

RAINBOW LAKE ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

August 10, 2024

Thirty-seven members representing twenty-two camps attended.

President Susan Whitehurst welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Minutes from the July 2024 meeting were sent to everyone by email. Roz Kade made a motion to approve the minutes and Naomi Kroeger seconded. All approved.

Treasurer's Report – Peter Geertz reported that as of July 31,2024 there were 155 members. Since then, 6 more people joined bringing the total to 161. There is \$15,485.02 in the General Fund and \$118,706.38 in the Reserve Fund.

There will be a new line on next year's dues form for donating to the General Fund. So far, we have received \$400 in donations.

Vote on Dues for 2025 – In the last 3 years, the cost of professional invasive species monitoring along with water quality testing have doubled. The Board of Directors recommended raising the annual dues from \$50 to \$75. Todd Kahn made a motion to raise the dues from \$50 to \$75 and it was seconded by Bruce Zetter. A discussion with comments and questions ensued. A vote was taken by a show of hands. All present approved the increase in dues.

Elections – Jon Allen informed us that no one approached him with interest in running for any of the open positions. The slate from July's meeting was presented. Beth Marks made a motion to accept the slate as is and a second from Sally Ourieff. All approved.

President – David Haury

Vice- President – Jon Allen

Secretary – Ilene Geertz

Treasurer – Peter Geertz

Board of Directors – John Whitehurst

Please let Jon know if you have any interest in becoming a Board Member or Committee Chair.

Buck Pond Stewards and Funding – a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program for \$24,994 was awarded to the RLA for Buck Pond Boat Stewards. The DEC donated one day to cover the cost of the stewards which left \$879 to be paid by the Rainbow Lake Association.

Tom Collins, the Outreach Program Manager, with the Adirondack Watershed institute, will be available to answer any questions after the meeting.

Mike Brickman asked for a moment of silence for Jim Northrup, an active RLA member for many years, on his passing earlier in the week.

Mike then explained what volunteers do when surveying for aquatic invasive species. He reminded us to Clean, Drain, and Dry boats coming in and out to the lake. He also said to call him if you think you found anything different. “If you see something, say something.”

Peter informed us that this was the year for the partial professional survey of the lake. This includes Boot Bay and south west of it, Inlet, Railroad Bay, Rainbow Lake Narrows and Kushaqua Narrows. No invasive species were found.

Loon Conservancy – Marilyn Leitsch told us that our Adirondack Loon -Friendly Lake Certification will be coming soon. She then gave a summary of what happened to the nesting loon family (2 adults & 2 newly hatched chicks). They were hit by two jet skiers in the “no wake” side of the island in the narrows on June 20th. The family recovered from the initial impact but a few days later only one chick was alive. The second chick was never found. Also, in the narrows on July 1st, near the rope swing, paddlers noticed the decapitated body of the adult loon. The DEC was notified and Marilyn assisted the officer in collecting it and it is awaiting a necropsy to try and identify the cause of death.

Cathy Unruh, Suzanne Samuels, Pam Timbie and Patty Friedman put together a welcome packet for renters and family members with information about our lake, boating safety, protecting the loons and a map of the lake showing no wake zones and shallow waters. Peter Shrope will put this on the RLA website. The packet will also be sent via email to all lake shore property owners.

There is federal and state protection for the loons. Buck Pond Stewards can inform boaters about keeping the loons safe and the importance of adhering to “No Wake Zones”.

Mike Brickman and Todd Kahn will work on a cohesive sign to post by the Rainbow Lake side of the Square Bridge about “NO Wake Zones”. Other camps might want to post a sign on their docks.

Boater Safety – All motor boat/jet ski operators 10 years of age and up must complete the Boater Safety Course by January 2025. The certification certificate must be with the boat operator when driving a boat or jet skis. An email will be sent out with a website that has a free boater safety course.

Pam Timbie explained the damage that occurs by Wake Boats and Wake Boards. Wake Boats create enough wake for surfing. Wakes can be up to 3 feet. The motor stirs up the bottom of the lake, blinds fish from finding food, drowns loon nests and spreads invasive species. Wake boats must have 50 feet of water to operate safely.

Stephanie Ratcliff and Todd Kohn will be raffling off items to raise money for the General Fund.

The picnic is this afternoon from 1-4 at the Tebbutt’s property.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilene Geertz – RLA Secretary