

Lake Colby Association, Inc./ Colby Foundation
Minutes from Annual Meeting
3rd Friday - August 15, 2025
27th year
Held at the Keet Shore House, 62 Moir Road .

In Attendance:

Lee Keet
Nancy Keet, President
Debbie Neill, Secretary/Treasurer
Matt Scollin, Adirondack Health
Nancy St. Laurent, new member (camp on West bay)

Meeting began at 3:35 with Nancy Keet welcoming all.

Minutes from 2024 were reviewed. Matt Scollin (holding Aaron Kramer's proxy) made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Lee.Keet. The motion carried.

Treasurer Report:

Lake Colby Association

PO Box: \$102

Completed progress report paid to Solitude Lake Management: \$1,450

ALAP lake water sampling for Lake Colby & Little Colby Pond:

\$250 x 2 = \$500 to Protect the Adirondacks (North Creek, NY)

NY State Federation of Lakes (NYSFOLA) membership: \$75

Martin & Duquette, LLC (annual LCA filing): \$175

Incoming dues (501(c)(4)): \$560

Balance: \$19,615.32

Road Escrow Savings

Moir Rd work (2024): 5,375.

Major road washout in storm 2025, larger rocks were purchased for gully by Mike Laramée's property. Roger, Chris, and Debbie placed the rocks: cost of \$123.94

Incoming assessments: \$920

Road escrow savings decreased slightly as a result

Balance: \$6,093.66

Colby Foundation

Martin & Dukett, LLC, (annual 501(c)(3) filing): \$250

Balance: \$18,376.88

The Foundation was created to receive donations for Eurasian Water Milfoil

Water Quality:

Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP) tracks lake health by testing key water-quality indicators like pH, total phosphorus, and transparency. The program is administered by Protect the Adirondacks and Adirondack Watershed Institute. The ALAP 2023 report was provided which we briefly reviewed.

Little Colby Pond is listed as eutrophic, a more aged lake, which is a nutrient-rich and mature lake. Lake Colby is classified as mesotrophic, with lower nutrient levels. Go to adkwatershed.org and click on "Science". Or search online for NY ALAP "How's my (Lake) Water?".

Lee noted that Lake Colby's water level is the lowest than it's been in many years. The only inflows are a few streams that come off Mt Pisgah, through three drains that run under Rt 86, of which the largest empties at the public beach. We talked to DOT about planting that area with plants that would absorb phosphorus and other nutrients before entering the lake. They promised they would about 18 years ago and it is still on their to do list. Also, there is a little brook that comes into the lake over on Van Buren St. where the village maintenance is, which was where the salt was just heaped in a pile for the winter. Not to go too deep into this, but we ended up with information that we have for the lake going back to 1984. We turned that over to the Adirondack Council, who threatened to sue the village using a Clean Water Act. The Town of Harrietstown wanted to share in the construction of the shed, long story short, both built their own salt storage sheds. We all this incredibly important work and effort of covering the salt, the salinity of the lake did not seem to change that much. So it's clear now that most of the lake salinity is due to the salt that is used on the road along Rt 86 in front of the hospital. The chloride number is very high which enables mussels and other crustacean life to grow. We have been worried about this for years. Fortunately, we haven't had that happen. Our chloride levels are staying pretty level but still too high. We are hoping the road crews are able to start spraying liquid brine on the road when there's a forecasted storm, which causes the snow when it does fall, to crust so it's not integrated into the roadbed, This helps the plows to not have to make as many passes and not use as much hard salt. Our new member, Nancy St Laurent thanked Lee for the history of the salt issue.

Loons

Debbie reported observing a single loon during my census on Little Colby Pond this year. The Epstein Family agreed that there was one lone loon visiting the pond throughout the summer. Griffin Archambault is the main census taker of the loons on Lake Colby. We are very thankful that we have Griffin keeping a watchful eye out on the loons on the lake. Griffin is a research biologist who has a passion for loon conservation. We encourage everyone to visit and support the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation.

Election of Officers:

LCA: Nancy put her name in as president again. Debbie put her name in again for Secretary and Treasurer. New volunteers for these positions are always welcome. With only five members present, the officers were elected by acclamation.

Colby Foundation Board: Carrie Moore agreed to serve on the foundation Board. Lee Keet, Debbie Neill, Aaron Kramer, and Nancy St Laurent also agreed to serve. Nancy asked Lee if he would be the chair for the Foundation board, to which he agreed. Lee Keet, Chair, Debbie Neill, Treasurer, Aaron Kramer, Carrie Moore, and Nancy St Laurent.

New Business:

Adirondack Health, Matt Scollin wanted to let us know that there will be increased traffic and parking demands, with the start of the renovations of the hospital's third floor. The whole hospital will be active the entire time with this large undertaking. Members thanked Matt for sharing this information and wished the project good progression.

Debbie reported the opportunity to do an **ALAP Informative Paddle on Lake Colby** with Chelsea Smith, a research scientist at the Adk Watershed Institute, as well as with Annie Arnold, who coordinates educational programs. We paddled along, discussing different aspects of water quality. I enjoyed sharing with them local lake info. Such as we have two eagles and one immature, although the nest seems to have broken down and they don't seem to be nesting there this year. Maybe they are nesting on the lower lake and come over to fish, which the loons don't appreciate. Also, if you paddle to the right of the trestle under our amazing rail trail, you will see bright green grass growing up high which we found out was not

an invasive. It looks a lot like a mangrove and is growing up along the banks and is very interesting. They appreciated seeing the lake through my frequent paddling experiences.

Debbie also reported a very large floating ugly mass of green, in trestle bay area which my family referred to as "Yuck". It also ended up being large floating masses that moved into the middle of the lake. Lucky for us, Curt Stager did take a look at it under the microscope and stated it was not a harmful algae bloom. He felt it was a **filamentous green algae**, not a bacterial bloom. Indeed very ugly, but harmless. Our last algae blooms were in 2022 and 2023, which is a toxic Cyanobacteria bloom. We were very thankful for that information.

We were happy to have our two **Lake Colby Summer Lake Stewards** attend towards the end of the meeting. Kevin is the regional supervisor and Kate is one of the many hardworking stewards. Kevin felt the summer is going very well. Kate works on Colby three days a week and at the state launch on Lake Placid. They have set a new record of finding boats contaminated with an invasive species through the whole program. Zebra mussels were found tangled in some weeds identifying them as coming from Lake Champlain. They also intercepted a couple of water chestnuts and curly leaf pond weeds. They were happy to find the zebra mussels since they are little tiny guys and can do major damage. It can be tough because not everyone will agree to do a boat wash and sometimes it's hard to insist that they do so or even have their boat checked. They will say that their boat is fine and the stewards have to insist on doing their job. It only takes one boat to come in and make a problem. It's especially hard when you find a boat that needs to definitely be cleaned at a station that doesn't have a boat wash and they are told to go to a wash station that might be 10, 15, or even 20 minutes away. Most people are pretty cooperative. Kevin is concerned about invasives getting stuck between the trailer and the boat which you can't really see but once it's washed you do find some and are very thankful that the wash was done. There are nooks and crannies where they hide, which is why they use 100 degree forceful water. Hopefully, when it comes in contact with it, it will kill them where they are hiding. We check the trailer wheels and the back of the cars as well. They did find three boats with Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) before entering Lake Colby. We thanked them very much for protecting our little lake. They felt it was great that our lake is only 10hp and not having large props coming in. They know there are anglers out on the lake at night which they will miss. That is why an important part of their job is education, for everyone to do their part at all times and share info with their friend. Kevin says it kind of goes like the saying do the right thing even when no one is watching and be sure your friends are as well. They like the signs at our launch as well as the pamphlets we provide. They also share pamphlets as well. I mentioned that during the ice fishing derby, I placed our pamphlets under the wipers of many of the cars parked - a very cool positive action. We asked Kate if she checks the boats when they come out of the lake since we have EWM. She does and people are appreciative when she finds some so they don't transport it elsewhere. She feels that there is not especially a lot on the boats when they come out. They also said that many people will pull into the boat wash stations just to have their boats washed without even wanting to go into that particular lake, which they are happy to do and really appreciate the extra awareness. They typically work until September 1st. Nancy offered that they take a copy of the ALAP report to have on hand if anyone was interested in learning more about Lake Colby. Nancy K. thanked them for their very important work in protecting the lakes of the Adirondacks and for coming to the meeting on their Friday afternoon. How nice to have met Kevin and Kate.

Nancy stated that she appreciated us attending and remarked that this has been one of the nicest summers. It is so gorgeous. Every morning you think, oh it can't get any prettier, yet it does! We all agreed that it has been pretty spectacular.

Debbie made a motion to adjourn and Nancy St Laurent seconded it. The motion carried. Nancy welcomed Nancy St Laurent as a new member.

Lake Nature Notes:

Loons: 2 nesting loons laid two eggs. Both hatched, but unfortunately neither survived, Possibly due to the turtles..

Eagles: 2 adult eagles were observed. Their nesting status was unsure. Ospreys were frequently seen harassing them. No eaglets were observed.

Otters: family of otters spotted playing close to the point campsite

Heron: rarely spotted this year

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Neill

Secretary