

**Community Lakes Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2018**

Attendees: Approximately 33 people attended this meeting

Meeting Summary:

This meeting was scheduled to discuss the programs and projects of the CLA during the past year, and plans for the next year, as well as provide the opportunity for discussion of input and issues from the members. Also scheduled were revisions to the Association's Constitution and By-Laws, and election of officers.

Quorum: A quorum was present.

Welcome and brief statement:

Glen Langley, resigning President, provided the welcome and a review of overall activities of the CLA for the past year, including membership from BANC, construction of a Kiosk for pond information at Lake Christopher boat ramp, updates on the website, Facebook page, Board manual for convenient management of documents, and a draft statement regarding windmills (see Discussion Q&A below).

Glen also described and discussed the importance of the LakeSmart Program and encouraged lakefront owners to contact the CLA to have a LakeSmart evaluation of their property. He emphasized that this is not about codes or violations, and does not report any if found. The point is to increase education of property owners about the ways that their property might become more contributory to the ecology of a healthy lake. One of the primary objectives of a review is to identify erosion and leaching of soil and phosphates into the pond. Property owners may receive suggestions for improvements, or they may already be eligible for a LakeSmart certificate and sign. It was pointed out that there are no down sides, just positive results in all cases, plus it is a free program sponsored by the Maine Lake Society.

It was noted that phosphate does not leach from the soil to water unless the soil is moved, as in erosion, or construction. Also discussed was whether construction sites are required to install a retaining barrier to prevent soil erosion. Several towns and construction sites were mentioned. Glen referred anyone with questions to the towns of Greenwood and Woodstock to determine the requirements for barriers.

A count was done of members for each pond, with the following results:

Lake Christopher	14
Shagg Pond	7
North Pond and Round Pond	3
Indian, Mud, and Twitchell Ponds	1

Constitution Revisions:

The revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws were read by Wendy Porter, Moderator, and a motion to accept was made by Jan Kendrick and seconded. After much discussion, primarily involving remote participation at meetings, the Constitution and By-Laws were approved as published and posted.

Election of Officers:

President: Colin Campbell, nominated by Donnie Porter, received 15 votes

Vice-President: Mary Frances O'Brian, nominated by Jan Kendall, received 11 votes

Secretary: Jan Kendrick, nominated by Donnie Porter, received 15 votes

Treasurer: Donnie Porter, nominated by Jan Kendrick, received 16 votes

Treasurer's update:

Ted Baker, Interim Treasurer, provided an update of the financial status. Income of \$18,466.50 was received of which \$4,222 was received from membership dues and donations, as well as the DEP grant for milfoil removal, of which \$10,699 has been received for milfoil removal this year. This amount represents 75% of the grant, with the remaining 25% to be received before December, 2018.

Membership:

Walt Staples gave an up to the minute report on the current membership, including a breakdown by each pond. He also noted that in 2012 there were 40 members of the CLA, whereas in 2017 that number had grown to 134, and this year there are already 130, with more expected to top the enrollment of last year. He reminded us that the best way to get members is by word of mouth, so the members are encouraged to invite their neighbors and friends to join. He emphasized that the CLA is not only for waterfront property owners, but that all who appreciate the lakes are welcome to join the Association with their support.

CLA Program Status:

Milfoil: Donnie Porter reported that the milfoil project achieved a record harvest from Shagg Pond in 2017 of 8,189 gallons, compared with 2,720 gallons in 2016. He also noted the New England Milfoil had just completed a week of harvesting, and so far 1,720 gallons were removed in four days. New England Milfoil has been contracted to return for another twelve days of milfoil removal at Shagg Pond during the remainder of July, August, and early September.

Regarding the removal of mats, he reported that 178 mats have been removed from Lake Christopher this spring, with approximately another 20 that will be removed next year. He added that there are approximately 30-50 mats left to remove in Shagg Pond. He reported that there are an estimated 200+ in the Outlet Pond of Lake Christopher, but these will not be addressed until next year because Outlet Pond is below the dam in Lake Christopher, and below the culvert under the road between the ponds, so the possibility of contaminating Lake Christopher from Outlet Pond is not possible with direct contact.

He further explained that the importance of removing the mats is because DEP requires mats to be removed or moved to a different location every 60 days. Some of these mats have been in place for approximately years. The mats leach toxins from the plastic and rust from the rebar holding them in place, as well as causing the water to become warmer because of the black absorbing the heat. It is possible to use herbicides, although there is not been total success with herbicide use. DEP considers it a last resort.

Loosestrife: Donnie also mentioned that an infestation of loosestrife was reported to him this year. The plant was cut back by hand last September to prevent the seeds from escaping. The plants were cut down this spring, then covered with mats on the surface as a first attempt to cause the plants and the underground rhizomes to die.

He noted that a relative of the landowner planted the loosestrife. He noted that loosestrife is illegal to import or export across the Maine border or to sell according to the Maine Department of Agriculture, but it is not illegal to plant it. The Maine Lake Society works with the legislature to craft bills that affect lakes and streams. Donnie said that he will contact them to discuss increasing the constraints on loosestrife to make it illegal to plant.

Donnie is also the Chairman of the Water Quality Committee, and in that capacity he mentioned that the having spent \$2,100 on the tests for two ponds, reports have been returned from the 2017 water samples, but the language and layout of the reports was too technical interpretation. Two members in attendance, Richard Schneider and Richard Warrington, volunteered to review the reports and give a less technical report of the findings.

Invasive Plant Patrol:

Wendy Porter announced the first Invasive Plant Patrol at Hicks Pond on August 11 at 9:00. All are welcome and help is appreciated. Bring your canoes or kayaks and help do a grid search of Hicks Pond for any invasive plants. Please wash your boats before and after use in another pond.

Wendy also pointed out that the Coast Guard has provided a label to attach to your canoes and kayaks with your name and phone number in the event that it somehow is found drifted away from your dock or property. She pointed out that any abandoned watercraft is considered to be a potential drowning unless that possibility can be quickly ruled out. Having a number to call facilitates this process and saves the Coast Guard thousands of dollars in needless searches.

Annual Meeting Discussions:

- There was much discussion about the Greenwood windmill project and the upcoming vote on a windmill ordinance.
- The possibility of limiting motor size on individual lakes was discussed, and it was determined that the State of Maine is not in favor of this.
- There was a lengthy discussion of access by the members of information from the CLA meetings and minutes, as well as the option of electronic participation and even voting at Annual and Board meetings, with regard to including wording in the By-Laws about it. The Board has committed to exploring options for Board meetings, but it is less optimal for the Annual Meeting due to delays in voting, and difficulty participating in discussions remotely.
- Blaine Mills stopped in to give two announcements of interest from the Greenwood Historical Society:
 - August 1 - the 2nd half of a report on the history of camps along the Alder River. This includes North, South and Twitchell Ponds and Lake Christopher.
 - September 5 – Pot Luck supper with the history of Stanley Foss Bartlett
 - TBD – The history of the Grand Trunk Railroad that runs through Greenwood and Woodstock

Action Items:

- Richard Schneider and Richard Warrington will review the 2017 water quality report and give a less technical summary of the results.
- CLA Board: Post pictures and short bio of new officers on FB and website
- CLA Board: Post pictures, bios and contact information of Pond Reps and website
- CLA Board: Investigate options for electronic attendance at CLA Board Meetings and post results on Facebook

Next Annual Meeting, August 3, 2019 at 8:30/coffee, 9:00 business meeting