



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

ECHO LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting
January 25, 2022

This meeting was conducted remotely through Google Meet

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

Present:

Laurie Gee, Ann Hunsicker, Holly Bull, Carol Martin, Lori Kempton, Steve Gratton, Susan Czerepak, Tom Wagner

Welcome: Laurie Gee

Laurie called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Secretary's Report: Susan Czerepak

Link to September 25, 2021 Secretary's report – <https://www.echolakeassociation.net/latest-news/elpa-board-of-directors-meeting-sept-25-2021/>

Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of September 25, 2021. All in favor.
Approved.

Treasurer's Report – Ann

Ann reported that 2021 was a good year financially for ELPA. She presented a balance sheet dated 12/31/21 and an income statement for 1/1/21-12/31/21. We ended the year with \$8,377 more in the bank than we started with. We received some one-time funds which we cannot count on receiving again. We have yet to receive the second payment of our Aquatic Nuisance Grant from the state as of this meeting. Had we received that by the end of the year our cash reserves would have been even higher. At our last Board meeting we decided to transfer \$5000 into our

savings account due to a generous donation. That transfer has been made since the end of the year.

On the expense side the cost for our three paid greeters was slightly higher than we budgeted since we kept them on past Labor Day. The amount was lower than in 2020, however, due to differences in the calendar. Ann wondered if in future budgets we should assume the greeters will work at least until the weekend after Labor Day. After some discussion it was agreed that we will budget on that timeline and then have further discussion each year as to how long to keep the paid greeters at the access. That way the money will be there if needed.

In 2021 we were able to add \$6,000 to our contingency fund, which is held in a CD at Community National Bank.

Ann will again present the Board with a proposed budget at our May meeting.

We had one donation come to us through the PayPal Giving Fund and as a result PayPal did not charge a fee to ELPA. We could improve the chances of further donations through this fund by publicizing it and by adding to the description of ELPA on the Fund site. The Board would like to get more information as to how this works.

Ann reminded the Board that the Vermont minimum wage was increased as of January 1, 2022 to \$12.55 per hour. We need to talk about how this impacts our paid greeters as they are currently paid either \$12 or \$13 per hour.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the reports of December 31, 2021. All in favor. Approved.

Reports are appended below.

Color Challenge – Patti Lennon

Patti is planning for a Sunday, July 3rd, Color Challenge and will be contacting committee members to see whether they're willing to do same tasks they had 2 years ago. She does not see a way to require vaccination or masks, but suggests those who want to wear masks will do so. She will have the active.com registration site up and running soon— She is working on wording to make it clear that registrations are non-refundable.

Discussion

Patti is reaching out to get volunteers. Lori will put materials on Facebook. Kristen will put information on the ELPA website.

Membership – Tom Wagner

Tom reported that the committee's last meeting of 2021 was held in October. At the time of the meeting total membership was down, so the committee asked Susan to add a reminder to the Fall

Newsletter. By the end of the year membership exceeded 2020: 82 Family, 13 Individual, and 3 Friends =98 (vs 76, 11, and 5 = 92).

The committee is considering several initiatives for which they requested board input: One idea is to list all paid members in the newsletter, as a very visible thank you to our membership. Everyone would see how far reaching our membership is, and it would also serve as an additional reminder to pay dues and donate. The committee thinks having an “Auto Renewal” Box on the website for membership dues could be a positive feature, and make paying much easier. We revised the Trendsetter email and Membership Form which Susan emailed out January 20. It was noted that Friends giving is down and the committee discussed sending an annual reminder specifically designed for Friends.

Discussion

The Board discussed whether the newsletter should list dues paying members and decided that privacy concerns outweighed any possible benefits.

There was discussion about how to increase the number of “Friends” supporting the association. We could add something to the newsletter. There was suggestion that greeters at the boat access could hand out some kind of printed information to non-Echo-resident boaters. We need to make sure that we provide hard copy versions of the newsletter to people without internet.

After discussion the Board determined automatic renewal of dues would not be advisable. Very few people pay their dues online as it is.

Tom observed that going forward dues and grants themselves will not be sufficient to cover projected costs for remediation of invasive species and that we need to encourage donations. He said that at the February meeting of the Membership Committee, they plan to discuss their possible role as ambassadors for the association, in efforts to increase donations . In preparation, Tom asked for the total dollar amount of additional donations ELPA has received and from how many households. The Board agreed that that information would be helpful, but feels strongly that no member names should be associated with the statistics. Ann will pull the numbers together for 2020 and 2021.

Nominating – Board and Officer Vacancies – Laurie Gee

The President, Vice President, and Secretary positions must be filed in six months, when Laurie’s and Susan’s terms expire, and we need to get the Board back up to 9 members.

Water Quality: Holly Bull , Tom Wagner

Reclassification Petition: Our reclassification petition has been stamped “administratively complete”, which moves it along to the rulemaking phase. This next phase initiates technical and legal review including a public hearing facilitated by Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The Reclassification Committee suggested holding the hearing at the Town Clerk’s Office, DEC agreed, and it has been approved by the Town Clerk. Currently, we do not have a date for this public hearing, but Holly is confident that we will be notified in plenty

of time to alert our membership (via email) about it. The Reclassification Committee believes it would be beneficial to have the public hearing advertised in the Barton Chronicle and Orleans County Record and possibly post notices at local stores, the school, and the Post Office. On December 30th, 2021, Tom Wagner, on behalf of the Reclassification Committee, attended a Select Board meeting to apprise our co-petitioners on the status of the petition and the next steps to come. The Select Board appreciated being updated.

LaRosa Grant Tributary Testing: ELPA has requested a second year of the LaRosa Tributary Testing grant. The four sites that were tested in 2021 are being requested to be tested again in 2022. Two additional streams, W. Echo Lake Rd. Brook (which runs through the Hunsicker-Bestenbostel property) and Anderson Brook (located between the Anderson and Bernstein properties) were submitted as new tributaries to be included. There is a good chance of getting the original streams tested again and an unknown possibility of getting two new streams added to our testing sites.

There's been no new information to report on last year's testing. The 2022 sites will be awarded mid-February.

Discussion

They will continue with the tributaries previously tested and Holly is adding a couple more.

Wake Boat Petition: ELPA has sent the group Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes a Letter of Support for their petition to regulate wake boats on Vermont lakes and ponds. It may be beneficial to inform our membership about this petition and about wake boats in general in the Spring Newsletter.

Grants: Laurie Gee

The Watershed Grant RFP is out, with proposals due Feb 11. The AIS/Access Greeter RFP was released Jan 21, due date is Feb 28. Our 2021 AIS final report was just approved, final payment should arrive soon. This year we also have the \$2,400 funding from the NEK Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation. That grant's press release appeared in The Chronicle last week. Sam wrote the grant proposal, to be used for funding the 2021-22 school year. Peter Bestenbostel is suggesting we can also consider applying to the Lintilhac Foundation for future funding.

Discussion

Report was finally approved and should receive a check for 2021 payment soon

Access Greeter Report: Maryanne O'Brien, Karl Koenigsbauer

Patti and Maryanne will continue to organize/monitor the volunteer greeters for the upcoming season, as well as entering their data. We will continue to keep track of volunteer hours to the State as in-kind hours. As always, a continued call for volunteers would be appreciated.

Karl has agreed to head up the paid greeters again.

Discussion

Laurie has not heard back from all the paid greeters yet. Hopefully they will all come back otherwise we will have to recruit. (All 3 have now confirmed their commitment for the upcoming season.)

ELPA Facebook Page – Lori Kempton

If you have not already done so, please check out and “like” the Echo Lake Protective Association Facebook page. The ELPA Facebook page is a simple, yet effective, way to share information pertinent to our Echo Lake community, specifically in regards to sharing information about our mission, as well as events in support of and/or promoted by ELPA. With increasing new likes of the page, we have been and will continue to be able to reach new and current members and neighbors. If anyone has anything to share with the Echo Lake community that relates to the ELPA mission, please send it to Lori at lorikempton10@gmail.com

Discussion

Lori will add Color Challenge and upcoming dates to the calendar.

Lake Wise: Steve Gratton

Steve reported that Amy Picotte, our Vermont Lake Wise Program Coordinator has retired as of January 1st. Amy was a very knowledgeable and capable leader who was instrumental in the advancement of our Lake Wise Program at Echo Lake. It was with her help and guidance that we were able to achieve the first in the State Gold Lake Wise Award.

Oliver Pierson, Vermont Lakes and Ponds Manager, will notify Steve as soon as Amy’s replacement is hired. In the meantime, Steve will continue to promote and help encourage our shoreline owners to work towards Lake Wise type improvements.

As a reminder, our Lake Wise Program is an educational program and not one of enforcement.

Discussion

Oliver is trying to get permission to recruit a replacement and has asked that ELPA send a letter of support. The Board reviewed and approved a letter that Steve crafted. Officers from Seymour will also be sending letter. ELPA will continue to promote Lake Wise and is hopeful we will have the state’s support.

Motion made and seconded to send the letter.

Charleston School-Siskin-NorthWoods Program – Peter Bestenbostel

Peter complimented the board for having done a very good thing with these programs. It is reaching kids at an age when the lessons will stick. They are gaining an appreciation not just of the lake we all love but the natural world in which they live.

Siskin program: This is an in-school program with the third-grade class of Mary Lahar at Charleston Elementary school (CES) and is implemented by Jason Brueck of Siskin. Mary and Jason are currently emailing back and forth scheduling dates for the upcoming winter session, but that programming won't take place until later in March. In terms of what the programming might look like in the winter/spring - There are three 1-hour classroom science lessons and one trip to Echo Lake each season. Since it's a different group of 3rd graders every school year, the format and curriculum don't change much year to year.

NorthWoods program: NorthWoods, by comparison, has an older student population and is provided after school. Charleston Elementary School (CES) kids in grades 5-8 are picked up after school and exposed to various outdoor pursuits around Echo Lake on Wednesday afternoons.

There has been a staffing change in the NorthWoods program. Will Brehm at NorthWoods will now be leading the program. Recently they've been doing some cold-weather survival-themed activities like hypothermia wraps, fire building and survival trap construction. They have also been able to do some cross-country skiing, snowshoeing is also a possibility, but the kids seem to really take to the skis so far. As spring progresses a lot of camping and forestry skills such as orienteering, water acquisition, etc. are on the program. Will would like to see if we can't find some amphibians emerging from their dormancy, birds returning, and mammals coming out of hibernation. (Photos below from NorthWoods program—using a hand drill to create friction to start a fire; trust-building exercise on the low ropes!)



NorthWoods Trails: Carol Martin

Steve observed that a tree by the firepit has fallen over, and this was the tree with the Lake Wise sign attached. We need to recover the sign and repost it.

Website– Kristen Wilson

Please continue to review our website content and send Kristen updates via the Feedback and Comments Form link at the bottom right of each webpage (rather than sending her a long email thread). It was suggested that perhaps we could add a tab for renters that includes a lot of the material that we deliver in the visitor bags. Tom offered that the Membership Committee could would discuss what to put on a renters' tab and get that info to Kristen.

Spring Newsletter – Susan Czerepak

The Spring Newsletter will be published on April 22. April 15 is the deadline for submitting articles.

Proposed articles

- President's Message - Laurie
- Our Finances - Ann
- Investment Committee Report - Peter Bestenbostel
- Green Up Day - Ann
- Grant Funding Update - Laurie
- Lakebed Quality - Peggy
- Water Quality - Pete Engels
- Wake Board Concerns - Holly
- Reclassification Progress - Holly
- LaRosa Grant - Holly
- Membership - Tom
- Access Greeter Program - Karl/Maryanne O'Brien
- Color Challenge – Patti Lennon
- Charleston Elementary School Programs - Peter Bestenbostel
- Lake Wise - Steve
- In Remembrance
 - Nancy Tessier
- FOVLAP – Tracey
- IRA donations – Tom Wagner
- Septic System Reminder- Tom
- Anticipated Workshops?
- Anticipated changes on the Board - Who will the nominees be? Who will the new officers be?
- Dates of ELPA Events

Discussion

Tom mentioned that Taplin has a new owner, Hans Laggis, who gives a group discount for septic pumping. Tom will get more information on the group discount and include it in his article about why it's important to pump our tanks.

Dates

The following 2022 dates were agreed to by the Board.

- Green Up Day – Sat., May 7
- Board Meeting – Sat., May 21
- Color Challenge – Sun., July 3
- Annual Meeting – Sat., July 16
- Annual Picnic – Sat., Aug. 13
- Board Meeting – Sat., September 17

Other business

It was suggested that we could reduce the price of maps since they are now 4 years old. We have been selling them for \$20 or \$15 for 2 or more. To date we have netted \$500.

It was suggested that we could sell them for \$10 (half price) or less. No decision was made.

Adjourned: At 8:45 PM

Submitted by Susan Czerepak: February 3, 2022

2021 Balance Sheet - As of 12/31/2021 (Cash Basis)

BALANCE SHEET	12/31/21
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Savings Account	\$21,288.64
Checking Account	\$6,027.07
Payroll Account	\$186.27
Contingency Fund CD	\$54,834.16
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	\$82,336.14
TOTAL ASSETS	\$82,336.14
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
LIABILITIES	
Payroll / Taxes	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0.00
EQUITY	\$82,336.14
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$82,336.14

2021 Income Statement and Budget - As of 12/31/2021 (Cash Basis)

	Actual 1/1/19- 12/31/19	Actual 1/1/20- 12/31/20	2021 Proposed Budget	Actual 1/1/21- 12/31/21
CASH CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2020				73,958.66
INCOME				
Dues ¹	4,100.00	4,355.00	4,000.00	4,475.00
Donations	3,635.00	5,175.00	4,000.00	10,000.00
Charleston School Program Donation	750.00	750.00		
Color Challenge	5,823.00	600.00		
Color Challenge - held for 2022 ²		1,650.00		
Charleston Appropriation	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Watershed Grant - 1st payment ³	4,000.00	4,000.00	3,200.00	3,200.00
Watershed Grant - 2nd payment	1,000.00	1,000.00	800.00	800.00
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 1st payment ⁴	3,425.00	3,844.00	4,454.00	4,453.60
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 2nd payment	5,138.00	5,765.00	6,680.00	
VCF Grant				2,400.00
Map Sales	630.00	120.00		120.00
Amazon Smile				54.70
Interest from Savings	602.73	835.74	385.00	348.24
TOTAL INCOME	\$30,103.73	\$29,094.74	\$24,519.00	\$26,851.54
EXPENSES				
Payroll Costs	13,470.21	14,608.03	12,073.40	13,138.54
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		-22.00
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			

¹ 82 Family, 13 Individual (1 family pd in 2021 for 2022)

² \$1650 in 2020 is money raised in 2020 and held for 2022

³ 2021 grant is \$4000, \$1000 less than 2020

⁴ 2021 grant is \$11,134, \$1525 more than 2020

Maps				
Paypal Expense	27.70	56.61	75.00	47.02
Misc.	20.00		20.00	20.00
Charleston School Program	2,100.00	1,742.95	2,400.00	2,700.00
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	\$18,474.06
	\$	\$	\$	\$
GAIN/(LOSS)	11,245.41	10,315.48	7,278.60	8,377.48
TOTAL CASH ON HAND				\$ 82,336.14