Lake Colby Association

Minutes Friday, August 9, 2013

Held at the Keet Boathouse

Meeting started at 4:07 PM

In Attendance:

George Earl

Ann & Rod Greene

Nancy & Lee Keet

Jodi & Scott Keet

Dick & Jean Leopold

Debbie & Roger Neill

Christopher Neill

Steve Smiley

Dan Kelting, AWI

Michael DeAngelo, AWI

Paul Van Cott, Village Trustee

Alice Vera, AdkAction.org Ex. Director

Brian Waters, Adirondack Medical Center

Patty Gillmette from the Village for Notarizing

Introduction by Nancy:

1. Welcome New member: George Earl
2. AdkAction.org Ex Director, Alice Vera
3. Village trustee, Paul Van Cott

Minutes of 2012 meeting were provided and reviewed. Scott made a motion to accept the minutes as they stand, seconded by Rod. Minutes were approved.

Organizational:

1. Weed District
2. Colby Foundation
3. Election of Officers
4. Election of Directors

George was interested in the by-laws and procedures for our meetings. He was directed to our website at www.lakecolby.org

A) Lee went to a summit on a beautiful day learned that to distribute weed cost was to create a weed district. It is under NY state law ~ residents try to create this district with a majority vote of the residents. Our attorney is in agreement. Residents of lake want to create an aquatic nuisance weed district, initially to control Eurasian Milfoil:

We petition town; town acts; they vote; majority; town meeting; then town takes a vote. District includes anyone within 300ft of lake. Chesterfield is a successful model in NY State.

Lake Colby is unique in that most of the shoreline is owned by the state.

Petition drafted by our attorney Ron Briggs was signed by a majority of the affected tax payers. Bring to town board.

We volunteer to be the board for this district.

Nancy asked for discussion: Lee asked do we want to equitably distribute our costs of maintaining the lake? Some people have not donated yet are benefiting from our work. Steve’s concern is cost. He would like to set a maximum tax at .05% of assessed value. Lee stresses that we want to share this cost more broadly and get the State, our major shore-owner, to participate. We have 70 acres of plant growth area within 320 acres. Rod asked if Pam would be included in petition, yes she is a property owner within 300 feet of the lake. Rod asked would the hospital be in as well; yes, but they are exempt and will not be taxed. Lee noted that the hospital gave us $3000 for our milfoil harvest. Brian noted that the hospital would continue to help as much as they possibly can.

Patty Gillmette was here to help notarizing our vote. We each signed on the letter which Patty notarized.

B) Lee discussed our foundation. We have received grants of more than a quarter million $ in the past years. But a 501c 4 is not tax free status. 501c3 is a not-for-profit to make grant applications. We would like to apply for state and federal monies requiring 501c3 status. We agreed last year to form a foundation and now through the Colby Foundation we can do tax deductible fund raising for our lake. We are still LCA for dues & escrow; other monies will go into foundation.

C) Red sign says we are a private road. State is not allowed to create a through right of way from Van Buren or to open Moir Road to the general public. Nancy suggested a barrier across the road for a couple of hours once a year to be sure it is looked upon as private!

D) Lee introduced Alice Vera from AdkAction.org who has kindly taken over replenishing our Lake Colby information pamphlets. Ann will volunteer to keep the holders at the boat launch site filled until she leaves, and Debbie will take over. Lee will put up stop sign at boat launch. Debbie with the help of Rick Leidig will put up the fishing line collection container provided by Nina Schoch of www.briloon.org

E) Nancy introduced Dan Kelting of AWI to present our Milfoil status.

AWI pulls Eurasion Water Milfoil (EWM) by its roots using divers with a top water person who collects bags & fragments. Could use help with fragment collection. Referred to handouts: Refer to Table 1: 12 days of activity: two of the days are free since they are used as training days for his crew through the use of a grant; at this point they are doing recon to set up plan & do a little harvest; North bay mats with re-bar metal where decomposed so they took them out & mats are still along the trestle; spent a lot of time in the dense areas & ended season with a swim of the entire 70 acres to leave it in the best state possible for the next year.

Figure 2: keep track of bags /25lbs. roughly; in 2006 really ramped up to remove lots a major portion; goal is to invest the same amount of money to maintain it in the present stable place. Based on the data we are at a place of maintenance.

Plant survey crew came in and did a surface survey of lake to see how we where doing with individual plants or residual beds of plant beds (maybe beds that were missed) a lot of scattered plants here and there; major beds hospital & trestle bay

$15, 310 will be billed to Colby which is under our projected price due to Dan’s ability to use grants as well.

In Little Colby Lake we talked about turning off flow into & turning of the flow out & apply Renovate which could completely eliminate EWM but would require a permit with a long term plan. Steve asked if we can use this on Colby. Dan said there is not enough density & no control barrier like LCL has.

The projection for next year is to move all the matting over in front of hospital; have a good understanding of the persistent areas & harvest those & get all around the lake to keep it in maintenance mode. Steve asked how LCL fared. Dan said the EWM is quite dense he will send a copy of the survey done on LCL.

F) Nancy introduced Mike DeAngelo of AWI:

Mike had handouts; page 1 fecal coliform w/ college & AdkAction; there is a drop off location to drop off in Malone within 6 hours with specific bottles. With this program they provided bottles & with pony express took on this testing with volunteers! 200colonies/100ml will close swimming. In 2012 20 lakes did the testing. 11 were completely clean (55%), 9 lakes okay, 4 lakes/ not acceptable, 1 lake really bad: Star Lake

Lake Colby no fecal coliforms taken in front of Mr. Phillips & level 30/100ml taken at the beach. In 2013 AdkAction.org decided to use State Certified labs so that they can have better clout with their info. Only five lakes participed. All showed fecal coliform and Star Lake showed a high level again.

One of the things that is happening is more drastic rain events like over an inch of rain in an hour. College has a weather station & DEC station & federal station….weather is really changing lake chemistry. We get around 36 inches of rain 2011 was record setting with more than 50 inches, 2012 was normal but with big rain events in Aug, Sept, Oct.; this year we were at 33.3 inches of rain in Aug.; May & June were wettest; LC has a lot of buffers which helps with acid rain 7.5ph of a basic lake; alkalinity 40% which is excellent for buffers; really good news is the nutrients are actually going down ` phosphorus going down. With phosphorus dropping four straight years in a row why did we have an algae bloom ~ large mats of algae different from before. Mike is not sure why or what it was. Chlorophyll is pretty low with a middle age lake running under four with secci disc better in last four years & better clarity. Algae down as well, with secci disc reading up/better.

May be a result of salt storage; 2 years since construction of salt shed. We would love to know sodium which should be 2/3rds of chloride. Chloride still second to only Cascade Lake because of our state road along the hospital.

A question was asked about the town beach moving. Would e.coli go down? Yes, but our watershed with lots of nutrients draining down to the lake. Also, does goose fecal effect the lake? It is absolutely covered at beach. Geese not traveling south & have become resident geese. All in all, the Lake is on a holding pattern.

G)Finances: Lee presented the bank balances and projected expenses

H)Election: officers: Nancy Keet, Pres., Debbie Neill, Secretary, Lee Keet, Treasurer. Motions were made to accept the slate, approved, and so voted.

Board of Directors: Motions were made for the directors to remain the same, firstly by Scott and seconded by Debbie. Motion was approved. Our Directors are:

Chandler Ralph, Jim Moore, Jean Leopold, Lee Keet

H)Old Business: Rod talked about the old wells on State property. Did a nice job at first with sand but the sand had settled; this time they did it with dirt and rocks. Did remove metal tank & also filled in acquafer collection spot with dirt. Things look pretty good back there.

Rod also talked about the big ditch by Laramee’s. Rod will try to mark off the spot with a marker so people don’t go into the deeper spot there.

H) update with Brian about noise: acoustic panels are in place one was loose and has been tightened, new software about how unit stages itself; 1st two weeks in July took out 2 components & could most definitely be louder; but is not fixed and should be better. We all agreed that it is somewhat better and thanked Brian for his work.

Lee moved that the meeting be adjourned at 5:46PM.