

Deering Lake Improvement Association
Minutes of the General Membership meeting September 4, 2021
Deering Town Hall

Call to Order: President Deb Degan called the meeting to order at 9:00am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. She mentioned that t-shirts, hats and stickers were being sold at a table in the front of the room. Also, Lillian Carter has a copy of the directory information which needs to be verified and updated by all members. Please see her.

Informational Program

Deb Degan introduced Caroline Hughes, the Staff Biologist from the Loon Preservation Committee. Caroline Hughes described the project, which was founded in 1975, out of a concern about a drop in the Loon population in the state. At the time, there were approximately 100 pairs. The organization is non-profit with a mission to restore and maintain a healthy population of loons, to monitor NH's loons and to promote a greater understanding of loons and the natural world. Since 1975, there are now over 340 pairs. Loons are ocean birds but breed in our lakes. The design of the birds makes them very efficient swimmers but bad on land. Therefore, the ocean shorelines do not lend themselves to breeding on shore, but lakes are more hospitable. Loons begin leaving our lakes in August and September. The adults leave first, and any chicks are left to follow later. Winter plumage is very different, much grayer. They return in April after ice out, and claim their territory. Pairs do not winter together but return to the same lakes. Fledglings remain in the ocean for three years. A loon does not reproduce until age 6. Nests are built at waters edge, as Loons cannot easily walk on land, between late May and late June. Typically, there are one or two eggs in a nest, which take 26 to 28 days to hatch. Two eggs will hatch 12 to 24 hours apart which puts the second chick at a disadvantage as the first chick has that much more development time. Renesting can occur should something fail with the first nest. Chicks are dependent for approx. 12 weeks and are vulnerable to predation and attack. The average loon pair in NH successfully raises just one chick to fledging age every two years. This slow rate of reproduction is counterbalanced by the loon's long lifespan, the oldest loon in NH is over thirty years old. Threats to loons are water level fluctuations while nesting, human disturbances and shoreline development, human commensal mammals such as racoons, avian predators such as eagles, contaminants in lakes, and lead fishing tackles. The threat from lead is the highest danger. Deb Degan thanked Caroline for a very informative program and asked for a motion to approve the payment of \$200 to the Loon Preservation Committee. It was moved and seconded, all voted in favor.

Minutes: The minutes from the July 10, 2021 meeting were distributed. The minutes were approved as presented. Deb Degan thanked Beth Bauer for her work as secretary

Treasurer's report: Scott Adams presented a report of spending for 2021. He reported expenses to date of \$2,236.40 and income to date of \$1,372.90. Expenses include payment for the T-shirts which are now on sale, so that expense will ultimately generate more revenue. He noted that the current bank accounts have following balances: checking \$3,562.03 and savings \$4,072.04. The Treasurer's report was moved and seconded for approval, all voted in favor. Scott Adams reminded the group of the T-shirt sales, and a raffle for two P.J. Paterno prints. He also noted that sweatshirts and long sleeve T-shirts can be ordered.

Ongoing Business Committee Reports:

Lake Host Program: Glenn Clark reported that the program will be staffed through Labor Day. The boat traffic from the beach has been half of what it was last season. Boaters are well aware of the requirements to wash their boats between lakes.

Loon Monitoring: Glenn Clark reported that two chicks remain of the three that hatched.

Roadside Cleanup: Glenn Clark reported that the next cleanup is scheduled for October 2nd. Volunteers are needed starting at 9:00am.

VLAP: Glen Clark reported that the June 22nd test results showed nothing unusual, and that no results have been received from the August 24th testing.

Weed Watcher: Jenn Battistello reported that the weed watcher program is going well. She explained that the floating weeds are due to churn caused by extra water flow in July. The weed watchers have been using the NHLakes education programs (available to all on their website) to learn about what is supposed to grow in the lake. If you have a rental, you must include information about boats and weeds. Please contract here with anything that looks different than normal. Draw down on Oct 11th will clear most of what is there. A question was asked about lawn mowing and if it adds to the problem? The answer is that the mowing itself is not harmful, but that lawn chemicals create problems. Deering is cleaner than other lakes thanks to the weed watchers and the water flow.

Social Committee: Donna Roust reported that a brainstorming meeting was held. Plans are for one large Family Fun Day and several small events hosted by people around the lake. The first event is "Harvest Happy Hour" on Saturday September 25th from 5 to 7 at Bob and Lilian Carters house. The event is limited to 40 people and therefore reservations are required. Cost is \$5.00 plus an appetizer to share.

Old Business:

Bylaw Revision: Changes have been incorporated into the new document. Discussion followed concerning the process to approve the revised by-laws. The existing rules state that changes to amend the bylaws must be presented in writing at a general membership meeting, and if approved, a ballot is to be mailed to all members and returned within 21 days. A motion was made and 2nd to vote on the new proposed bylaws and constitution and to mail ballots to members. All voted in favor.

New Business:

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2022: The following names were presented:

President: Betsy Holmes, Vice President: Barbara Larmand, Secretary: Sue Kaufman, Treasurer: Scott Adams, Past President: Deb Degan, Directors: Donna Raoust (2 yrs), Ben Barkhouse (2 yrs). The slate was moved and 2nd, all voted in favor. In addition, Directors Lilian Carter and Charles Hambrick-Stowe are serving the final year of their two-year term.

Deb Degan thanked the current board for their work this past year. She also extended a special thank you to Olivier Raoust for his IT help and thanked the incoming board members for their willingness to volunteer. She noted that a priority for next year should be a membership committee to continue the on-going development of the DLIA. She turned the gavel over to the new president, Betsy Holmes. Betsy announced that there would be boat parade on Sunday the 5th at 5pm starting from her dock. She is looking for ideas for ways that the Council can best serve the membership, ideas for additional swag that could be sold.

She gave thanks to Deb Degan for her years of service, and for the extra years Deb was willing to serve as President.

Other Business:

The raffle was drawn for the P.J. Paterno prints. Raffle winners are Charles Hambrick Stowe and Glenn Clark.

Adjournment at 10:15am

Respectfully submitted
Beth Bauer, Secretary