

President: Steve Gratton
Vice President: Karl Koenigsbauer
Treasurer: Ann Hunsicker
Secretary: Lori Kempton
Board Members:
Holly Bull
Carol Martin
Nick Dibble
Elaine Carpenter
Mark Bechtold

ECHO LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting
September 20, 2022

This meeting was conducted in-person.

Present:

Steve Gratton, Karl Koenigsbauer, Ann Hunsicker, Lori Kempton, Holly Bull, Carol Martin, Nick Dibble, Elaine Carpenter, Mark Bechtold

Welcome: Steve Gratton

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Welcome, Orientation, Introductions:

ELPA Sustainability:

Promote our mission of protecting Echo Lake

Build membership and future leaders

Encourage volunteerism

Secretary Report: Lori Kempton

Link to May 24, 2022 (previous secretary Susan Czerepak) Secretary's report

–<https://www.echolakeassociation.net/meeting-agenda-and-minutes/minutes/elpa-board-of-directors-meeting-minutes-05-24-2022/>

Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of May 24, 2022. All in favor. Approved.

Treasurer Report – Ann Hunsicker

What a fantastic summer this was! It was great to see so many at the Color Challenge, the Annual Meeting and the Annual Picnic. Thanks to all our members for showing your support financially as well.

At this moment we have 81 families and 9 individuals who have paid membership dues. In addition, many members have given us additional donations, which truly sustains us. We also received \$1,075 in donations from Friends, so thank you for promoting ELPA to your visitors! The Color Challenge was held for the first time in 3 years and was the most successful ever. Many people came out to participate and the event brought in \$7,249 to support ELPA. We still expect to receive \$1,000 from the Town of Charleston and \$1,000 from the State of VT for our Watershed grant in 2022. We will also receive a payment of our Aquatic Nuisance grant, however the amount is uncertain. Due to our reduced payroll expense we may not receive the full amount granted.

Our primary expense this year, as it is every year, has been the cost of running our access greeter program. We continue to fund the Charleston Education programs at the same amount as the last few school years. For the 2022-23 school year, we will use part of a donation made last year by a member to cover this expense.

I will discuss my thoughts regarding the amount to add to our contingency fund at the board meeting.

Discussion –

- Ann H recommended adding \$10,000 to the contingency fund as a 7-month CD. Motion was made and seconded to add \$10,000 to the contingency fund. All in favor. Approved.
- Ann H reported that the Aquatic Nuisance Grant to be coming later this year. This grant is highly dependent upon recording volunteer hours.

- Ann H reported that Peter Bestenbostel of the Investment Committee recommends a CD ladder.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer reports of September 20, 2022. All in favor. Approved.

Treasurer reports are appended below.

Color Challenge –

\$7249 from the 2022 Color Challenge.

Date for the 2023 Color Challenge: Sunday July 2, 2023.

Discussion:

Will need new coordinators for the Color Challenge to replace Patti and Maryanne, as they are moving. Thank you to Patti and Maryanne for all of your work--you will be greatly missed.

Discussed possibly adding options for longer distances, as people have expressed interest in various distance options.

Membership – Tom Wagner

Decreasing membership committee members due to increased time commitments from other obligations. Mark Bechtold has agreed to join this committee. The Membership Committee sends out reminders throughout the year for paying dues.

At this time we have 81 families and 9 individuals that have paid membership dues. In addition, many members have given additional donations which truly sustains us.

Water Quality; Lake Monitoring; LaRosa; Lake Reclassification: Holly Bull

Water Quality Report – Board Meeting, September 20, 2022

Lay Monitor: Tom Wagner will be replacing Peter Engels as our Lay Monitor next summer (2023). Mike Vinton will continue to assist the Lay Monitor.

Reclassification: The Agency of Natural Resources canceled/delayed all public hearings until the summer of 2023 for lake reclassification until a “legislative fix” for the septic restrictions for an A(1) watershed is accomplished. The Town of Charleston has been notified.

LaRosa Tributary Testing: Our second year of LaRosa testing is in the books. We will use the results of this testing when working with our Watershed Manager on a Lake Watershed Action Plan.

Lake Watershed Action Plan (LWAP): The Water Quality Committee has reached out to Ben Copans, our Watershed Manager, and have made him aware of our desire to have an action plan put in place. We reached out to Memphremagog Watershed Association to be our technical consultant and Orleans County Natural Resource Conservation District to manage the grant money. We hope to have a plan developed by the summer of 2023. A LWAP can take up to 3 to 4 years to be fully completed.

Phragmites: NorthWoods was successful in cutting down the entire patch of phragmites on the southeast shore. The Water Quality Committee will have an update on the phragmite project for the board at the September meeting.

Smelt Project: Peter Engels and I have talked about reinstating a smelt project on Echo Lake. This would be a three-year endeavor. We are currently working on getting volunteers to help with this project. Peter Engels will work with the

volunteers and coordinate with Fish & Wildlife. UPDATE: Pete Emerson, head of these projects, had a stroke, so this program will be on pause for the time being.

Fishing Report: The Water Quality Committee reached out to Fish & Game for a fish stocking report. This year Echo was stocked with #500 - 10" rainbow trout and #500 - 5.2" steelhead trout. The steelhead are experimental to see if they can survive and thrive. We'd like to continue to share this information with our members in a Fishing Report in either the Spring or Fall newsletters depending on the timing of when the information is available to us.

Compiled by Holly Bull, Water Quality Committee Chair

On behalf of Water Quality Committee Members – Peter Engels, Peggy Stevens, and Tom Wagner

Discussion:

NWSC cut down the patch of phragmites near adjoining property. NWSC wants to spray herbicide 15 feet back from the shoreline (cut and drip herbicide). The phragmites hasn't grown back very fast, possibly delaying spraying of the herbicide for this year. To do \$250 water testing if spraying is to occur. Sam Perron of NWSC is in charge of the project. "Rodeo" is the name of the herbicide, which has been approved for use by the state.

Discussion of and ELPA board decided to work with Seymour Lake to develop Lake Watershed Action Plan for funding of projects.

Lake Memphremagog Watershed Project: to fix the road run-off at Dickey Brook.

ELPA to join that membership.

Still concerns about run-off at the road bridge over the inlet. Bernie Pepin is aware and will try to address this.

Japanese Knotweed: There was an article in the Newport Daily Express to inform people that there is some money available to eliminate the plant. It takes 5 years to eliminate the plant. Some homeowners have expressed interest in this possibility. Steve to look into this.

ELPA is a member of FOVLAP. Steve to look into the benefits of membership.

Lakebed Survey—Holly Bull

No aquatic invasive species have been found in the lake. There have been observations of filamentous algae showing possible nutrient loading, which may correspond with long-term changing of the lake. This can happen, especially when lake level is low.

Cyanobacteria checks are occurring every week at the access.

Thank you to Holly for all of her work and dedication!

Wake Boats – Holly

In the legislative process currently. Discussion of limiting wake boat use on largest lakes. 10 out of 15 of these lakes are in the NEK.

NEK Lakes Coalition now trying to amend the petition. The concern is the aquatic invasive species that may be transferred from the ballasts of this type of boat, in addition to other negative impacts for A-1 eligible lakes.

Grants: Ann H

Ann reported that Laurie Gee has graciously agreed to continue with her role of writing grants. The Aquatic Nuisance Grant to be coming later this year. This grant is dependent upon recording of in-kind hours.

Other grants include the Watershed Grant and money from the Town of Charleston (voted upon at Town Meeting).

Thank you to Laurie Gee!

Access Greeter Report: Karl Koenigsbauer

Paid Greeters Report: Much credit must go to Cheryl Hryckiewicz and Steve Sheltry for their dedication and commitment for fulfilling their responsibilities at the access area with a supportive attitude and a good deal of patience throughout the summer of 2022. In mid-July the third greeter was unable to continue her role as a greeter at the access which meant that the 2:00pm to 6:00pm shift was uncovered. Fortunately, for whatever reason, we saw a decline with boat activity this summer which provided some comfort with losing the 2 to 6 shift. A huge thank you to Peter for stepping up and covering a few hours on Friday afternoons. Cynthia Stevens also filled in for a couple of days, which was greatly appreciated. Steve and Cheryl have indicated that they will return next summer but they have also indicated to me that they very much wish to keep the same shift times next summer. Clearly the 2 to 6 pm shift is a tough 4 hours to commit to, so we will need to advertise early next spring to find someone to fill that specific time slot. We also will need to create a pool of volunteers to be available when the paid greeters are unable to cover their specific shift. Many hands make for light work so hopefully we will be able to find volunteers to give what is basically a small commitment of time to maintain our pristine lake that all that live on and visit the lake clearly enjoy. We have our work cut out for us on finding volunteers and a paid greeter for next year but hopefully we will find the personnel prior to the start of the 2023 summer season.

Discussion: The need for volunteer greeters is critical. A 3-4 hour training is required.

Discussed advertising in different areas. Discussion of consideration for possible wage increase and/or bonus for completion of summer commitment.

Thank you, Karl, for all of your hard work and dedication to keeping the access staffed!

Charleston School – Siskin-Coutts--NorthWoods Program – Ann H and Peter Bestenbostel

Discussion: Plans for ELPA education table to be set up at Charleston Elementary School 2023 Open House.

Lake Wise-- Steve Gratton

Alison Marchione has been officially hired to replace Amy Picotte and is now the new Lake Wise Manager for the state of Vermont. In addition they have hired Mathew Stromecki as a

full-time Lake Wise evaluator. I met with Matt in mid-August and evaluated three lakeshore properties eligible for the Lake Wise Award. Two of the properties have been notified that they have been approved and will receive their awards soon. It is my understanding that the third property will also be approved shortly and be receiving their award as well. Working with the new State Lake Wise team has been productive. With the three new Lake Wise properties we now have more than half of the Echo Lake's 21,500 feet of shoreline deemed Lake Wise. Anyone who would like to know more about the Lake Wise Program and shoreline improvements, please contact Steve Gratton at sgratton911@gmail.com or call 603-848-2131.

Trails – Carol Martin

Kiosks and trails have been trimmed. Shoreline trail is in good shape. Volunteers help to clean up any fallen trees.

Discussion: Discussion about more supervision/coordination/facilitation desired for future Kingdom Swim events held at Echo Lake.

Annual Picnic

Will need a new coordinator as well as a new place to hold the picnic. (The Engels have generously offered to hold the picnic at their place.)

Will plan to not hire a band again for 2023. Positive feedback received about the picnic without the band present.

Date for 2023 picnic: August 12, 2023

ELPA Website:

Lori to continue to send items to Kristen Wilson for posting on the ELPA website.

Thank you, Kristen for your help with the website!

ELPA Facebook Page – Lori Kempton

Send items to Lori for posting on the ELPA Facebook page.

Fall Newsletter – Lori Kempton

Send items for the Fall newsletter to Lori.

Dates

The following 2023 dates were agreed upon by the Board:

- Color Challenge – Sunday July 2, 2023
- Annual Meeting – Saturday July 22, 2023
- Annual Picnic – Saturday August 12, 2023
- Board Meetings –
 - o Tuesday January 10, 2023 at 6pm (via Google Meet). Lori to set up.
 - o Thursday May 18, 2023 at 6pm
 - o Thursday September 21, 2023 at 6pm.

Adjourned: At 8:30 PM

Submitted by Lori Kempton: September 27, 2022

2022 Balance Sheet - As of 9/17/2022

BALANCE SHEET 9/17/2022

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts

Savings Account	\$31,298.22
Checking Account	\$5,093.85
Payroll Account	\$1,808.48
Contingency Fund CD	\$54,976.71
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	\$93,177.26

TOTAL ASSETS \$93,177.26

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES

Payroll / Taxes	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0.00

EQUITY \$93,177.26

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$93,177.26

