

RAINBOW LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING

August 10, 2013

President John McKeon called the meeting to order at 9 o'clock. Thirty four members representing 26 camps were present. Phil Holstein introduced our guest speaker, Meghan Johnstone, who is the Aquatic Invasive Species Project Coordinator for the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP). Their mission is to protect the Adirondack region from the negative impact caused by invasive species. She discussed what the program is, why it is important, the economic impacts of invasive species, and how they are introduced and spread. Megahan informed us that since 2006 no new invasive species have been introduced to the Great Lakes. She is also willing to do separate training for the RLA if enough people are interested.

After Meaghan's presentation, introductions of members attending were made. The minutes from the July 13th meeting were read. Lionel Schuman made a motion to accept them. Jody Deal seconded. Membership approved.

Treasurer's Report – Ralph Bennett reported that there are currently 181 members. There is \$19,372 in our reserve fund and \$8,681 in our checking account.

Jody Deal announced that our RLA picnic is at 1pm at the Cantwell's.

Jim Hauber reported that all is going well at Buck Pond.

Phil Holstein is available for training those who want to take part in the yearly plant survey.

Peter Geertz informed us that with association expenses totaling \$9,100 which includes 2 days of stewards and our dues income being \$4,500 we have a \$4,600 shortage. This yearly shortage would deplete the reserve fund in four years if no new grant money or other income sources are found

Phil Holstein reported on the progress of the Financial Sustainability Committee. All are welcome to be part of this committee and all ideas are appreciated. Ideas discussed at the meeting were:

1. Raise dues
2. Yearly fundraisers
3. Personal contributions
4. More grants
5. More members
6. Set up separate tax district as Auger Lake did without having to go through the State Legislature

Marcia Schuman suggested that the RLA should not have to shoulder the entire burden of protecting the lake and we should move towards creating a new tax district.

Lionel Schuman suggested that Buck Pond charge an additional fee to help pay for the stewardship program.

Pat Willis suggested including people who have lake rights.

Peter Geertz asked for a vote on wanting the Financial Sustainability Committee to continue researching the possibility of creating a new Water Tax District.

Tom Sansone said it was important to have a tax district in place before the need for it arises.

Todd Kahn suggested doubling the dues now to take care of our current need and to continue looking into other options. Gerry Schuth agreed with doubling of dues and exploring other options and perhaps sending out an extra mailing informing all lake shore owners. He also expressed concern that we need to look at options carefully because they might have unexpected consequences.

Cathy Unruh said we should send out an email informing the membership and also to ask for contributions. This should also be in the website.

Todd Kahn pointed out that it takes a long time to get a new Tax District so we should not wait to double the dues. He made a motion to double the dues from \$25 to \$50 per person for next year. Gerry Schuth seconded. All present approved.

Liz Bennett and Marcia Schuman both felt it was important to go to our neighbors who are not members and explain the mission of the RLA and ask for their support.

Phil Holstein said we should think about giving lake access owners the right to vote. George Saba agreed. The RLA bylaws would have to be changed in order to do this.

Peter Geertz made a motion that if grant funds are not available next year that the RLA fund 2 days of boat launch stewards from Paul Smith's College at Buck Pond.

Lionel Schuman seconded and all approved.

John McKeon reported that there have been no new fishing studies done.

Tom Sansone gave the Water Quality report. Tom, Joe Deignan, and Professor D'Angelo took water samples at different depths throughout the lake. Tom and Professor D'Angelo will do this again in August. Roger Gorham will be joining Tom on this committee next year.

Elections – Phil Holstein presented board member nominations with Todd Kahn replacing Wayne Tucker, Cathy Unruh replacing Robin Smith, Gordon Sawyer replacing Beth Richardson, and Peter Geertz renewing his term. Also Phil Holstein will take over as vice president next year with the intention of running for president and Lionel Schuman will take over Phil's position as board member. Ann Joyce seconded the nomination and all present approved.

Liz Bennett announces that Betty Staebell will be painting the banner representing Rainbow Lake for First Night Celebration.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Ilene Geertz