Neill
Chandler Ralph @www.adirondackhealth.org

Meeting began at 4:05pm.

President, Nancy Keet welcomed all especially our new members.

Minutes of 2014 meeting were provided and reviewed. Bonnie made a motion to accept the minutes as they stand, second by Bob. Minutes were approved.

Elections:

Motion was made to keep the current slate of officers. Bob seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Officers: President: Nancy R. Keet; Secretary: Debbie Neill; Treasurer: Lee Keet

A motion was made for same board to repose. Patrice moved to accept the same slate. All were in favor.

Board Members: Chandler Ralph, Jim Moore, Jean Leopold, Lee Keet

Finances:

Lee Keet, treasurer began our discussion.

Grants for milfoil: 2015 \$9,000, applying for \$11,000 in 2016

Amount owed the Watershed to be paid when project completes

Funding from LCBP (\$9,000 expected in September)

Weed district still not approved by Town attorney

Accountant continues to file our taxes

Review finances: Once we have collected all annual dues and move monies into the escrow savings account \$10,731 is the actual amount available in the LCA account for uses by the broader group for milfoil management.

All payments to the Colby Foundation are tax deductible because it is a 501C3, which we can use towards the milfoil harvest. We have \$11,893 in this account. If we add these two together we have \$22,625 disposable however we have some pending obligations: a \$6,000 legal bill and approximately \$16,000 to the Watershed Institute, plus money needs for our road escrow for re-crowning. We could possibly do the first half of the road for \$11,000 but will try to do some of the road for much less.

Lake Status:

Lee stated that the report from AWI has been posted to our website. Please take the opportunity to read the report. Good news is that Lake Colby maintained pretty much the same numbers as last year with no major increases in readings. The bad news is that we still have the highest concentration of chloride of any inhabited lake in the Adirondack Park. We are very thankful that the village built their salt shed yet Colby Brook still has 79 parts per million in the testing. The salt used on the highway is still the main chloride contributor. Adk Action.org and the Adirondack Council are still working with the state to try and reduce the amount of salt use.

Lee discussed our milfoil harvest. The divers took out a ton and a half each of the two weeks that they worked. Sounds like a lot but not too terrible. Last year they took out about the same amount. The problem areas are the top of West Bay and almost all of Trestle Bay which seems to regrow each year. EWM reproduces in three different ways, it drops seeds, it goes underground and it self-fragments setting down tap roots in nutrient rich beds. We have been able to keep the population down to a minimum with hopes that something in nature will be attracted to it to use as food.

Aquatic Weed District:

Lee stated that we have been trying to create this district which would allow us to collect funds through taxation to help with the harvest of EWM. (Chesterfield is the only other Adk lake to have this). Evidence has shown that property values on EWM lakes can drop as much as 15% with the average being 7% and more importantly it interferes with swimming and boating. It is hard to control it in Little Colby because it is too shallow and muddy. Renovate is a chemical that can be used directly on the plant and not harmful to other living things which could be a consideration for control there. The culverts on both ends would need to be blocked up so Little Colby could become a static lake for four days and the plants could be killed. This is a decision the group could make down the road if a weed district come about. The weed district will make our taxes equitable across the board for all shore owners and get the state to share some of the cost. The next step is for the town to approve our petition, hold a hearing, and then determine who will administer the weed district. Lee is proposing that we administer the weed district which we hope will come about. We are hoping that the town votes in favor. Ron Keough has offered to be our ambassador. We are very close to this happening. We do have a resolution from the Village that they are not opposed.

Old Business:

Lee told Chandler that the hospital compressor noise is really not any better. When the wind blows our way it is especially loud. We are happy to help in any way we can to minimize this noise situation. She will continually check into new ways to help alleviate the noise.

New Business:

Lee called a Tele-Conference of the Board on May 20, 2015 at 3:30PM.

Participating in the tele-conference were: Jean Leopold, Jim Moore, Lee Keet, Debbie Neill, Chandler Ralph. Members in the background: Nancy Keet, President, and Dick Leopold. The purpose was to act on a proposal that we make a demand to the NYDOT that they cease the train between Utica and Lake Placid until they make the tracks safe. North Woods Engineering, PLLC report states that at this time the tracks are unsafe and must be repaired. The board voted on authorizing the sending of a letter including a strong request that NYS end rail service until they have made it safe and notify us. We have a terribly unsafe situation and we are concerned.

The letter was signed and sent registered mail on May 20, 2015.

Lake Clear Association has joined us as another group posting unsafe tracks.

When we didn't hear back from the state, Bill Owens advised us to sue the state and the railroad. The Adirondack Scenic Railroad who supposedly maintains the tracks finally went into action and completely rebuilt the causeway. It is now in good shape and acceptable to support a train. We have withdrawn the suit from the state and railroad. Adirondack Railroad also agreed to withdraw their counter case. Lee thanked the board for meeting and we are happy with the results.

John and Kelly Dobek mentioned the noise from the beach. They love the good noise of laughing, volleyball playing, etc. but the foul language floats across to their cabins. After hour noise is the most troublesome. If you happen to be down at the beach try to recommend the noise be kept down.

Lee mentioned that the property of the Denofrio family across the lake is up for sale if any one might be interested.

Good News! Fred Dunlap stated that there are grants available from the LCBP for next year. Invasive species grants up to \$15,000. Application due September 24, 2015. Fred will kindly send the link and Lee will gladly fill out the grant application. Lee is very excited about this possibility based on our successful history of receiving this grant.

AWI Eurasian Milfoil report

Dan Kelting handed out reports showing the recent harvest. They have used three divers underwater with one above water for support. Harvesting started the second week of June, a little later than usual due to a later start to the growing season. 20 mats in Trestle Bay were located and moved; they are in really bad shape and should be replaced next year. Lee mentioned that if you look about 150ft straight out from the culvert towards the hospital there is big bed #1 and big bed #2 that need to be maintained. Harvested in West Bay and found very little growth, so they decide to wait and come back the first week in August. In August, they conducted a new survey of the lake and proceeded to remove 51 bags from Trestle Bay and 91 bags from West Bay. Their plan is to come back early September with the goal to harvest those patches again and swim the whole lake. Dan is guessing that there will be over 200 bags harvested this summer.

AWI Water Quality

Dan's full water quality report has been posted to our website by Lee, which includes three layers of information. Please be sure to read this information. This is our 13th year in this program which is valuable in determining a long term data center for water

quality on Lake Colby. Colby is more transparent than 72% of other Adk lakes. Colby is very productive lake, with a lot of watershed nutrient run off, light penetration and large bays. Acidity has never really been an issue so our pH is neutral. Unfortunately, the lake has the highest concentration of road salt/sodium chloride in comparison with the other inhabited lakes in the ALAP program. There are chloride base and acetate base de-icers that can be used on the roads and work very well. There are no great options to use other de-icers yet there is very great concern and it is becoming more of an issue. One thing that is of great concern is the calcium level in our lake; it is increasing the threshold of possibly supporting the growth of zebra mussels. The lake has calcium because we have a fairly calcium rich geology which may be increasing natural and the addition of the road salt. John asked what the zebra mussels might do. Dan explained that it would upset the balance of the whole ecosystem and all of us need to keep an eye out for them. Hopefully with our 10 hp limit, we do have good protection by keeping the larger boats out.

Lee asked about the possibility of using Renovate in Little Colby Lake and Fred responded that it would be the perfect little pond to try it on, since it can be closed up from both ends of flow. Lee proposes that the AWI will look into working on this plan, and would like an estimate on the cost to possibly obtain grants for this. In the Adirondacks you get one chance of using this treatment and after that follow up would be hand harvesting which is impossible at this point.

Lee thanked Dan and his staff for their continual hard work and dedication. Lee also thanked Chandler Ralph for ADK Health's continued partnership and financial support, to which Chandler responded that Lake Colby is a very valuable asset to their patients and staff.

Meeting adjourned after Dan's presentation at 5:14pm.

Notes on Lake Nature:

Loons: Same four loons on lake this year. No loons reported on Little Colby Lake.

Eagles: We also have a mating pair of eagles again with one eaglet.

Blue Heron: We routinely spot one heron.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Neill, Secretary