



**Lake Eden Association
Annual Membership Meeting
Minutes**

Meeting Date and Time

Date of Meeting: July 15, 2023

Time of Meeting: 11:00 am.

Meeting Location

MT Norris Scout Camp

Meeting Attendees

Board of Directors: Artie Curcillo, Colleen Brennan, Amber Wilson, and Charlie Distefano

Executive Committee: Gary Durett. Absent was Vinnie Brennan

Membership: Donna & Michael Cyr, Jeanne Pallotta, Jackie Larsen, Marylou Durett, Ginny Distefano, Anna & Emmons Pirie, Joan Liddy, Anne Macnee, Perry Edgerton Thomas, Elizabeth Edgerton, Scott & Cathy Williams, Davis & Kristin Wildman, Henry & Jan Scipione, Dave Domina, Cam Page, Linda Barrows, Lisa Vaillancourt, Michelle Lussier, Doug Bullard, Steven & Anne Ford, Robin Leone, Jim & Oonagh Dillon, Jaime & Christine Mawn, Dale Touchette, Doug Johnson, & Brandon Rainville, Charles Edgerton, Jeffrey Wood, Nancy Chase, and Robert & Peg Wadds (for Randy Mulligan).

Non-members/Guests: Eric & Vela Bouchard, Boy Scout Camp Rangers

Presentations:

#1 Lake Eden Watershed Plan

#2 Lake Wise Program

The meeting was called to order at 11:03am on July 15, 2023 by Artie Curcillo

I. Minutes from 2023 Annual Meeting

Colleen Brennan requested a correction of the minutes to change the name of Vinnie Curcillo to Vinnie Brennan. Amber Wilson asked that Dave Greiner's name be removed, at his request, as having made a motion at the 2023 as he was not present. A motion to accept the minutes with the above corrections, was made, seconded and accepted by the membership with a unanimous vote.

II. Board Updates

A. Treasurers Report: Amber Wilson, Treasurer, reviewed the 2023 Treasurers report. Copies of the report were provided and are available for members upon request. Amber noted that the \$750 charitable donation from LEA to DEC was never paid as DEC failed to return requests for method of payment. In November 2022 the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) CD matured and \$16,000 was transferred to the AIS savings account. The remaining funds of \$27,547.15 were placed in a 16-month CD with a 2.79 % interest rate. A second 9-month CD for AIS funds, with an interest rate of 4.5%, was opened earlier this month and \$75K was deposited. That will be reflected on the 2024 Treasurers report.

B. Fundraising Update:

Colleen Brennan reported that we were awarded a 20K grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) for EWM mitigation. The ANC grant from DEC was also awarded in the amount of \$9,455 to be used for the Greeter Program. The balance of the Greeter program costs is being funded from the \$4,000 allocation from the Town of Eden and \$7,222.43 remaining from a personal donation made to the Greeter program last season. Total funding for Greeter Program this year is \$20,677.43. In past years the Greeter Program has cost roughly 18K. Town of Eden residents voted in favor of a \$15k allocation for the mitigation of AIS. The Zoom fundraising campaign goal of \$100K was exceeded with a total of \$134,545 in pledges to date. \$70,875 has been collected thus far and deposited into the AIS fund/CD. Roughly 55% of Lake property owners donated and the BOD hopes that the remaining property owners will consider contributing to our fight in some way as well. Colleen thanked Tobin Scipione, Tara Curcillo and Anna Pirie for their involvement with the fundraiser.

C. Website: Colleen Brennan announced that Lake Eden Association now has a website at lakeeden.org. It will compliment the Facebook page and each will have links to each other as well as to the town website. The website was constructed free of charge by

Josh Rutherford who did the technical design and Colleen Brennan who provided and wrote the content. Going forward there will be a roughly \$12/ month hosting fee and a fee for any changes made which are expected to be minimal each year.

D. Trainings: Colleen Brennan reported the Hand Harvest Training 6/11/23 was a success and well attended by 28 people and that the team is currently active. LEA is hosting VIP training by Kim Jensen, VT Lakes & Ponds Division, 7/22 in Eden and on the lake. Registration information has been posted on FB page, emailed to member list and announced today. Trainings of staff and campers are ongoing at the Boy Scout camp on the state of Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Eden and what the scouts can do to help. It is our hope that the scouts will be able to eventually patrol the perimeter of their property as part of our VIP team. The camp staff was enthusiastic about incorporating EWM into their curriculum.

E. Eurasian Watermilfoil Status/Boat Wash: Artie Curcillo reviewed the latest Survey results & mitigation plan. Expenses spent on mitigation efforts, to date, were also reviewed. Expenses for 2022 were \$23,776.38. \$8,776.38 of which was paid out of the LEA Aquatic Invasive Species account. The Rapid Response Grant from LCBP covered the remainder. Anticipated expenses for 2023 are expected to be \$24,614.56 and will include a pre & post treatment survey, x2 DASH treatments/relocation of Benthic blankets and miscellaneous supplies for our volunteer hand harvesters. Expenses will be paid for by the LCBP grant and funds allocated by the Town of Eden. Artie explained that the possibility of a boat wash has been investigated and is NOT feasible primarily because there is not enough space available at the Fishing & Wildlife access. The adjacent property owned by Boy Scouts is wetlands and so is also not a feasible option. Artie also reported that Chris Bishop has arranged for Fish & Wildlife to come out in Sept (earliest availability) to assess need to dredge the boat launch access area.

F. Signage:

1. Route 100: Artie Curcillo reported that after many years of campaigning with the State Dept. Of Transportation, they finally added signage on RTE 100 alerting traffic that boat launch was ahead and to proceed with caution. They have thus far been opposed to reducing the speed limit from the current 50 MPH. It is dangerous for traffic coming in and out of the boat launch due to low visibility and traffic on RTE 100 that is often traveling above the speed limit.

2. Town Beach & Lakeview campground: Lora McCall has been working with the Town Beach Manager and has arranged for signage, related to spread & prevention of AIS, to be placed in 3 locations on the property. Lakeview campground has also requested signage to be posted.

III. Committee Updates

A. Lay Monitoring Program: Colleen reported that water testing is done by Steve Walsh who could not be present today. Water quality has been declining and is now rated as “stressed” due to high levels of nutrients. As a result, testing is now also being done to monitor for toxic Blue-Green Algae. These conditions have made a very hospitable environment for the Eurasian Watermilfoil to take hold. Each property owner can make no cost or low cost changes to their properties to help turn this trend around. Attendees were urged to sign up with the Lake wise program for a property review and/or to contact Peter Danforth for recommendations and assist.

B. Greeter Program: Artie Curcillo reported that we have 9 greeters this year and the program was up and running Memorial Day weekend and will continue through roughly Columbus Day. The program runs just on weekends until mid June when it begins to run 7 days a week. In response to a question, Artie Explained that Greeters do also alert boaters to locations of EWM and instruct them to avoid any areas marked by buoys to prevent further spread. There was discussion re the possibility of signage at the boat launch re preventing wakes due to the erosion it is causing on Lake front property. Caroline, the Lake Wise Rep, offered to speak to Olin Reed, Coordinator of the State Greeter Program, regarding this.

C. VIP Program: Artie Curcillo gave an Explanation of VIP program and urged members to attend the upcoming training and to become a VIP for Lake Eden. Attendees were urged to patrol along their property waterfront as well as the property to their right and left. If everyone did this we would have greater success in quickly locating any new growth of EWM and any potential other AIS. Jan Scipione spoke about her experience as a VIP and encouraged everyone to get involved.

D. Loon Liaison: Artie Curcillo reported that Tara Thacker has moved and so we are in need of someone to place and remove the loon nest each year. Members urged to consider volunteering to help.

E. Social Committee: The boat parade was organized by Christine Maheux for the past few years and appreciated and enjoyed by all. Members were encouraged to join the social committee to plan social events for the membership in an effort to build community.

F. Publicity/Education: Colleen Brennan reported that, in effort to educate and prevent further spread & prevention, various postings have been made on the Friends of Lake Eden FB page, Front Porch Forum as well as notifications via email blasts and mailings to membership. Campaigning was done, leading up to the Town of Eden Annual meeting, in an effort to drum up support for the mitigation of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). A letter to the public was posted in the Town Report, flyers were distributed (Thanks you to Eden General), 1:1 calls made to voting residents (Thank you to Marylou & Gary Durett), and an article featuring Lake Eden ‘s fight with EWM was in the New & Citizen (Thank you to Holly Steel). Colleen made a plea to the membership for assist with planning community forums on the use of herbicides to treat the EWM in an effort to provide an opportunity for the greater community to get educated, ask questions and raise any concerns. This is critical requirement if and when we are to apply for a

Permit to use Herbicides. Given the significant spread we are seeing of the EWM, it appears we will need to resort to this mitigation method in the near future. The BOD will contact the permitting department this summer to gain more information and direction with regard to that process.

G. Nominating Committee: Marylou Durett reported that the other 2-committee members resigned and she needed 2 people to join the committee. Christine Mawn and Diann Martel volunteered to be on the committee.

IV. ELECTIONS:

A. Board of Directors: Marylou Durett, Nominating Committee, presented the following candidates for election. There were no additional nominations from the floor:

President- Artie Curcillo
VP- Henry Scipione
Treasurer- Anna Pirie
Secretary- Colleen Brennan

A motion was made and seconded to elect the above people and the membership voted unanimously in favor.

B. Executive Committee: Colleen Brennan presented Vinnie Brennan & Gary Durett as candidates for the 2 elected positions on the committee. There were no further nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to elect Vinnie Brennan and Gary Durett and the vote was unanimous. The 2024 Executive committee will consist of the BOD, Robin Leon (Past president LEA), and the 2 newly elected members.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Property map/Directory: Colleen Brennan reported that she is still in the process of updating the list of lakefront property owners. Help was requested to pull a map off the town GIS system and number the lakefront lots so that a corresponding directory could be made.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. By laws: Artie Curcillo presented the BOD's proposed revisions of the By-Laws. The membership was in favor, by a show of hands, of the BOD proceeding with the revisions to be presented for vote at the 2024 annual meeting. Members requested that the revised By-laws be distributed well in advance of the meeting for review.

B. Directors & Officers Insurance: Artie Curcillo presented rational for Directors & Officers (D&O) insurance. Vin Brennan gathered four Quotes, and the anticipated yearly premium is expected to be roughly \$1,400. This would include add on policy for Crime and General liability. A unanimous show of hands was in favor of the BOD pursuing the insurance policy.

C. Membership Dues: Artie Curcillo reported that the BOD proposes raising the dues to cover additional and new costs of the D & O insurance, costs associated with the website, and supplies needed for hand harvesters. Artie reported that the Executive Committee reviewed membership dues at 16 area VT Lakes, which ranged from \$20 to 100 annually. There was discussion of what the new rate should be. A motion was made, seconded and the vote was in favor to to raise the dues to \$40 for 2024.

D. 2023 Charitable Donations:

There was discussion on how much and to whom a charitable donation would be made to this year from the LEA. A motion was made and seconded to give \$250 to the Hyde Park/Eden Fire Dept. and \$250 to The Lamoille County Conservation District (for Pavilion build at the Nature Center). The vote was unanimously carried in favor of the distributions.

E. 2024 Annual Meeting: After a discussion the group decided on Saturday July 13, 2024 for the next annual meeting. If available the preferred sight would be the Boy Scout camp. Colleen Brennan will look into the availability of the camp for next year with a start time of 9:30am.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm