

Rainbow Lake Association Membership Meeting

July 12, 2025

Thirty-four members were present, representing 21 camps. Three attended via Zoom.

David Haury welcomed all. Introductions of all present were made. Then there was a moment of silence for Dan Lenard, Jim Northrup and Lionel Schumann who passed away.

The Minutes from the August 2024 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report -

Peter Geertz reported that as of June 30th there were 115 paid members. As of July 12th, there are now 129 members. There is \$19,720.53 in the General Fund and \$128,955.94 in the Reserve Fund.

David thanked the membership for supporting the dues increase and Peter explained that the Reserve Fund is in place so a rapid response can be made if there is an aquatic invasive infestation and the General Fund is to support the costs of water quality testing and professional surveying for invasive plants from invasive plants. Peter also reported that the DEC is picking up the cost this year for the Stewards at Buck Pond for the season, 7 days a week.

Nominations – Jon Allen presented the people running for the 3 vacancies on the Board of Directors. They are Stephanie Ratcliff, Jim Harper and Paul Larsen. They each introduced themselves and gave a brief narrative of themselves and why being on the BOD is important to them. The vote will take place at the August Membership meeting. Jon also said that if anyone else is interested in BOD position or

committee position, please let him know. He also reminded us that next year the treasurer and secretary position will be voted on for the 2027 -2028 term. If anyone would be interested, please let Jon know or contact Peter or Ilene directly to find out more about the responsibilities if these positions.

Jon Allen - Jon_Allen@hotmail.com Peter Geertz - pcgeertz@gmail.com Ilene Geertz – ibgeertz@gmail.com

Water Quality Report – Joe Deignan reported that he goes out with the people from the Adirondack Watershed Institute 3 times in the summer (June, July and August) to test the water quality of the lake. They go to the deepest part of Kushaqua, Rainbow Lake and Clear Pond. They measure the PH, oxygen and temperature levels from the bottom to the top of the water. They reported that we are an “average” lake. The Water Quality Report is on the RLA website.

The fees for the Water Quality testing have been \$4,000 for the last 3 years. It is \$5,000 for this year.

Bruce Zetter is hoping to reinstitute the fishing committee to check with the local fisheries on stocking, the quality of the fishing, and the rules and regulations for fishing in New York State. If you are interested in helping in this area, please contact Bruce at bzetter@gmail.com.

Invasive Species Monitoring – Mike Brickman has brochures from the Nature Conservancy on how to protect our waters from harmful invasives. Mike also thanked the volunteer surveyors. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer surveyor, please contact Mike at M.Brickman@me.com.

David Haury shared information from the ALA Symposium. The AWI presentation included the number of interceptions that were made and where invasives were found. The President of Paradox Lake Association presented their work and progress on harvesting invasives, other topics included remote sensing, long term trends due to climate change and the need to dive deeper into research.

We need to make sure our boats and renters' boats are clean. Prevention is key in protecting our lake. There is a need for more signage identifying loon nesting sites and no wake zones.

2025 Professional Water Quality/Invasive Species Monitoring - Peter reported that Ezra Schwartzberg from Adirondack Research is contracted this year to do a one-day survey this August of Boot Bay, Railroad Bay, the south end and the Narrows for \$2,800. He also used Rainbow Lake last month for training purposes and reported that no aquatic invasives were found. The cost next year will be \$8,000 for a full survey of the lake.

Rainbow Lake Water Protection District Board of Commissioners – Gary Leitsch has been the chair since 2023. The minutes of all the meetings are on the RLA website. This past year the DEC granted a permit to cut down 20 trees within 50 feet from the dam. During Hurricane Debbie. August 9th, 10th & 11th in 2024 the flood gates were opened and constantly monitored. There are 2 inspections yearly. One by the dam operator and 1 by the professional engineer. One planned improvement is to extend fencing 6 feet to protect the berm from people trying to get down to a fishing area. They are also monitoring the movement of cracks and separation in the wing walls. All in all, the Dam is in good condition.

Loon Protection – Marilyn Leitsch thanked the RLA for supporting the Loon Conservancy. We are again given a certificate that we are a Loon Friendly Lake. She reported that the autopsy on the loon that died last year was from a fight with another loon. They are very territorial. The APA is revising their management plan to include loons and flotation nests. The plan has not been received at the time of this meeting.

2025 Picnic Update – Sally Ourieff is the new Picnic Committee Chairperson. The picnic is at the Tebutt camp on August 9th at 1pm. Bring your own adult beverages and a side dish or dessert. Last year there were too many desserts and not enough side dishes. Raffle tickets were sold at this meeting and will be sold at the August meeting. Todd Kahn donated two Coach bags and a wallet for the raffle. The Zetter's will have a basket from their wine cellar and Stephanie will be donating something from the Wild Center. If you would like to contribute items for the raffle, please contact Sally at somd86@icloud.com.

Joe Deignan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 with many seconds.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilene Geertz

RLA Secretary