

Minutes of the Lake Colby Association 8/12/19

22nd anniversary of Lake Colby Association. Meeting held at the Keet shore house. Meeting began at 4:03

Minutes distributed, reviewed and input sought. Secretary will make corrections noted by Tracey, to the minutes. Motion made to accept the minutes by Ann Greene, seconded by Sylvia Getman. Minutes approved.

Attending:

Sylvia Getman, Board Member, CEO Adirondack Health

Ann Greene, Board Member

Rod Greene

Lee Keet, Board Member, Treasurer

Nancy Keet, President

Dan Kelting, PS Aquatic Watershed Institute

Debbie Neill, Secretary

Tracey Schrader, Harrietstown Council

Zoë Smith, PSA Watershed Institute

Board member absent with prior notice: Jim Moore

Jean Leopold's passing:

Nancy shared the sad news . Lee made a motion that the minutes reflect our great appreciation to Jean for her many contributions to our Lake Colby Association as a resident and board member. Jean was a wonderful neighbor and loved Lake Colby immensely, as she had summered here for over 45 years.

Elections:

Necessary as a 501c3, we elect a board and officers each year.

Board Election:

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

Board members remain the same with Sylvia Getman, Ann Greene, Lee Keet and Jim Moore.

Officer Election:

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

Finances:

Lee reviewed the finances. (See attached)

So thankful for the Harrietstown matching grant monies.

Drawn 20,000 of our 50,000 ~ we can draw another 20,000 from state remaining 10,000 need to raise 11,052 of new money for next year. Reach out to ask town and members for more donations to finish this project.

Road Escrow: Funded by dues from Moir Road residents. Used every 5-7 years to grade/crown the road; we are in good shape; resurfacing costs around \$5,000 unless we have a broken culvert.

Water Quality:

We have been in the ALAP water quality program for 16 years and have garnered very valuable information about the traits of LC. Lee and family have volunteered these past years for water sample collection. I have volunteered to continue to do the monitoring for this valuable citizen-based science that monitors the stressors of the water. Indicators look at Eutrophication, Acidification, Salinization.

LC is a moderately productive lake, has been pretty stable over the 16 years and is healthy enough to sustain native and non-native plants. It is a moderately productive, alkaline watershed. PH is second highest of ALAP lakes.

Eutrophication:

Indicators show LC to be at the middle of the spectrum, i.e., mesoeutrophic. Between oligotrophic and eutrophic (low to high biological productivity).

Salinization:

Road salt is having a profound effect on LC. Elevated rates of calcium in LC hand in hand with small watershed. LC salt is the second highest ~ Butternut Pond habituated.

Calcium in LC will support Zebra mussels ~ hopefully we will never have a boat come in that has zebra mussels. Inviting to another species.

LC is second highest of studied lakes in calcium concentration.

Discounting the salt, the lake is in pretty good shape and still good for fishing.

Aquatic Weed Harvest Program (Keling Report)

Eurasian Milfoil in Lake Colby is a rapid growth invasive that has been a challenge to remove this year. Spent a total 4 weeks. Week 1: Recon, paid for by another grant, pretty significant growth in North and West Bay; hand harvested using the Hooks system and bag.

Week 2: put mats into new bays; left for a couple of weeks. Came back in 3 weeks timing to try the harvesting to the growth of the plants; first week in July on North bay 48 bags of EWM ~ thought the density wasn't very high decided to leave and come back later ~ wrong decision. Came back the first week in August and very dense. 79 bags from North bay. Plan to keep them here as long as possible unless fragmentation causes an issue. Already an issue crew has to take time to sweep up fragmentation. Mother Nature part. But plants grew very heavily in July. Not as many fragments in the launch site today which is a good sign. Bar charts: bouncing around 300 bags a season. This year more than last year bags this year. Not a good story. Turn back to July would have done two weeks in July in terms of response of the plants put us back on our heels. Stay another three weeks or so to get back on track. Eradication is not our goal. Well established plant so the goal is to make it a minor part. Goal is to spend a couple of weeks over the summer to maintain the growth to less than 5% of the plants will be EM.

Lee felt that we need to do something different since we won't have \$40,000 to spend every summer. Plan B would be targeted harvesting parts of lake that are more valuable /more utilization. Chateaugay Lake focuses their effort on high traffic areas since they have bigger

boats. What would our choice be? Where would we focus our efforts in the lake to have the maximum benefit for the shore owners?

Sylvia asked how many bags a year would get you to a point that you could maintain it less expensively. Maybe 100 bags would be a bench mark. Planning on a three-year trajectory to get it there. Recognizing there could be a year when we have a sunny summer and then we would have to invest more time in bagging. Intensive effort for 3 years and maintenance everything after that. USL harvested 300 bags for the whole lake. \$10,000 or \$15,000 to spend on each summer.

Lee asked about matting system with the new mats. The beds are mapped so we could think about how many square feet to place them. Lee mentioned that we have to mat it before it goes to seed. Dan mentioned we haven't seen it go to seed in the past years.

Per acre data is pretty expensive so maybe we can use mats before our grant runs out. Maybe request back to Lake Champlain program. There is a pretty good bed on trestle bay. Tracey wondered how the mats worked (smother the plants by cutting off sunlight). They mats hold up pretty well over the years.

Methane gas in Little Colby Pond made quite a smell and mess when the mats were pulled up. Possibly use Renovate in Little Colby, dam both ends and let it flush. Needs permit.

Lee then discussed the prospect in the past of a weed district. 50% of the affected owners that they agreed they wanted to be taxed, got it , and then town attorney said the form is wrong, etc., Village could have paid \$21 and we would have had our weed district. Tracey was thankful for the description.

New owners on Moir Road down at the four Colby Cabins, we believe are Ethan Perry and Uma Stein; Leopold property an unknown.

Hookah rig that feeds air to divers is \$4000. Must change piston ring every summer. I asked if we needed a permit. Apparently for a larger lake would need a permit. Fragmentation when hand-harvesting is a problem.

Middle Saranac is getting loaded with EWM, milfoil beds are making it hard to paddle. Fish creek is incredibly clogged with EWM.

Dead trees (Scags):

DOT promised to take down the scags due to salt and have an agreement to plant new trees. Eastern red cedar trees don't grow hugely tall, 20 -25 feet high, and salt resistant. Wouldn't get too high to block view. Plant in spring or fall, plant a dozen to see how they do. Hopefully, Arbor Day foundation will sell us more. Try to get shoreline to be more attractive and little more sound proof. Lee, Rick and volunteers will help to plant. Soil salinity and wind resistant.

New Business:

The height of Lake Colby is a concern. Critters have been controlling the height of the lake water. It could be a family of muskrats or maybe a young beaver? The evidence is of smaller twig and mud blocking the culvert on Little Colby Lake. The County has pulled it apart several times and Rick Leidig as well. Lee has obtained a trapping permit for beaver and muskrats to try to humanely relocate. The Keet's are paying for this trapping to help get the lake back to its' normal level. Zoë mentioned the "beaver deceiver" to use for this problem. Keene school

system uses this for the small pond behind them and has worked for them. Ann mentioned the beaver deceiver being used in a very small pond close to their home in Massachusetts.

Ann and Debbie mentioned parking problem with renters. There have been times when there would not be enough room for an emergency vehicle/fire truck to get by. Lee volunteered to make note cards to place on the windshield, asking to maintain safe parking on Moir Road. (Side note: Thank you to the Village for their new signage at the beginning of Moir Road, along with the large rocks as guard rails, to ensure safety for users of the beach and safe passage for emergency vehicles.)

On behalf of the LCA, I presented a gift to Nancy and Lee for their many years of always action filled care and concern for the protection of Lake Colby and their dedication to our association. Thank you so very much Nancy and Lee!

Tracey stated on behalf of her colleagues on the Harrietstown Council, she wanted us to know that they agree on how important it is to protect our local lakes and they appreciate the work of all our local lake associations.

I made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ann seconded it, all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:16. Thanks so very much to Nancy and Lee for hosting the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Neill, Secretary

New Young Wildlife Sighting Report:
Loon Chick, Eaglet, Two Fawns, Two Kingfishers
No one saw Moby the Turtle this year