

LAKE ARMINGTON ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
July 6, 2019
Faustini Cottage

While the approximately 35 people in attendance ate a potluck lunch, Caroline Hughes biologist from the Loon Preservation Association gave an in-depth and interesting talk about loons. She answered many questions during and after the talk. Business Meeting was called to order at 1:17 pm by Lynn Dennison.

TREASURY: Kate Merritt presented the budget. She said that the 2019 budget is much the same as 2018, about \$1740 in dues and \$6200 in donations. We had a slight deficit last year of \$119. 86% of LAA expenses in 2018 were Lake Host, which carries out the mission of the Association, preservation of the pristine lake. LH expenses are up 250% since 2015 because the Hosts pay is higher and there is more coverage for a longer season. Kate reported that the Board had voted to raise dues that haven't been increased in ten years, to \$25 for singles and \$50 for families. The projected budget for 2019 will have a deficit. The increase in dues will hopefully eradicate running deficit budgets. The overall expense budget for 2019 is \$8800. Lake Host is \$7600—87% of the expenses.

There is \$9200 in the Ann Soloway Fund. The funds for this are from Camp alumni and associates, but it is controlled by LAA. It is to be used to preserve the Lake at LAA's discretion.

The Emergency fund, \$18,000, is for weed eradication if LAA ever has to do such. The boat inspections are an important part of avoiding getting weeds in the Lake.

LAKE HOST PROGRAM: Lynn DeMerchant. Lynn explained that New Hampshire Lakes is instrumental in running the financial end of the Lake Host program. Piermont gives New Hampshire Lakes (NHL), in LAA's name, \$150. The Association pays \$300 for NHL membership. NHL has a formula that includes these numbers, how many Lake Hosts we have, their pay and benefits, the number of boat inspections, the length of our season and in-kind contributions (43 CITs from Camp Walt Whitman and other volunteers). The formula determines how much of a grant (\$1600 this year) NHL gives LAA toward the budget for Lake Hosts. The Association makes up the difference. NHL receives the time sheets for the Lake Hosts from our paid representative and pays the Lake Hosts directly. LAA does not have to do the back office work. Lynn reminded the group that anyone can volunteer at the boat landing and accrue in-kind hours for the Association. The training can be done in an online webinar and takes about 2 hours. It is only available online for a while longer. The Lake Hosts inspect boats and clean up the refuse around the landing.

WEED WATCHERS: Linda Kline. Good active group of watchers this year: Wendy Cahill, Lynn DeMerchant, Lynn Dennison, Deb and James Jensen, Tim Donelon, Ken Settel and Kathy Soloway. Amy Smagula, the biologist from DES, says global warming will increase chances of unwanted weeds in the Lake. There is bladderwort at the bottom of the lake and that is a sign of a healthy lake. Linda

identifies evil weeds well so if anyone has a questionable weed, consult Linda. DES is doing Weed Watcher training on 7/19/19 at 10 am at the Boat Ramp. Interested participants should let Linda Kline know.

WATER QUALITY: Mike Poole. The June water test results are not back. The transparency is not as good as it has been. It is still considered exceptional by State standards. Results of the tests can be found on the DES website. It is possible the rainy spring and the dam reconstruction have contributed to the reduced clarity. From 1987-2000 average clarity was 6.14 meters. From 1987-2018, clarity was 5.71 meters. Last year, the average clarity was 4.83 meters for June and July and it was back to 5.5meters for the August test.

The pH level was “slightly bad.” Mike has reached out to his DES contact for an explanation of why we are seeing a clarity decline and what controls Ph and why those numbers are not that good.

Mike wanted to thank the Town of Piermont that pays \$150 for the Lake’s e-coli testing. That is the only test for which the Association has to pay. The results have always been good.

ICE OUT: Carlos Manrique reported that there were 73 guesses by 17 participants. Ice out was April 25, 2019 at 11:27 am. Thank you to Todd Langley, Lynn DeMerchant, Richard DeMerchant and Alice Wellington for getting this year’s Ice Out done. Winners:

1st Place: Bob Dennison Gold medal

2nd Place: Jim Donelon Silver medal

3rd Place: Polly Tafrate Bronze medal

Ice Out starts right after Valentine’s Day and the deadline changes each year, depending on the weather.

COMMUNICATIONS: Alice Wellington. New, snazzier directories are available today. In addition to phone numbers and addresses, the directory includes the “Living at the Lake” document, 911 addresses and owners and some emergency numbers, the website address and an overview of the Association. The website has a lot more information. There is a page for each program. Alice would like those responsible for the various programs to let her know of updated information. Alice tries to keep the main page for new information. Lynn noted that the Board decided not to print new directories next year. Please notify Alice of email and physical address changes.

DAM UPDATE: Ken Settel said that they will be working until the end of July and are currently finishing up landscaping.

SEPTEMBER MEETING: The Board decided to have a Wine and Cheese late afternoon gathering on September 7 at a yet to be determined location. There will be a brief business meeting at that gathering and a vote on the slate of new officers. Anyone interested in serving on the Board should contact Lynn Dennison or Shirley Nicol.

PLAQUE FOR KELLY FITZPATRICK: Lynn reported that the plaque is made and Tom Cochrane has a post and will install the plaque shortly. When the plaque is installed there will be a dedication ceremony.

REMEMBRANCES:

Ann Caswell
Irving Cushing
Carol Aldrich
Berk Nicol

Bob Dennison, Lisa McGiffert, Shirley Nicol, Carlos Manrique and Marg Light all shared fond memories of Berk. Shirley thanked everyone who spoke for his or her kind thoughts. "Berk loved the Lake."

NEW BUSINESS:

UNTIL HELP ARRIVES Arline Cochrane announced that on August 27 from 9 am - noon, the Town of Piermont Emergency Management people will do "Until Help Arrives" training. Anyone interested should contact Bernie Marvin.

WILD MUSHROOM WALK: Lynn Dennison announced that Mark Robie is willing to do his wild mushroom walk again for an interested group. He charges a fee that is divided among the participants. Talk to Lynn or Lisa McGiffert if you are interested. Moved to adjourn at 1:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Rounds
Recording Secretary