

# LAKE COLBY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Minutes from Annual Meeting

August 12, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM with 17 in attendance:

Nancy Keet, President

Lee Keet, Treasurer, Board Member

Debbie Neill, Secretary

Michael DeAngelo, Watershed Inst.

Ann Greene, member

Rod Greene, member

Bob Keet, member

Bonnie Keet, member

Glenn Keet, member

Larry Miller, Town Supervisor

Jim Moore, Board Member

Carrie Moore, member

Chris Neill, member

Roger Neill, member

Chandler Ralph, AMC, Board Member

Steve Smiley, member

Fred Dunlap, NYSDEC

Nancy Keet, President welcomed everyone and asked if there were any additions to be made to the agenda, no additions were made. It was noted that a quorum was present.

Lee Keet started off the meeting with a brief overview of what has taken place this past year.

- We have exhausted our treasury: used \$13,500 but were billed only \$12,000 (thanks Watershed Institute!) for the removal of Eurasian Milfoil, which involved 4 X 10 hour days and 1 long day in Little Colby Lake.
- Tough spring weather conditions involving snow melt, rain and flooding caused major problems with our culverts and road condition. Our road escrow held \$6,023 and we will be billed \$6,000 for the repairs this September; leaving us with \$23 in that account.
- Though we had tough spring time weather for our road, the summer weather of 42 days of sunshine has helped everything including Eurasian Water Milfoil to grow!
- We are incredibly thankful for the very generous and helpful \$3,000 that the Town of Harrietstown has consistently granted towards the efforts of Eurasian Milfoil removal and we would like to thank our Town Supervisor, Larry Miller directly for his help.
- In previous years we have been very thankful for our own members going above and beyond the call of “duesies” and contributing extra towards this constant effort. The past three years we were able to manage with a ½ assessment due to our Lake Champlain Basin Program grant money of \$8,000. However, it looks like this year we will have to go back to a voluntary full assessment for our individual dues since our funds are so low. We need to be sure we can pay the Paul Smith’s Watershed Institute.
- Even with a full assessment, we will still fall short of the needed \$15,000.
- Lee has kindly offered to again use his energetic grant writing skills to apply for funds from the LCBP. He will try to find other monies as well. Thank you very much Lee.

Nancy asked if the LCA 2010 Annual Meeting minutes would be accepted as presented. Some members requested a little more time to read over the minutes.

Nancy presented the slate of Officers, which would again remain the same as last year. All officers expressed the invitation to anyone wanting to serve as officers to please consider these positions for next year. Bob moved the motion to accept the slate which was seconded by Jim, and the members appreciatively approved Nancy R. Keet as President, Debbie Neill as Secretary and Lee Keet as Treasurer. Lee Keet is our Water Quality Chairperson, as well.

Nancy also presented the Board Members for this year, Jean Leopold, Lee Keet, Jim Moore and Chandler Ralph. Glenn made the motion to accept the board nominations, Steve seconded the motion and the vote carried. Thanks were extended to our Board Members as well.

Nancy then again asked if our minutes from our 2010 Annual Meeting could be accepted. Bob made the motion to accept the minutes, it was second and so moved. The minutes will be posted again on our website at LakeColby.org.

Sodium/Chloride:

Yes, we finally have a Salt Storage Shed on Van Buren Street! However, Lee reported that “**Lake Colby is now the most heavily loaded chloride *inhabited* lake in the Adirondacks**”! The Cascade Lakes are the most heavily loaded chloride uninhabited lake in the Adirondacks! Lee wrote a letter to DOT Commissioner Joan McDonald stating that they are in violation of the Federal Clean Water Act. We can not allow this sodium/chloride value to keep rising. Our sodium values are 32 parts per million, 12 above the EPA limit for water supplies. The state uses pure salt which touches the lake. The Adirondack Watershed Institute recently demonstrated that 86% of all the sodium and chloride build up in the waterways can be attributed to state versus local road maintenance policies. Now the smoking gun is pointing right at the state; the Villages and towns are way down on the list of contributors. Dan Kelting’s excellent speech concerning this can be found at AdkAction.org. 66% of Adirondack lakes pollution can be tied to 110 miles of roadway. We need to work on the 3.3 miles that exist in our Village.

Larry Miller stated that Craig Donaldson, of the Town of Harrietstown Highway Department, has cut back on the use of salt to save money. They try to use less than 3% of salt mixed in with sand.

Lee stated that anyone with serious hypertension should not be drinking Lake Colby lake water.

Glenn asked if we have done any legitimate testing of Little Colby Creek to see if the new shed is serving its purpose. Fred responded that he felt the shed is meeting its purpose. Jim asked how they unload and load salt; is there residual salt on the ground. Fred stated that it ionizes very quickly once it is in nature. We might want to try some ground water testing in the future. Jim asked about the use of brine like they use in some other cities. Lee felt that use of the sand with a light salt mix is the way to go; with pressure on the state to assign some of their engineers to work on the project of “salt on the roadways”.

Mike DeAngelo of the Paul Smith’s College Watershed Institute began his presentation with a handout. (Addendum 1) Mike is very excited to report about a new website that we can all go to get any lake report: <http://www.protectadks.org/> This is a new program that we are involved in.

One thing in Lake Colby’s favor is that we have a good buffer; Mt Pisgah has limestone with pH 7.5, a great natural buffer. Water samples are taken in late spring, summer and early fall. Mike felt that 95% of our pollution is coming off the road. Unfortunately, Colby has a watershed with a lot of neighboring run-offs.

Nancy and our Association thanked Mike for his continuing vigilance and concern over Lake Colby.

***New Business:***

We have a continual problem with vandals at our educational brochure boxes. Luckily, we have Chandler Ralph who continually checks the boxes and keeps them updated. Lee thanked Chandler for her continual help in this educational avenue of protecting all the lakes of the Adirondacks.

Lee also thanked Rod Greene for being persistent at accomplishing the task of having three dangerous old wells filled in with sand. The DEC under Steve Guglielmi brought in at least 12 dump trucks of sand to fill them.

Lee informed us that there will be roadwork taking place sometime in the early fall and he will alert all residents through Rick Leidig. The road will be partially impassable.

Lee recommended that we actively attend the "Rails to Trails" meeting on August 30 at 7pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Rod informed us that National Grid will be doing some tree removal on the road soon.

Rod also asked Chandler about the acoustic baffles that are being installed on the air conditioning system on the roof of the AMC. The newly installed AC unit has been emitting an annoying loud intermittent buzzing throughout the day which seems to drift right over the lake houses. Thank you to AMC engineers for working on this noise situation. We are all hoping the new acoustic baffles will help immensely.

Jim asked about the work on a new pumping station so that we will have outside visuals of a possible spill taking place. Apparently, it was stated in the Adk Daily Enterprise that the Village is working on a new lift station. We will follow this work.

I asked about the number of fish one can safely consume from our Adirondack lakes. Fred Dunlap replied: "one fish per month" due to the mercury poisoning. Loons are very affected by the mercury as well. Fred stated that the mercury is coming from Western NY!

Fred kindly sent this email along: In follow-up to your annual meeting recently, I promised to send out information on the NYS Fish Consumption Advisory. Following is a link to the most current NYS Dept of Health "Chemicals in Sportfish and Game Health Advisories". Please share with the larger group as appropriate. I have a couple of hard copies I can drop off if you would like. Just let me know. <http://www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/outdoors/fish/docs/fish.pdf>  
Thank you very much Fred!

I also asked if anyone would like to help clean up our Lake Colby camping sites which have been reported to be very littered and abused. Many hands went up and we will try to get groups to go out and clean up. Pictures should be taken to show to our Forest Ranger Julie Hargung, so that she is made aware. It appears Bradley's Point is being abused by walkers from the railway. It was suggested that we check to see if new signs can be placed at these sites: "If you Carry it in then Carry it out"!

Nancy made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was so moved at 4:15PM.  
Our Lake Colby Association sends out a THANK YOU to everyone who makes a conscious effort to care for and protect all our Adirondack Lakes and Waterways!

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Neill  
Secretary