

ELPA Online Annual Meeting – July 16, 2021

Agenda and Reports

1. [Secretary's Report for 2021 – Susan Czerepak](#)
2. [Board Terms and Officers – Laurie Gee](#)
3. [Exclusion of Board Officers from our Workers' Compensation Policy – Laurie Gee](#)
4. [Water Monitoring – Peter Engels](#)
5. [Water Quality Report – Holly Bull](#)
6. [Lakebed Surveying – Peggy Stevens](#)
7. [Septic Pumping – Tom Wagner:](#)
8. [Membership Committee – Tom Wagner](#)
9. [Greeter Reports – Maryanne O'Brien and Karl Koenigsbauer](#)
10. [Lake Wise – Steve Gratton](#)
11. [Community Outreach – School Programs Report – Peter Bestenbostel](#)
12. [NorthWoods Trails Report – Carol Martin](#)
13. [Invasive Species Control – Meg Carter](#)
14. [2022 Color Challenge – Patti Lennon](#)
15. [Investment Committee Report – Peter Bestenbostel](#)
16. [Grants/Town Appropriation – Laurie Gee](#)
17. [Treasurer's Report – Ann Hunsicker](#)
18. [Volunteers Needed – Laurie Gee](#)
19. [Special Thanks](#)
20. [Questions and Discussion](#)

1. Secretary's Report for 2021 – Susan Czerepak

Following is the link to the minutes for ELPA 2021 Annual Meeting. Please review for approval.

<https://www.echolakeassociation.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ELPAAnnualMeetingMinutes2021b.pdf>

2. Board Terms and Officers – Laurie Gee

Board members serve three-year terms and may serve two consecutive three-year terms. Following are the current officers and their respective terms.

Position	Name	Term
President	Laurie Gee	2 nd Term – ends 2022
Vice President	Currently not filled	
Treasurer	Ann Hunsicker	2 nd Term – ends 2024
Secretary	Susan Czerepak	2 nd Term – ends 2022
Director	Holly Bull	2 nd Term – ends 2024
Director	Steve Gratton	2 nd Term – ends 2023
Director	Lori Kempton	1 st Term – ends 2023
Director	Karl Koenigsbauer	1 st Term – ends 2023
Director	Carol Martin	1 st Term – ends 2022

Laurie Gee and Susan Czerepak have both completed their second terms and are no longer eligible to serve on the Board. Ann and Holly are continuing in their positions but are not up for election. Carol Martin has kindly agreed to serve a second term as Director. Two new directors will serve 3-year first terms. One, decided at random, will serve a 2-year first term because it's the remainder of a term vacated early through a resignation.

Following is this year's slate of officers for election, the positions for which they are running, and when their terms will end:

Position	Name	Term
President	Steve Gratton (currently Director)	2 nd Term – ends 2023
Vice President	Karl Koenigsbauer (currently Director)	1 st Term -- ends 2023
Secretary	Lori Kempton (currently Director)	1 st Term – ends 2023
Director	Carol Martin (currently Director)	2 nd Term – ends 2025
Director	Mark Bechtold (currently member)	1 st Term – ends 2024
Director	Elaine Carpenter (currently member)	1 st Term – ends 2025
Director	Nicholas Dibble (currently member)	1 st Term – ends 2025

3. Exclusion of Board Officers from our Workers' Compensation Policy – Laurie Gee

Our insurance company now requires an annual membership vote to exclude the officers from coverage by our workers' compensation policy. Because ELPA hires and pays three access greeters, we are required to carry this policy. Our officers are not paid, so it is logical that they would not be covered by this policy.

4. Water Monitoring – Peter Engels

Water testing has resumed, and we expect it to continue for the rest of the summer. I, Peter Engels, should mention that it looks like (due to poor health) that this will be the last year that I can participate in collecting and sending in water samples to the State. Mike Vinton wants to continue doing this, but we need another volunteer. I should be available to help whoever wants to do this, to show them what we do. It takes about two hours or so, one day a week. The time required is from about June 1 to about September 1.

5. Water Quality Report – Holly Bull

Reclassification Petition: The Echo Lake Reclassification Committee is awaiting word from the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources for permission to hold a public hearing on our petition. Once we get the approval to schedule a public hearing, we will send out an email to all our members with the date and details.

LaRosa Tributary Testing: The LaRosa tributary testing is in full swing and going very well. Just as last year, all streams are being tested for Phosphorus levels. We have two new streams this year that are being tested for Nitrogen (Nitrogen is a chemical found in fertilizer). Last year, we tested all streams for Chloride, but our levels were so insignificant that the need to test for Chloride this year is unnecessary.

Cyanobacteria Testing: This is the first year that ELPA is conducting cyanobacteria testing. Cyanobacteria are a natural and important part of most ecosystems, however the "blooms" can, although not often, be toxic. While "blooms" have not been detected in our lake, this testing is being done to establish a baseline. ELPA will collect water samples at the public boat access weekly for 8 weeks each summer. Results will be recorded with the VT Agency of Natural Resources and the Lake Champlain Committee.

6. Lakebed Surveying – Peggy Stevens

Lakebed surveying is underway. No reports of anything untoward. Holly Bull has a GoPro camera which takes amazing underwater pictures and is an effective survey tool. We plan

to go out together on Larry Martin's pontoon boat for an overview of the lakebed. I have word that there is much less boat traffic at the access so far as compared to previous years. Will follow up with Greeters on that.

7. Septic Pumping – Tom Wagner:

ELPA negotiated a very generously reduced septic tank pumping rate with Taplin's Septic and published this in the Spring Newsletter. We needed 5 or multiples of 5 to get the rate. Not one household took advantage of this offer.

As a reminder, the recommendation for best practices on lakes is to pump every 3-5 years. If there is interest let me know, and I'll see if we can still get a reduction. My email is wagsvt@gmail.com .

8. Membership Committee – Tom Wagner

Through the end of June our paid membership is 66 (60 Family and 6 Individuals.) This compares favorably to our final membership at the end of 2021 which was 98 (82 Family, 13 Individuals, 3 Friends.) Thus 80% of our Family members have paid and 46% of Individuals have paid. We have yet to receive contributions from Friends.

Over the last two years the committee has actively encouraged membership to pay dues before our Access Greeter Program begins on Memorial Day weekend, to accelerate our cash flow. It may be working, as we had 53 paid last year at this time.

The committee (Holly Bull, Steve Gratton, Lori Kempton, Tracey Shadday and I) created a tri-fold brochure "Welcome to Echo Lake" designed to be handed out when the greeters inspect boats. It has several useful tips for boaters to help us maintain our pristine lake. We also included a request to help ELPA financially by becoming a Friend of Echo Lake with a \$25 contribution. Kudos to Holly Bull, who took the bull by the horns and created this nicely done piece.

9. Greeter Reports – Maryanne O'Brien and Karl Koenigsbauer

Volunteer Access Greeters -- Maryanne O'Brien

Volunteer greeters began covering the access Tuesday, May 31. A total of 68 volunteer hours were accrued during the month of June, with very few watercraft actually inspected. There has been a noticeable lack of boaters on Mondays and Tuesdays. There will be significantly fewer volunteer hours in the upcoming month of July, as a number of the volunteers have previous commitments. As always, should anyone express an interest in

working at the access on Mondays or Tuesdays, please contact Maryanne O'Brien at (802)723-5905.

Paid Access Greeters – Karl Koenigsbauer

Cheryl Hryckiewicz and Steve Sheltry continue to prove to be invaluable with our Access Greeter program. We welcomed Panda LaCroix, who replaced Dean White, to the team on Friday, May 27. Panda is an excellent addition. Since the start (Friday May 27) of the Greeter Program it appears to this point in the season (Tuesday July 5) that there have been fewer boater visits to the lake when compared to last season. The majority of boats that we see are fishing boats. Kayaks continue to find their way to the lake, which is nice as kayaks pose little to no risk of introducing invasive plants or animals to the lake. Guests have been cooperative with inspections and are extremely impressed with how pristine the lake is, as well as the commitment of our Greeter program.

We are indeed lucky to have the support of our paid greeters who cover the access Wednesday through Sunday and the volunteers that cover the site on Monday and Tuesday. With Memorial Day and the Fourth of July behind us we will hopefully have a quiet end to the summer season. A special thanks goes to Cheryl, Steve and Panda for their commitment in helping to keep Echo Lake the national treasure that it is!

10. Lake Wise – Steve Gratton

I am pleased to announce that Vermont has a new Lake Wise Program Director, Alison Marchione. Alison will be visiting Echo Lake later this summer and she is well aware of our active Lake Wise involvement. Nearly 50% of our shoreline is presently certified Lake Wise and we hope to expand that even further.

I encourage all lakeshore owners to look for simple ways to improve your property and help reduce harmful run-off from reaching this pristine lake you live on. You can start small by inspecting your septic system, planting a buffer zone near the shore, or adding a strategic water bar. The goal should be for each of us to do all we can to keep Echo Lake in the wonderful condition it is for generations to come.

If you have any questions regarding starting a Lake Wise project, please contact me at 603-848-2131 or at sgratton911@gmail.com.

11. Community Outreach – School Programs Report – Peter Bestenbostel

I hope you all have enjoyed the photos and updates from the school program ELPA sponsors at Charleston Elementary School. ELPA provides for two education tracks at the school. We/You are reaching kids at an age when the lessons will stick.

ELPA has been able to fund the Siskin program for third-grade students. This integrates with their STEM work by providing a real-time environmental component based in the students' back yard, Echo Lake! In addition, we fund the NorthWoods program, which provides an after-school experience for older students within the Echo Lake watershed. I am not sure how one puts a value on this kind of real-life exposure, to this kind of science, at this age. If you can, please tell me. I see it as invaluable.

In anticipation of the coming school year, ELPA has purchased water bottles for the incoming third-grade class. We look forward to ongoing program updates and photos from the two programs in the coming year.

12. NorthWoods Trails Report – Carol Martin

Jesse Coe hiked the Shore trail and the Wolcott trail a few weeks ago with some NorthWoods board members and reported both trails look great. The hike to the Wolcott Homestead foundation is fun to check out. The Shore Trail and parking lots have been recently mowed and trimmed.

13. Invasive Species Control – Meg Carter

NorthWoods has received match funding from the Habitat Stamp Project from VT Fish and Wildlife for invasive species control work in the Echo Lake watershed and the Clyde River corridor. They have just confirmed the date for an informational meeting on this project to be held virtually via zoom on Wednesday, July 20 from 6:30-7:30. The info session is being offered with ELPA folks particularly in mind. NorthWoods will also invite some of the other landowners / stakeholders that could be involved in this work. We know folks will have questions about what invasive species we'll focus on, why, treatment types, strategies, long term goals, etc. Volunteer work dates for Echo Lake phragmites and perhaps other opportunities as well will be set for August.

14. 2022 Color Challenge Report – Patti Lennon

It was wonderful to have our Color Challenge fundraiser back after a two-year COVID hiatus. We had 210 runners/walkers celebrate the return of the Color Challenge with us. Our

volunteers and participants kept the energy high and the vibe upbeat and happy. The weather conditions couldn't have been better.

As in the past, we had really strong support from our local business community. 22 businesses sent in donations to sponsor our event, and 32 businesses contributed raffle prizes. ELPA netted about \$7,000 from the Color Challenge. \$4,225 came from sponsor donations and approximately \$3,000 came from our participants' registration fees. We gave away \$1,450 in raffle prizes.

Thank you to Ann and Mark Beams, Pam and Karl Koenigsbauer, and Jean and Bob Wilson for allowing us the use of their beautiful properties to host our event. Maryanne and I give a heartfelt thanks to our Color Challenge Committee and 30+ volunteers. It takes a lot of work to pull off an event as special as the Color Challenge. And, we did it!

15. Investment Committee Report – Peter Bestenbostel

ELPA's contingency fund is currently invested in a one-year CD with Community National Bank at an interest rate of 0.39%. The CD comes due in September 2022 and is currently valued at \$54,940.89. Interest rates have begun to rise slightly. We hope to add to the fund again this year as we move slowly toward the goal established by the Board. The board agreed upon an initial target for the fund of \$100,000. The investment fund's stated purpose is to provide funding to assist in remediation of any invasive species contamination in Echo Lake when it occurs.

Given the current economic climate, I believe that ELPA will see persistently low interest rates for the next few years. Therefore, the growth of the fund will not be substantially increased based upon interest earnings. The board will be making decisions about additions to the fund this year and those strategic choices will define the growth of the fund in the near future. The investment committee will review options for reinvestment of the fund later this summer.

16. Grants/Town Appropriation – Laurie Gee

Our Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation 2022 Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-In-Aid Environmental Stewardship Program funding is up ~\$200 from last year: \$11,308. All grant recipients have been notified that available funding will be reduced by ~25 percent next year, making our fund-raising, dues and donations more critical than ever.

This year's Watershed Grant from Vermont Fish & Wildlife is back at the full funding level: \$5,000. This grant helps to fund our milfoil prevention program as well as our popular educational partnerships and outreach with Charleston School.

We received an additional \$2,400 grant last year, from the Vermont Community Foundation's NEK Fund, to support our Charleston School ecosystem education programs for the school year just ended. We would love to know of other sources for future funding.

We are grateful, once again, to Charleston voters for approving a \$1,000 appropriation to support ELPA's mission.

17. Treasurer's Report – Ann Hunsicker

Thank you to all of our members for your tremendous support of ELPA. You have all ensured we remain able to do the important work of keeping our beautiful lake there for all of us to enjoy. Once again, we are paying our greeters for 5 days a week of keeping invasives out of Echo Lake, and will be doing this until at least September 11. Our grant funding went up a bit from last year, thanks to the State of VT and the Town of Charleston. Our Color Challenge was a huge success, bringing in more money than ever before. A big thank you to all of you who have already paid your dues and made donations, and to those of you we know will soon. Because of your support we will also be continuing the education programs at the Charleston Elementary School again this coming school year, while we search for other grants to sustain this enrichment for our local children. At the end of the summer season, the board will make a decision as to how much to add to our contingency fund, working towards our initial goal of \$100,000.

As of 7/3/22 we have received dues from 61 family members and 6 individual members.

Our total assets, including savings, checking, and payroll checking account as well as the Contingency Fund CD total \$99,254.20. This is an increase of \$19,895.36 from this time last year.

I have attached my financial statements and would be happy to answer any questions you have during the annual meeting.

Balance Sheet as of July 3, 2022

BALANCE SHEET		7/3/22
ASSETS		
Cash and Bank Accounts		
Savings Account		\$31,295.56
Checking Account		\$9,985.88
Payroll Account		\$3,031.87
Contingency Fund CD		\$54,940.89
Total Cash and Bank Accounts		\$99,254.20
TOTAL ASSETS		\$99,254.20
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Payroll / Taxes		
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$0.00
EQUITY		\$99,254.20
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		\$99,254.20

Income Statement and Approved Budget

	Actual 1/1/20- 12/31/20	Actual 1/1/21- 12/31/21	2022 Approved Budget	Actual 1/1/22- 7/03/22
CASH CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2020		73,958.66		82,336.14
INCOME				
Dues	4,355.00	4,475.00	4,200.00	3,150.00
Donations	5,175.00	10,000.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Charleston School Program Donation	750.00			
Color Challenge	600.00		4,500.00	6,130.00
Color Challenge - held for 2021	1,650.00			
Charleston Appropriation	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Watershed Grant - 1st payment	4,000.00	3,200.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Watershed Grant - 2nd payment	1,000.00	800.00	1,000.00	

Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 2nd pymt prior yr				6,680.40
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 1st payment	3,844.00	4,453.60		
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 2nd payment	5,765.00		11,308.00	
VCF Grant		2,400.00		
Map Sales	120.00	120.00		
Amazon Smile		54.70	200.00	148.19
Interest from Savings	835.74	348.24	200.00	113.65
TOTAL INCOME	29,094.74	26,851.54	30,908.00	24,722.24

EXPENSES				
Payroll Costs	14,608.03	13,138.54	14,423.68	3,154.40
Access Monitor Expenses	60.29			346.07
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
Printing		58.50	255.00	311.16
Postage	30.40			
Color Challenge Expenses	21.00	-22.00		
P.O. Box Rental - 1yr.	56.00	56.00	62.00	62.00
Web Site Costs	107.98		616.68	616.68
Picnic		380.00	80.00	
Gift Bags/Membership Expenses				
Maps				
Paypal Expense	56.61	47.02	50.00	17.87
Misc.		20.00	20.00	
Charleston School Program	1,742.95	2,700.00	2,400.00	1,400.00
NorthWoods donation	100.00	100.00	100.00	
FOVLAP membership	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
VCE donation	100.00	100.00	100.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 18,779.26	18,474.06	20,003.36	7,804.18

GAIN/(LOSS)	10,315.48	8,377.48	10,904.64	16,918.06
--------------------	------------------	-----------------	------------------	------------------

TOTAL CASH ON HAND	\$ 82,336.14	\$ 99,254.20		
---------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	--	--

18. Volunteers Needed – Laurie Gee

We invite any willing and interested members and friends to indicate interest in volunteering to help with ELPA's many activities. There is a place on the Google Form to let us know what area(s) interest you. You may also call Laurie Gee (717-887-3163) to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

- Lakebed Surveying
- Access Greeter
- Color Challenge Fundraiser
- Water Quality Monitor (taking over this role from Pete Engels—see report above)
- Membership Committee
- Help pull invasive weed, phragmites, from shoreline
- Northwoods Trail Maintenance--Echo Lake Shoreline Trail
- Green Up Day (first Saturday in May)

19. Special Thanks

Over many months, I'd been adding to a list of the many ELPA members who go out of their way to make this lake and community healthy and strong and exceptional. But I decided against publishing such a list—it changes constantly, and I'd be so concerned that I might have missed someone. I know I share heartfelt gratitude for all of your contributions large and small, whether you're a board member, a committee chair or member, an event volunteer, a greeter, patroller, water-quality monitor, weed puller, website coordinator or contributor, dues payer, donor, loaner of property, storer of ELPA supplies—it all matters! Thank you!

I'd like to focus on a few exceptional long-time residents who've made amazing contributions to our lake community:

Peter Engels, we thank you for your decades of service in monitoring and reporting on the quality of Echo Lake's water, all of the sage advice you've shared, and for all the many, many years you and Nancy welcomed ELPA to your beautiful property for picnics and annual meetings. Your retirement from water monitoring is well deserved, and we very much appreciate your willingness to train your heir to this worthy role!

Mike and Margie Vinton, you retired this year from serving as access greeters, and we are grateful for all you've done. Mike, you had probably been a volunteer greeter since the program began! Peter says you'd like to continue in piloting your pontoon boat around the lake in service to the water-quality monitoring program; we welcome that, will find you a

good monitoring partner to accompany you, and thank you for contributing your boat and gas to that effort all these many years!

Susan Czerepak, your board term is up, your term as fearless Secretary is up (finally!), and we so very much appreciate all the work you've put into taking and publishing meeting minutes, creating a newsletter that is envied by other lake associations, and, up until last year, blazing a trail as you figured out how to make our website shine. You worked doggedly as Lake Wise Liaison for more than 4 years, carrying ELPA to the first Gold Lake Wise Award ever earned in the State of Vermont! You've also helped the association by arranging for workshops and blueberry plantings. I imagine we will continue to see you helping on the trails and weed-pulling fronts, but enjoy your board retirement, with many thanks for all your efforts!

Patti Lennon and Maryanne O'Brien, oh my. Was this year's Color Challenge just above and beyond in every possible way?! No one has a clue just how much time, over how many, many months, goes into making that event happen—poof, over and done in 3 or 4 hours! And then the days of clean-up and re-inventorying in your garage, basement, various friends' barns or basements--it ain't over when it's over. The details you manage, the love and joy you spread, the funds you raise, the connections you make, the legions of loyal volunteers you recruit, we all thank you from the bottoms of our full hearts. But the Color Challenge is a mere few years old! For much longer, 20 something years?!, you've served this community and worked your magic—long and notable service on our board and as officers, getting Echo's access greeter program up and running...still volunteering your time at the access and/or entering boat data. You are both peerless in your ability to make folks feel welcome and excited about helping out, it's as if you invented FOMO (for those of us who only recently figured out what that even is—a social media acronym—we'll share that it stands for "Fear of Missing Out")! Legends, and we love you. Thank you.

20. Questions and Discussion