

## Rainbow Lake Association Meeting

July 13, 2013

President John McKeon called the meeting to order. He then asked for a moment of silence for Bob Shepherd and Ted Glowa who passed away this year.

John introduced all board members and committee volunteers which was followed by attending members introducing themselves. Forty members, representing 29 camps were in attendance.

Minutes from the August 11, 2012 minutes were read. Lionel Schuman made a motion to accept the minutes. Betty Staebell seconded and membership approved.

Ralph Bennett gave the treasurer's report. There is a balance of \$9,001.62 in the general cash fund and \$19,142.72 in the reserve cash fund. Ralph explained that \$5.00 of each membership goes into the reserve fund that is being used for costs associated to our lake stewardship program.

Jim Hauber reported on the stewards at Buck Pond. We are in need of volunteers for Fridays. Please see Jim or Robin Smith if you can take a shift. He will try to get the list on the RLA website. Jim is going to check if the state has posted signage that it is now a law about transporting invasive species. John McKeon encouraged members to volunteer as a lake steward and how important this program is to keep our lake clean. We are environmental stewards. That's our mission.

Pat Willis reported on the yearly plant survey. Our lake is still free of Eurasian milfoil though we do have southern naiad. However, naiad is not an invasive species. You can pull it out each year but it will continue to come back. There is a sign at the railroad bridge to reverse motors to help contain it but it is now present throughout the lake. She encouraged all to pick up and post maps in boathouse so especially renters know about lake safety. Pat ended with a reminder that the Wardner Family story book is available to members for \$20.00.

Phil Holstein thanked Pat and Tom for all they have done to keep our lake free from invasive species. Phil reported that today ended Invasive Plant Awareness Week and that the VIC had a display up during this past week. Phil went for training at the VIC. We are one of the few lakes that have not been infected with invasive species. He explained how to do a water survey and sent info via email to

new surveyors. He also has an aquatic scope to help see below the water that is available to borrow. At our next meeting Meghan Johnstone will speak to us on invasive species.

Due to the loss of grant money available for stewards at Buck Pond, the Board approved (via email) hiring stewards from Paul Smith for Saturdays and Sundays (which has the highest boat traffic) from Memorial Weekend through Labor Day at the cost of \$6,200.00.

John asked for a committee to be formed to come up with ideas on how to fund the stewardship program in the future and would like the membership to vote on it. Phil Holstein, Peter Geertz, and Pat Willis volunteered to be on the committee. Others are welcome to join. Joe Deignan told the membership that the RLA's prime mission is to protect the lake and believes hiring Paul Smith college students as lake stewards on the weekend was a good way to spend the money in our reserve fund.

Joe then gave the water quality report. We are one of 150 groups that have lake water tested. We are in the top 1% of data history (16 years). He reported that phosphorus levels are down probably due to so little rain during 2012. It will be interesting to see what the levels are this year due to so much rain. The lake's oxygen levels improved over the last 3 years. He asked for help on the committee which would involve going out once a month (June, July, and August) with Professor D'Angelo to collect water samples. Phil Holstein made a motion to continue funding the water survey. The motion was seconded and membership approved. Joe applauded the membership for supporting the water quality survey.

Fishing report: Fishing is good.

The RLA website needs updating. Please see Peter Shrope if you can help in this area.

Faith Lundgren gave an update on the pesticide spraying by National Grid by the power lines. They did send her chemical data sheets and said that they notify people when spraying. No residents have been notified as to the spraying. She is looking for suggestions on how to proceed.

Water safety: There are lots of floating logs due to so much rain. The membership was asked to be mindful of canoes, kayaks, and stand up paddle boards when using motor boats. Please respect the wake zones, (100 foot setback), please speak to guests and renters about the wake zones, and that the Narrows has a 5mph limit.

Phil Holstein presented the recommend slate of board members which will be voted on next meeting.

Water Control Board: Dan Steidl informed us that Jim Hauber will replace Ted Glowa on the water control board. The term of office is 4 years but the requirements for being on the board were unclear. Dan will check on it. A DEC engineer did a survey of the dam and it is in good condition.

Before Ralph Bennett handed out the current phone list, he gave a special thank you to his wonderful wife Liz because she is the one who compiles the list. Thank you Liz!

The idea of having an email list was proposed. No decisions were made at this time.

Bobby and Donna Cantwell have graciously offered their home again to host the RLA picnic on Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20.

After the meeting the membership was invited to stay for a brief presentation by Paul VanCott. Paul is an ADK attorney. He handed out literature which included a trail guide for the Saranac Lake 6ers, ongoing events for the season, and with a map and business directory of downtown Saranac and spoke on the Saranac Lake Community and the importance to us all on keeping the community thriving.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilene Geertz

Secretary