



President: Laurie Gee
Treasurer: Ann Hunsicker
Secretary: Susan Czerepak
Board Members:
Holly Bull
Steve Gratton
Lori Kempton
Pam Koenigsbauer
Carol Martin
Samantha Stevens

ECHO LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting
September 25, 2021

This meeting was conducted remotely through a Google Meet

Prior to the meeting, members submitted relevant reports for review and consideration.

Present:

Laurie Gee, Ann Hunsicker, Holly Bull, Samantha Stevens, Carol Martin, Lori Kempton, Pam Koenigsbauer, Steve Gratton, Susan Czerepak, Kristen Wilson

Welcome: Laurie Gee

Laurie called the meeting to order at 9:00.

Secretary's Report: Susan Czerepak

Link to May 15, 2021 Secretary's report – <https://www.echolakeassociation.net/board-meeting-minutes-may-2021/>

Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of May 15, 2021. All in favor. Approved.

Website: Susan Czerepak and Kristen Wilson

Kristen Wilson joined us to discuss the future of the website. Kristen has taken on the responsibilities of website administrator and has been working with Susan to port everything over to the new template. Going forward, the Board will work with Kristen to update the website.

A feedback link at the bottom right of each page of the website allows anyone to post corrections to the website.

New content should be emailed to Kristen with instructions. Any new content should be passed by an “Executive Committee” comprised of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary before being delivered to Kristen.

The Board Executive Committee should also decide on what new material should be posted to Facebook and Lori Kempton and Kristen will attempt to coordinate the content on the website and on Facebook. The hope is that more “Facebook” type material can appear on the website.

Kristen is currently working on a new approach to delivering material from our newsletters. We would still post and email the Newsletter to the membership. But the material in the newsletter will also be displayed in a “feed” sort of way.

Treasurer’s Report – Ann

In all respects this has been a wonderful year on Echo Lake! The weather was great, we managed to safely have an in-person picnic, and our members continue to fund our healthy bottom line.

At this moment we have 69 families and 11 individuals who have paid membership dues. In addition, many members have given us additional donations, which truly sustains us. We received one large donation of \$5,000 from a long-time member as a contribution from their IRA. This wonderful show of support is truly appreciated. It is a reminder of the many ways in which our members contribute to what we do. The Board should discuss how to use this donation. We also should discuss the savings account which currently holds about \$21,000.

The Color Challenge was missed again this year, both financially and as a way to bring people together. We are holding on to \$1,650 in sponsorships received in 2020 before making the decision to cancel that year, which will go towards the 2022 Challenge. We expect to receive \$7,480 in additional grant funds from the State in 2021.

Our primary expense this year, as it is every year, has been the cost of running our access greeter program. The board elected to keep the greeters working one weekend past Labor Day (Sept 12) which resulted in a lower payroll expense than last year when Labor Day was on Sept 7th and the greeters worked until Sept 20th.

We also decided to continue the Charleston Education programs at the same amount as last school year. It was felt that given the loss for the students due to Covid this was not the time to withdraw from these enrichment programs. There was some confusion regarding the timing of billing for these programs, so we expect there to be additional payments of \$1,200 in 2021, in addition to the amount on the report.

Altogether we have done well this year, considering all the turmoil in our world these days. At this time, Ann recommends a \$6,000 addition to the Contingency Fund.

Discussion

We currently have \$21,281.53 in the savings account. Those monies are intended as an emergency backstop to cover annual expenses. This year \$17,000 is allocated for our budget. The Board concurred that holding some \$20,000 in the savings account is a good conservative approach and that we should maintain that practice. It was noted that the Vermont minimum wage is going up which will impact the cost of paid greeters going forward.

We discussed various uses for the \$5,000 that we received from a generous anonymous donor. For the time being that gift will be held in the savings account and we will use it as need arises, for example for the school program, or to purchase water bottles, or move it to the Contingency Fund.

Ann recommended that we put \$6,000 from the checking account into the Contingency Fund. The balance in the checking account is currently \$8,663.24. We have not yet received all our grant funds. And the Community Foundation has not decided about funding grant yet.

The amount in the Contingency Fund is \$48,750.00. The goal is to build a Contingency Fund of \$100,000.

Investment Committee – Peter Bestenbostel

The Contingency Fund CD will mature on Friday 9/24. Peter has reviewed the local Bank rates and shared that information with the committee members. He is still waiting for one response; however, the current consensus is to stay with Community National. The published rate for one year is .39%. A bit more than half the rate we received last year. The recommendation from the committee to the Board is to roll the CD over for a 12-month period at Community National Bank.

Discussion

Motion was made and seconded to move \$6,000 into the Contingency Fund and roll the CD over in the Community National Bank.

Membership – Tracey Shadday and Ann Beams

Currently 69 families and 11 individuals have paid their dues. The Committee is following up on the others. There are 94 camps on the lake, but many more family members and other landowners who are members.

Tom Wagner has offered to chair the Membership Committee. The Board concurs that he would be an excellent choice for that position.

Nominating – Laurie Gee

Pam Koenigsbauer is stepping down from the board (1st term expires 2023). Laurie nominates Karl Koenigsbauer to serve the remainder of Pam's term. We thank Pam for her Board service.

Motion was made and seconded to accept Pam's resignation and appoint Karl Koenigsbauer to serve the remainder of Pam's term, taking effect at the end of this meeting. The term will end in 2023 and Karl will be eligible for reelection in 2023 at the annual meeting. All in favor.
Approved.

Next summer we will have two vacancies on the Board, and we will also need to fill the secretary, vice president and president (or co-president) positions. The last time we brainstormed names for potential board service was Spring 2020. All board members were encouraged to bring new names to the next meeting.

Positions

President - From by-laws: The President of the Association shall preside at all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors, call special meetings, as may be required, and have general administration over the affairs of the Association. The Vice-President shall assist the President in all matters wherever called upon and preside over meetings in the President's absence.

Specific tasks:

- Remind board about upcoming meetings, create agenda, solicit reports in advance of meetings.
- Preside over 3 board meetings a year.
- Preside over annual meeting.
- Write articles for 2 newsletters a year.
- Check in with committee chairs periodically.
- Stay in regular email contact with chairs.
- Serve as point person for ELPA-related queries, respond in a timely manner.
- Keep an eye out for potential board and committee members, keep an ear out for good ideas and ways ELPA can improve.

Secretary – From by-laws: The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping records of the Board actions, including overseeing the taking of minutes at all Board Meetings, sending out meeting announcements, distributing copies of minutes and the agenda to all Board Members, and assuring that all records are maintained. The Secretary is responsible for all meeting minutes and for organizing the distribution of 2 annual newsletters – one in the winter and one in early summer.

NB - there is no mention of work involving the website

Specific tasks:

- Taking and publishing the minutes of 3 board meetings and the Annual ELPA Meeting - Involves sending drafts for review and mailing the finalized meeting minutes to the full membership and posting the minutes to the website.
- Sending emails to the membership on behalf of various committees - for example, soliciting dues, sending reminders about the annual meeting, the color challenge, the potluck picnic, etc.
- Sending announcements to membership for various workshops.
- Gathering and editing and writing material for the Fall and Spring newsletters and sending drafts to the board for review. Posting newsletters to the website and emailing to the full membership
- Updating pages on the web to reflect the latest information - e.g.: board members, the Town officers, the calendar, info about lake wise, VIP program, color challenge, reclassification, the page header - anything that the Board considers to be Website worthy.

Discussion

No one on the current Board expressed an interest in serving as president, vice-president, or secretary.

We also need someone to take over Jean Wilson's position as liaison to the Charleston School. No one on the board expressed an interest in that position either.

Lake Reclassification -- Holly

The petition to reclassify Echo Lake to A(1)status was submitted to the Department of Environmental Conservation on Monday, September 20th . It is unclear at this time how long the process will take to officially reclassify. This is a new pursuit by DEC, so a solid timeline is unknown.

At this time only Maidstone and Echo have submitted petitions. Maidstone's submission was made in early September. There was/is a three-part article in the Caledonian-Record about reclassifying NEK lakes. This article will be forwarded to our co-petitioners, the Charleston Select Board.

The Reclassification Committee has been denied a Letter of Support from the Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District. They feel that we are "premature" in our request because Seymour, who is in our watershed, has not decided to reclassify. We are currently in the process of writing another request which will address the issues that they brought up for why they won't be supporting Echo Lake at this time.

Discussion

We discussed updating the membership about the process and progress in our reclassification effort. It was decided that we will publish the information in the Fall Newsletter.

Holly has prepared a press release on the status of our reclassification petition. The Board agreed that it would be helpful to publish the article in The Chronicle when they have space for the article.

We learned that the Chair of the Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District is on the Board of the Seymour Lake Association.

Reclassification is new to the state. Currently Maidstone lake is the only lake that has applied. The Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources has the ultimate authority as to reclassification, and can make that decision without community support.

Water Quality-Lake Monitoring-LaRosa – Holly

LaRosa Tributary Water Testing: Testing was completed at the end of August and all sample events were completed - eight regular and two high flow events. Holly contacted Jim Kellogg, head of the LaRosa Partnership Program, on September 17th to inquire about the status of the results of the testing samples. He informed her that they were not finished analyzing the data, but it would be released soon (in draft form). Holly is hoping the results are released by the time the fall newsletter goes out. Once the results are received, she will contact our Watershed Manager, Ben Copans, and work with him on developing a tactical basin plan for Echo, which will include addressing our rising Phosphorus levels.

Discussion

The results of the LaRosa testing are not in yet, but are expected in the next few weeks, hopefully prior to publication of our Fall Newsletter.

The results of the regular water quality testing conducted by Pete Engels and Mike Vinton are not yet released. Holly will let us know when they become available.

Lakebed Survey – Peggy Stevens

Our reporting news for starters is that the new reporting protocols from Lakes and Ponds Division has brought us to a halt. Kim Jensen (DEC) has not responded to two email requests for guidance as to how to proceed with documenting our lake bed survey this year. I may end up just doing it as we have in the past, mailing in hard copies, rather than proceeding with online reporting as suggested.

No invasives have been identified, even as we are noticing increasing vegetation, a trend that has been emerging over the past several years.

We are very hopeful that efforts to have our lake reclassified as A(1) will bring needed resources to mitigate rising Phosphorus levels, which no doubt are contributing to increasing vegetation around the lake.

Finally, thanks as always to our volunteer surveyors. Larry Martin has conducted surveys onboard his pontoon boat this year, inviting Holly and me along for one run. This is the way of the future and hopefully a means to attract new surveyors by inviting them to come aboard for an educational tour of the lake, introducing the types and kinds of aquatic plants that are present in our lake. Thank you, Larry, for this generous offer! We will keep you all posted as we roll out next year's plan.

Grant Report – Laurie

Laurie will be writing and submitting final reports for the Aquatic Nuisance and Watershed Management grants over the next month. Once those are accepted by the DEC, we will receive our final payments. She anticipates writing next year's grant proposals in January-February.

Access Greeter Report – Laurie

Karl Koenigsbauer coordinated the paid greeters this summer, in addition to serving as a volunteer greeter. Pam Koenigsbauer entered all of the boat-log data into the required Survey 123 app. Patti Lennon and Maryanne O'Brien coordinated the volunteer greeters and entered their data into the app. Thank you, all! We inspected 912 vessels this summer, down somewhat from last summer. Laurie doesn't yet have the breakout of how many boats were canoes and kayaks vs motorboats, but it seemed like a hefty increase in non-motorized boats enjoying Echo Lake. There were no invasive species found on any boats or trailers, which is a great relief. Early in the season, Cheryl found a lot of weed fragments dried onto the pads of a motorboat trailer, but the samples she took to Peggy turned out to be nothing of concern. The DEC required that we use the Survey 123 app. We did not have greeters enter data that way at the access, as there are too many logistical issues. We felt better having a paper trail. Logging the data into Survey 123 afterward worked all right--and was much easier than it had been when done on an Excel spreadsheet.

Discussion

There was a decrease in number of boats inspected this summer. There is no obvious reason as to why. Perhaps last year with Covid everyone chose to be out on the water and this year people are out and about with other things to do.

There was an increase in the number of motor free boats – About 400 outboard boats, and 450 kayaks and canoes.

Tires found in lake – Laurie

Tom Wagner reported that he and Larry Martin have retrieved 7 tires from shallow waters on their side of the lake, and Hugh Hawkins has removed 4 from his side. This is only the second year they've been noticing tires in the lake, and they suspect it is something bass fishermen are doing. The practice is illegal in Vermont, and we need to do all we can to prevent this environmental hazard. Tom suggested a sign at the access, article in our newsletter, public awareness campaign for our residents and visitors, and perhaps a handout to every boat launching.

Discussion

We must educate people about why tires are detrimental to the lake ecosystem and that the practice is illegal in Vermont. Next summer perhaps our lakebed surveyors can keep an eye out for any tires on the lake bottom. Laurie will check whether the state can provide any related signage for the access kiosk.

Fall Newsletter – Susan

The Fall Newsletter will be published on November 15. October 31 is the deadline for submitting articles.

It was suggested that every newsletter contain some educational topic regarding water quality and the need for volunteers

Suggested topics for Fall 2021:

- President's Message
- Treasurer's Report
- Water Quality – septic, tying back to phosphorous – Holly Bull
- Volunteer activity – Peter Bestenbostel - LIFE BELOW THE SURFACE – or why I enjoy being an invasive patroller on Echo Lake.
- Lake Wise – Steve Gratton
- Shoreline permit rules – Shoreline Protection Act -Steve Gratton.
- History - Seeing Double by Greg Carpenter – History of the two Echo Lakes
- Reclassification status – Holly Bull
- LaRosa results – Holly Bull
- School Programs – ??
- Obituaries for Geraldine Moulton and Ellie Gavin
- Photos for newsletter ??
- Phragmites removal ??.
- Loons, current pictures. ?

Charleston School-Siskin-NorthWoods Program – Jean Wilson

Jean Wilson has indicated that she will no longer serve as the Charleston School Coordinator for ELPA. We received the following from her:

Community Outreach – Jean Wilson

I've really enjoyed being the school coordinator, but I feel like it needs some new energy. Some of the role currently:

- Write articles for the newsletter twice a year. I ask for input/photos from Northwoods and Siskin/Coutts.

- Prepare proposal for the board asking for funding approval. This involves coordination with the organizations, but if it's new programming, it may involve some coordination with the school - either principal or teacher.
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- Help with information for the grant application.
- Water bottles - we've been providing a new water bottle with the ELPA logo for every student and staff member at the beginning of the school year. Once it is approved by ELPA board, I've done the ordering and delivery to the school.
- Prepare a writeup for the annual meeting.

I got an email today from Andy Capello - he's the new education coordinator for Northwoods. He lives in Charleston and will probably have some great ideas for programming going into the future.

When we first had the idea of Community Outreach, it dawned on us that it would be good to have support from the wider community of Charleston. By educating the kids about the lake watershed and its importance, they'll bring that knowledge home and share with family. They will also become the community adults in the future, helping to preserve pristine Echo Lake.

Discussion

Once we identify a new coordinator, Jean will be happy to provide introductions and orientation.

We need to find someone to take on this effort.

ELPA Facebook Page -- Lori Kempton

There has not been much new activity. We are getting visits and likes.

Lori has posted current activities to the Facebook page, such as the concert that was held at White Birch Lodge and the request for volunteers for phragmites removal.

Youth Member – Sam

No action. Sam reported that the schools have so much to deal with due to Covid that this is not a time to introduce or expect an enthusiastic response to new initiatives.

NEK Fund of Vermont Community Foundation – Sam

There has been no word on the grant application that Sam submitted to the NEK Fund of Vermont Community Foundation

NorthWoods Trails – Carol

The trails have stayed in really good shape this summer. I think the regular maintenance that is done to them has paid off. No trees came down over the trail this summer either - amazing!

Discussion

The kiosk parking lots have been mowed by NorthWoods.

Invasive Non-Aquatic Weeds – Steve and Holly

Holly wants to really get rid of the phragmites next year. Terry has given permission to take out the phragmites on his property, but is very skeptical that we will be successful.

Ann has found a few new plants on their land, but in a new location. She wonders if plants may have washed up on the shore. They spread easily.

It was noted that at least the invasive plants we are dealing with (phragmites and knotweed) are on land rather than in the water.

LakeWise – Steve

With Covid restrictions it's been difficult getting to the state for Lake Wise evaluations. There are a couple of property owners working toward being awarded Lake Wise as early as next season.

There are a couple of shoreline projects under way. In compliance with the Vermont Shoreland Protection Act, they should each have permits.

2021 ELPA Picnic Report – Laurie

The weather was fine (one very brief shower), and those who attended were clearly happy to see each other in person once again, catching up with old friends and making new ones. Attendance was probably a little lower than in pre-Covid years, and most folks with young children or grandchildren did not want to risk having them attend. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Koenigsbauers and Beamses who once again hosted and helped out, since both families had grandchildren visiting who couldn't join in the fun! Li'l Deb and the Big Wind entertained for the latter part of the picnic--they say our picnic is one of their favorite gigs!

New Business

Next year we hope to have the Annual Meeting in person. People really need to get back together. Ideally, it could be a hybrid model – held in person but made available online. There was a suggestion that perhaps we could arrange to use a classroom in the Charleston School, which has the necessary internet connectivity.

If it is an in-person outdoor meeting, we might need a mic to allow for social distancing.

Dates

The following 2022 dates were agreed to by the Board.

- Board Meeting – January 15, 2022
- Board Meeting – May 21, 2022
- Color Challenge - July 3, 2022
- Annual Meeting – Sat., July 16, 2022
- Annual Picnic – Sat., Aug. 13, 2022
- Board Meeting – September 17, 2022

Adjourned: At 11:06

Submitted by Susan Czerepak: October 6, 2021

2021 Balance Sheet - As of 9/24/2021 (Cash Basis)

| BALANCE SHEET | 9/24/21 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Cash and Bank Accounts | |
| Savings Account | \$21,281.53 |
| Checking Account | \$8,663.24 |
| Payroll Account | \$764.07 |
| Contingency Fund CD | \$48,750.00 |
| Total Cash and Bank Accounts | \$79,458.84 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | |
| | \$79,458.84 |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| LIABILITIES | |
| Payroll / Taxes | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$0.00 |
| EQUITY | \$79,458.84 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| | \$79,458.84 |

2021 Income/Expense Statement - As of 9/24/2021 (Cash Basis)

| | Actual 1/1/19- 12/31/19 | Actual 1/1/20- 12/31/20 | 2021 Proposed Budget | Actual 1/1/20- 9/24/21 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| CASH CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2020 | | | | 73,958.66 |
| INCOME | | | | |
| Dues | 4,100.00 | 4,355.00 | 4,000.00 | 3,725.00 |
| Donations | 3,635.00 | 5,175.00 | 4,000.00 | 9,650.00 |
| Charleston School Program Donation | 750.00 | 750.00 | | |

| | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Color Challenge | 5,823.00 | 600.00 | | |
| Color Challenge - held for 2022 ¹ | | 1,650.00 | | |
| Charleston Appropriation Watershed Grant - 1st payment ² | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Watershed Grant - 2nd payment | 4,000.00 | 4,000.00 | 3,200.00 | 3,200.00 |
| Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 1st payment ³ | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 800.00 | |
| Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 2nd payment | 3,425.00 | 3,844.00 | 4,454.00 | 4,453.60 |
| Map Sales | 5,138.00 | 5,765.00 | 6,680.00 | |
| Amazon Smile | 630.00 | 120.00 | | 120.00 |
| Interest from Savings | 602.73 | 835.74 | 385.00 | 256.97 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 30,103.73 | 29,094.74 | 24,519.00 | 22,416.95 |

| EXPENSES | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Payroll Costs ⁴ | 13,470.21 | 14,608.03 | 12,073.40 | 12,560.74 |
| Access Monitor Expenses | 131.00 | 60.29 | 100.00 | |
| Liability Insurance | 550.00 | 550.00 | 550.00 | 550.00 |
| Workers Comp. Insurance | 1,296.00 | 1,296.00 | 1,296.00 | 1,296.00 |
| Copying | | | 60.00 | 58.50 |
| Postage | | 30.40 | | |
| Color Challenge Expenses | 278.75 | 21.00 | | |
| P.O. Box Rental - 1yr. | 56.00 | 56.00 | 56.00 | 56.00 |
| Web Site Costs | 438.91 | 107.98 | | |
| Picnic | 60.00 | | 360.00 | 380.00 |
| Gift Bags/Membership Expenses | 29.75 | | | |
| Maps | | | | |
| PayPal Expense | 27.70 | 56.61 | 75.00 | 45.53 |
| Misc. | 20.00 | | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Charleston School Program ⁵ | 2,100.00 | 1,742.95 | 2,400.00 | 1,700.00 |

¹ \$1650 in 2020 is money raised in 2020 and held for 2022

² 2021 grant is \$11,134, \$1525 more than 2020

³ 2021 grant is \$11,134, \$1525 more than 2020

⁴ \$577.80 payroll taxes due in Oct (not included in total)

⁵ \$1200 more to be paid in 2021

| | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| NorthWoods Lakeshore Buffer Program | 150.00 | | | |
| NorthWoods donation | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| FOVLAP (membership) | 50.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| VCE donation | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| | | \$ | | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 18,858.32 | 18,779.26 | 17,240.40 | 16,916.77 |
| GAIN/(LOSS) | 11,245.41 | 10,315.48 | 7,278.60 | 5,500.18 |
| TOTAL CASH ON HAND | | | \$ | 79,458.84 |