

# Loon Lake Park District Association

## Annual Meeting

July 8th, 2018 10 AM

**Call to order:** at 10:02 am. In attendance: John Nick, Rich McCrum, Mary Flynn, Kevin Wickert, Glen Vogel, Michael Baumis, Doug O'Brien, (new member Ken Wade) George Greenwood, Eric Lauritzen, Jim Fregoe.

Great turnout for meeting ~ 89 attendees

### **Introduction of Craig Leggett, Town of Chester Supervisor**

Issues on the lake – 2017 budget of \$     was sufficient for management of invasives. This year a key issue for LLPDA is the dam at the public beach which was rated by DEC as “hazard”. We hired a consulting engineer last year to pass inspection with grinding repairs and modifications but the Town of Chester is now considering proposals from dam contractors to upgrade the dam.

This year the authority on the lake switched from Constable to Lake Safety Officer. Our retired Constable was a sheriff with appropriate credentials as a peace officer. New Lake Safety Officer (LSO) does not have similar training and instead of investing in training, we will get LSO on the lake for more hours as “ambassador”. Serious incidents will be forwarded to sheriff’s office. LSO is NOT a peace officer. In 2017 we did use sheriff’s patrol for supplemental enforcement on the lake. Sheriff would be land based and a reasonable expected response time would be 15-30 minutes. There were questions about unregistered boats and unsafe jet ski operation on the water.

Department of Health says public beach needs to have a well dug for showers and changing rooms to avoid potential illnesses from drinking water from lake. Beach has always drawn water from lake for faucets and showers. Town will cover the cost of the well to be dug at beach which is LLPDA property.

New zoning ordinance/planning board is intended to make     more user friendly. Introduce Karen from Town Board, John Nick from planning board and Barb Kearney planning board. Tom Thorsen will chair the board –an all citizens grass roots volunteer effort. The board is in planning and organization stage. Signs and docks are important issues to be addressed.

Dock questionnaire was not intended to increase taxes. The town recognizes that Loon Lake does not have records of how many docks exist and where they are located. The Town needs to establish a base line of what is on the lake and what can be improved. 1100 requests were mailed out and 600 have been returned. Thank you for your participation and help with this project.

Questions – what will Loon Lake do with the data? Craig: no immediate plans other than better data to make decisions moving forward. Only using upon citizen complaint. Moving forward, Town is dedicated to enforcement of zoning laws and issues. We will be consulted for future dock permits.

There is a Town of Chester noise ordinance in place for Loon Lake – quiet time at 10pm.

Friends Lake had an issue with rental use of properties that traditionally was used for family/owner enjoyment are now short term rentals. There are potential health and safety issues with septic, lack of understanding of lake etiquette, noise ordinance, etc.

Issues of watercraft, racing boats and vessels designed for competitive speed. Concern that a restriction of one class of vessel will create other issues. Lake speed limit is 45mph.

### **Introduction of LLPDA Officers and Board of Directors**

John Nick – President, Rich McCrum - Vice President, Kevin Wickert – Secretary , Mary Flynn - Treasurer

### **Introduction of Dominic Jude – Aqualogic**

Invasives management and remediation contractor. Works throughout Adirondack Park and New Hampshire. Aqualogic is based out of Johnsbury, NY. Aqualogic has seven teams throughout area working on the lakes. First DASH harvester in area. (DASH – diver assisted suction harvesting) Curly Leaf pondweed and Eurasian Milfoil. Two areas focused on are near public beach and Rock Island. There is lower density of milfoil this year than last year. Rock Island is the area where density is thickest. Plants need to be removed in entirety as a 1-2 inch fragment will re-grow. AIM the former contractor/competitor has gone out of business.

Dominic has turned down business but remains committed to Loon Lake. Focused on simplicity and safety as he grows. Goal for off season is to instruct others on milfoil diving and removal. The late ice out at Loon Lake has helped lower plant development. Aqualogic has removed 60% of the amount this year as they had last year. Some areas the invasives plants have not come back as strongly. Loon Lake is healthy and is “winning the battle” against invasives at this time. The APA does not allow for eradication of milfoil as herbicides are not allowed.

### **Introduction of Loon Lake Safety Officer Rich Konig Cell # 623-251-1393**

Intent is to educate and act as ambassador. Rich is budgeted to be on the lake 300 hours which is nearly 3x as much as in the past with the Constable. Since May 21<sup>st</sup>, logged 116 hours on the lake. Rich has stopped and educated many watercrafts on the 100 and 200 feet limit and most have been receptive. Has been varying the hours to be on the lake to be more of a presence. Please limit phone calls to water/lake related issues. Question on jet skis being within 500 feet of swimming areas – at this time only the public beach is designated as a swimming area.

**Secretary’s Report: Kevin Wickert.** The last board of directors meeting minutes are complete, John Nick motioned to accept minutes, no 2<sup>nd</sup>, no opposition. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer’s Report: Mary Flynn**

Five funds for treasury of LLPDA, four of which are restrictive. Golf, Dinner, Lake Management and Aqualogic are all restricted. General fund handles LLPDA membership. Membership is well ahead of last year for collecting money due to tiered membership and PayPal on line payment.

Financial Audit for 2017 by Anthony Capobianco, CPA – of LLPDA books showed that bank statements, registers and reconciliations are in good order and appear to be correct.

Glen motioned to accept, Doug 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

**President's report/Lake status: - John Nick**

**2018 Newsletter** Rich McCrum is the editor of newsletter. Thank you to Rich for all the hard work pulling in all the necessary information to keep our membership informed.

**Aquatic Invasives Species evaluation program by APPIP and APA on Loon Lake** John is concerned as to whether or not LLPDA is doing enough or has the proper budget for our invasive management. John has asked APPIP and APA to consider our program's effectiveness. Loon Lake will be a beta site for evaluation to understand how our program is operating, how efficient the program is and if we may be a model for other lakes and lake associations.

**501C3 update** John recognized Doug O'Brien and Terry Griesmer on completing the 62-page application sent into the IRS on 5/14. IRS acknowledged receipt of the application in mid- June with approval hoped for by year end.

**Tiered Membership Levels & Pay Pal - Kevin Wickert.** PayPal has been successfully implemented for online payment. Over 20% of our members have used the online option. Future improvements to the program may include the ability to "subscribe" for annual payment.

Tiered membership was introduced this year to help grow the general membership fund and allow members to contribute a greater amount to the mission of the LLPDA. Our standard membership of \$20 remains and any additional contribution is strictly voluntary. The additional tiers are: Family - \$30, Gold - \$50 and Platinum - \$100. So far this year about 50% of paying LLPDA members have chosen a tier greater than the standard \$20. We hope that with the approval of our IRS application and achievement of 501C3 status, we will see greater participation at the higher tiers.

**Membership drive/road captain's update George Greenwood** -2017 was our best year at 317 paid members out of an approximate potential of 600 We are currently at 175 paid members and expect to get to our goal of 350 members. George is retiring from the LLPDA after 12 years of service. New board member Ken Wade will be taking over the duties of managing the block captains.

**Water Testing report 2017** Two different water tests are conducted by LLPDA every year. Nancy Fregoe updated the group on the lake. Nancy explained what the two tests were and that we are in the third year of testing.

Salt used for roads in winter is our biggest challenge. NYS agreed to test the use of a brine solution in some areas, not ours, last winter to mitigate the effect on the water.

**Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District- Doug O'Brien** explained the results of this Warren County agency's efforts on all matters having to do with our natural resources. The District is a tremendous asset to our community that we are trying to utilize for our maximum benefit. Road salt started to be used in the 1940's and today the State uses 100% sodium chloride for road snow/ice issues

as it is the most efficient deterrent. Unfortunately, our lake rates in the 87<sup>th</sup> percentile of Adirondack lakes in salt content and although it is very safe for humans but harmful to living organisms and native plant life. Doug wrote a letter to NYS DOT Commissioner years back expressing our concerns and received a lukewarm response but recently, the DOT has been much more willing to work as a partner, using measuring devices on trucks so as to avoid over salting, GPS monitoring, the aforementioned brine and cutting down trees along certain roads to enable more melt from the sun.

Town of Chester uses a 25% salt and 75% sand mix which has issues also like metal and bacteria content but our local municipalities are working closely with us to help reduce road salt in our lake. John Nick and Doug O'Brien attend the meetings for the Warren County Soil and Water District to stay abreast.

### **The Adirondacks Lake Alliance and the NYS Federation of Lakes supports the LLPDA**

- **Road salt running off NYS roads into Loon Lake**
- **Sediment issue in Loon Lake**
- **Government interaction**

**Boat Launch/inspection station update** open 7am-7pm and is helping to control the spread of invasives. Please direct people launching boats to the FREE public boat launch near the public beach. Also, please avoid launching unwashed, foreign boats from your property.

**Listing of LLPDA Activities and Functions** see attachment. Discussion focus on Marv Cole Golf Tournament which raises a lot of money, all of which the LLPDA donates to local scholarships and organizations in need.

**2017 Loon Lake issues and concern discussions with the Town of Chester** - Rich McCrum commented that the LLPDA is a conduit for communication and not an enforcement power for individual issues. LLPDA serves as a forum for issues common to our Lake and lake owners. LLPDA works with the Town of Chester, Warren County and various Adirondack Park agencies to further the stewardship of Loon Lake, it's health and its members.

**Nominating Committee: Eric Lauritzen** new board candidate Ken Wad is a new member of the LLPDA Board but has been a part of the Loon Lake community for over 40 years. Ken and his family own a home on Kingsley Lane and he has volunteered to help drive membership by taking over the Block Captain program from George Greenwood. Doug O'Brien and Jim Fregoe are renewing their membership term of 3 years.

### **From the Floor:**

\*Kevin Roach – suggests that upon approval of 501c3 status the LLPDA promotes that for fund raising and tax planning. John Nick responded that the IRS wants 6 months to review and approve.

\*Question about posting of the LLPDA minutes being emailed to members. LLPDA members and all can call up the minutes on the website.

\*Craig Leggett talked about the discussion on boat permits to raise money – example \$10/boat permit. At this time, the Town is not ready to assess such a fee. Any money raised from the lake would be used for the lake and the lake only.

\*It was suggested that we charge a boat launch fee. The concern from the LLPDA is that Loon Lake is very accessible to launching and any charge might keep people from the boat wash as a way to save money.

\*Issues for registration fees, etc. are Town issues and not LLPDA's area of responsibility. Some discussion about how fees might be assessed if that is approved – size of motor, size of hull.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40.

**Respectfully submitted: Kevin Wickert**