

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

Annual General Membership Meeting

Minutes

July 20, 2024 10:00 a.m. Raquette Lake School

Board Members: Gail Morehouse, Pat Deyle, Bob Rosborough, Marion Goethals, Kevin Norris, Ken Hawks, Lynne Ballou-Gentry, Dick Gentry, Kim Hoffman (John Merriman, absent)

Gail Morehouse, President, called the meeting to order at 10:05, and orchestrated the order of business.

Person of the Year Award was presented by Dick Gentry to Mike Burke of Burke's Marina. Mike volunteered, on his own time, to extract the sixteen derelict docks which volunteers had gathered and towed from around the lake last summer, 2023. With his equipment, he crushed and stowed them into the Town of Long Lake dumpster. Later in the meeting, when he could get away from work, Mike thanked the members present saying that 'without you guys, no one would be keeping an eye on the lake.'

Treasurer's Report. Bob reported good news on the state of the finances. RLPF community gifts have all been paid out; the checking account has over \$88,000; the CD \$3700. Phyllis Turk moved, Will Gysdorf seconded, and all approved the report.

Loon Update. Lynne reported on the annual loon survey which took place this morning for the Adk Center for Loon Conservation (ACLC). There are nineteen (19) watchers covering the different areas of the lake. The final tally (reported July 30 by Dick) is 19 loons and one chick. Lynne cited flooded nests, bad sitters, and threats by people observing as reasons for nest failure.

Secretary's Report. Marion reviewed the work of the board during the past year. Environmental actions included ongoing water sampling, adding another location for Adk Park Invasive Plant Program research via Kim, milfoil harvesting, helping Adk Water Institute (AWI) with Boat Stewards for village, loon ACLC certification, and derelict dock cleanup. Gail especially highlighted the DEC/APA five year plan which was submitted and approved. See it on our website. Educational efforts included an invasives workshop at Golden Beach, environmental speaker at annual meeting, Newsletter production, and 600 homeowners' guides produced and mailed. Organization building and outreach included membership cruise on the Durant, table and banner at village events, recruitment of Lorrie Rosborough as editor of the Newsletter, and recruitment of the future Treasurer. Ken Hawks moved, Dick Gentry seconded, all approved.

Research Priorities. Ken spoke to the health of the lake waters, with aquatic plants VLM and inflated bladderwort remaining top concerns. South Bay and the main inlet streams have established populations; other infestations come and go mysteriously. The fishery is being affected by the decline in dissolved oxygen; the Bass Derby has been cancelled by TOLL for lack of bass. Algae (benign) and algal (toxic) blooms are reported in the fall. They occur when dissolved oxygen is low and plant decay produces phosphorus. After 25 years of water sampling, changes in

the lake waters are noted. As the climate warms the water and ice cover has lessened, RLPF needs and seeks a scientific partner to interpret and project ongoing changes in the lake waters to help us to understand and respond.

2024 Harvesting and Boat Steward Report. Pat began by thanking Kevin for seeing to it that the milfoil harvest has a shore solution. Aqualogic no longer harvests by hand but has begun using a vacuum method. 5050 gallons were gathered for \$21,000 this year primarily from the village to the Ranger's dock, with test site at 'Robin's Rock'. Recruiting and retaining boat stewards at the village is more difficult every year; this year especially. Burke's keeps an eye out too. In answer to a question, Pat said about 2% of boats carry bad plant debris.

Elections. Gail presented the slate of Board members and Officers for election. Dick, 3 years; Kevin, 2 years; Gail, Marion 2 years, Pat and Bob 1 year. Ken moved, Jim Kistler seconded, all approved.

In other business, Gail reminded everyone of the social cruise on September 3. Dick announced that the final derelict dock effort will occur in August.

Guest speaker, Dr. Thomas Dettmer, Cornell University, Adirondack Fishery Research Program. Gail introduced Dr. Dettmer, and with the usual technical problems, he began.

In studying the Adirondack fisheries over time, his team has found that our waters are both warming and browning; anglers, in response, are changing their habits. These three points he demonstrated with extensive and sophisticated in-depth research slides. Since the 1970s, warmer nighttime temperatures and big rain events have affected Adk lakes. Higher concentrations of organic material have leached from surrounding watersheds producing dissolved organic carbons (DOC). Microorganisms eating the DOC, use up the oxygen. The clarity of the water is reduced, the oxygen is reduced, and surface temperature of the water rises. Trout, for instance, need both cold water and oxygen. With these changes, fish are experiencing habitat compression; the cold water at the bottom lacks oxygen and the water at the top is too warm. Shallow lakes have fewer fishing visits; deeper lakes like Tupper, Raquette, and Lake George see an increase in fishing. This stresses the fish population as do invasive fish and plants. Anglers will increasingly congregate at Raquette over the next 25 years. (My summary should not be relied on as a scientific report.)

After Dr. Dettmer answered several questions, Gail adjourned the meeting at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Goethals