



**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES AND NOTES  
MIRROR LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 311  
MIRROR LAKE, NH 03853**

**Mirror Lake Protective Association Annual Meeting  
Saturday, July 23, 2022 - 9:00-10:00 AM  
Tuftonboro Fire Station 189 Middle Road Center Tuftonboro, NH**

**AGENDA**

- 1) **Welcome – (Kathy Sciarappa absent) Val Zanchuk is running the meeting**
- 2) **Approve minutes of the 2021 annual meeting – Fran O’Donoghue**

All in favor, no abstentions and no opposed

- 3) **Treasurer’s report – Robin Muench**

Info on slide:

Income mostly comes from dues, no grants yet. Suggestion for a fund-raiser raffle.

- 4) **Approve Nominating Committee recommendations—John Dawson**

<b>President:</b>	Kathleen Sciarappa	nominated in 2022
<b>Vice President:</b>	Val Zanchuk	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Robin Muench	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Fran O’Donoghue	

**Approved the above nominations.**

Steve Scapicchio	(term expires 2022)
Gene Kelley	(term expires 2022)
Larry Gil	(term expires 2023)
Dusty Davies	(term expires 2023)
Ann Torregrossa	(term expires 2024)
Steve Cloutier	(term expires 2024)

- 5) **Standing Committee/Activities Reports**

- a) **Lake Host Program – Larry Gil**

The report informed us that currently we have 5 lake hosts: Steve Cloutier, Alan Hardiman, Denise Katz from Stratham, NH (50-mile round trip) Larry and Carol Lavelle—paid on Saturdays. Weekends are the big concern due to heavy lake use. Milfoil in other lakes can come with those boats. We talk to them check their boat, ask about their practices. We are all education not policing. We get \$1300 support from the state. Which is not much money! We need volunteers.

Questions to Larry included: Do we catch any boats with problems? Not yet! Statewide there have been 1500 captures. So, if we are watching carefully, we may also get a capture! We try to identify the boats with stuff and keep track of them. Is every type of boat entering the lake tested? Yes, but only at boat launch. Should we spend more money from our budget to get more host people and more places to host? We get from 0-500 boat interviews, so we get \$1300. We get maybe 5-6 boats per day. Limited parking helps us. In 2020 we had 173 interviews in the season. Can we post a sign? Maybe we can explore that. Is time to get the board to consider spending more of our money to be a lake host? Problem is that we are not only having trouble getting volunteers but the low pay for the paid people is still low. Daily hours 1-5 pm is busy in front of Lachners, as are weekend morning.

Conversation included a question of the ability to check the sea plane to bring invasives into the lake. It seems unlikely, but there is a procedure to check the floats. There was a question about wake limits on the lake. State regulation can determine size of boats that are allowed on the lake.

Additional conversation was about a potential boat survey. Questions could include where was it last, what is next, do you have ballast tanks, how long out of the water? Wake boats were discussed as a potential problem with the wake overtaking a dock very easily. Can we prohibit wake boats? Larry thinks not. Can lake host inform the wake boat owners that this is a shallow lake and that maybe a wake boat experience is potentially not going to be good? This is a statewide issue. Our lake is just too small to handle the wakes generated.

The question was asked “Do we have milfoil problem on the lake?” Currently the answer is NO! Also, it was asked if UNH, who helped us put together data, are they still helping? Again, yes. UNH does our analysis and publishes the reports for us and our meetings. VLAP with DES. VLMP—synopsis of results of previous year.

We had a short lesson on phosphorus and cyanobacteria. The main nutrient for a cyanobacteria problem is phosphorus, oxygen is consumed in the deep water, the coldest water is at the bottom, the cold water sits there until the lake temperature is even at all depths. When this happens, the deep water will move, and this will stir up the phosphorus. Once the phosphorus is freed up it is readily available to the cyanobacteria.

It was suggested that we find a way to make it easy to donate to a specific section of our budget say "I would like to donate X\$ toward lake host paid position etc.

**Motion to have the Board to spend some more money on lake host program and add signage at the south area to redirect launchers to the actual boat launch. Passed with no abstentions or opposed.**

**b) Water Quality/Lake Water Sampling– Tom Bissett; Steve Cloutier; Larry Gil Steve Scapicchio.**

Several slides were presented, and some were highlighted. Graph of Figure 4. Clarity is improving, chlorophyll is also going up in general. We've seen increased vegetation in places in the lake we are not used to seeing vegetation. The average is trending clearer which means light can penetrate deeper into the lake. Chlorophyll produced by lake is also increasing in the deep spot (44 feet deep)

Fig 5 phosphorus stable, dissolved color going down. This is an indication of clarity, less decomposing of material to produce brown colors, for example. Phosphorous 10ppb is the dividing line from EPA as the integral element for growth. Our average is about 11, which means we are just above this. This means that over time we are seeing an increase production of cyanobacterial in the lake. We've had 2 blooms of some sort in the last three years (2019 and 2021) and one before that. Big heavy rain events are also a problem for phosphorus in the lake.

The management plan implemented in 2012, which is a very good plan. Much has been implemented and this is good for the lake health: Lake Host, Weed Watcher, Lake Sample, Land Conservation. The lake is benefiting from these. But with more people and warmer climate the numbers are there for favorable to growth. It is recommended that we update the management plan. Since we have a lot of data, going back to 1958, and lots in the 1990s, and much in the 2000s, we have valuable information, need to validate it. A limnologist can look at our data and what we've done and help us come up with a plan for the next ten years. Long time exposure to cyanobacteria is bad and acute exposure can be bad too. There are different examples of treatments, such as of aluminum, can be applied to a lake, it coagulates the phosphorus and takes it out of biological activity. It is not cheap, and we need to know more about the unintended consequences. Keiser lake did this a few years ago. Don Kretchmer was collecting data for us.

Fig 7 shows the seven sample sights we test.

**c) NHDES Cyanobacteria Legislation.** 3 major items passed recently on Cyanobacteria have to do with an action committee.

State is trying to address increasing threat of cyanobacteria as common cause and common treatment. State is also addressing septic systems. Not allowed to have a do-it-yourself septic system. Need to go through permitting process. Also attempted piece of legislation to increase from 150 to 250 feet for wake boats but it didn't pass. No problems currently in Mirror Lake. We'll be informed by the state

**d) Aquatic Plant Update & Facebook – Norma Milne**

Team includes: Tiina, Glenda, Alan, Jeanne. The team has some ideas for new initiatives for example they have acquired some grabbing tools. So far, it's been a quiet May and early June, however, things are popping up more now. Photos using "Solocator" to help identify location. Watchers will take photos and we'll determine where to store them, this will give benchmarks for year to year and month to month monitoring. Facebook is a resource for the info. Lots of albums with aquatic plants. Look at your property and if have questions get in touch with Norma Milne

**e) Loon Update – Beth Urda**

Eggs abandoned. loon that was injured, couldn't capture it, not sure how he is doing but not seen him lately.

**f) Land Conservation – Ann Torregrossa**

TCC is in process of purchasing land 109 to outlet on the side of the ML church. Using Rick Van Poll to identify, process, etc.

Kip's easement in 2<sup>nd</sup> year probably about 1-2 more to get it finished. About 110 acres trying to get protected. Major step to preserve the integrity of the lake.

**g) Apparel-Ginny Cole**

Order forms available at the meeting. PO box 374 or 14 Church Lane.

**h) Independence Day Parade July 3, 10:30am (July 4<sup>th</sup> Rain Date)**

Shout out to all participants. Good turnout.

**6) Planning**

The following topics did not have time for discussion

a) Education & Committee Formation– Kathy Sciarappa

b) Water Summit; Lakes Congress: Watershed Management Plan

Geosyntec ML Water Management Plan Bob Hartzel

Rapid Ecological Assessment Rick

UNH Extension. NHDES reports. "Be Winni Blue and LakeSmart!" Form available to each person at the meeting.

Watershed Management Plan—on the website-read the plan to see what was done 10 years ago, paving projects, rain gardens, land conservation.

c) Membership Goal of 100 members! (63 current members; 30 former members; 60 non-members)

d) Community Engagement

MLPA areas of focus- Clean water, Land Conservation

Looking for Committee volunteers: Membership, Financial,

e) Finance

f) Website and Communication

7) Welcome packet to new homeowners: speak to Kathy if you know of any new residents.

8) Old Business

Larry and Norma are the people to send info to if you see cyanobacteria

Rock markers off Hersey cove the one most into the lake. Call dept of safety marine patrol—MLPA is going to follow up to see what their status is and when will the update project take place. Water that is low might make it harder for the rock buoys to be insufficient.

Can we get a notice when the lake level is being dropped by design? When the beaver dam was dismantled the water level did drop. The biggest drought was 2017. The water by the outlet at the boat launch was 10 feet below. Last summer, early spring highest on record also the case this summer. If we had a significant rain the septic systems would be affected. We broke part of the dam and that lowered the lake. Huge growth took up lots of water, so a confluence of events occurred. Spring was more a problem than lowering the water. Communication about this stuff is on Facebook, maybe instead we could get info from the MLPA and not Facebook. We are working to keep the email lists up to date and MLPA is trying to keep the info flowing to the MLPA.

513.29 is elevation of lake. Mirror Lake is 509-510 ft above sea level

9) **New Business**

a) Resolutions

MLPA has been actively working with consultants in its efforts to preserve and protect the water and shoreline quality of Mirror Lake. These experts have recommended that the scope of MLPA's Mission Statement be expanded. Accordingly, the Board of Directors has approved submitting to the membership for adoption, the following revised Mission Statement:

**Resolved that membership revise its Mission Statement to read as follows:**

**Founded in 1991, the Mirror Lake Protective Association seeks to: protect the water quality and shoreline of Mirror Lake; preserve the integrity of its natural environment within the watershed for the benefit of its inhabitants, flora, and fungi; promote sound conservation and land use management practices; encourage environmentally safe recreation; and increase knowledge of the lake and its history.**

Resolution #1 approved with unanimous vote. 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

Additionally, as MLPA continues to expand its responsibilities, as outlined in the Mission Statement, the Board believes that the requirement in the By-laws that certain expenditures more than \$2,000 be submitted to a vote of the membership is no longer viable for an association of its size. Accordingly, the Board of Directors recommends that the By-law be deleted and that a Finance Committee be created, the role and responsibilities of which are described below:

**Resolved, that the by-laws of the Mirror Lake Protective Association are hereby amended to delete the third paragraph of Article IV Board of Directors which reads as follows:**

***Without waiting for the vote of the Membership at an official meeting, the Board of Directors is authorized to commit the corporation to expenditures of up to \$2, 000 where:***

***1) The Board determines such expenditures are necessary to protect the interest of the Membership; and***

***2) Such expenditures would be in addition to the amounts appropriated for specific purposes at an official meeting of the corporation and in addition to routine and clerical expenses.***

And insert in lieu thereof, the following:

***The Board of Directors shall establish a Finance Committee which shall have a minimum of 3 members consisting of the treasurer and at least one other Board member. The board shall appoint or approve a chair and other members of the committee. The finance committee is responsible for overall financial oversight of the corporation to help to ensure that the corporation has the necessary resources to carry out its mission. The committee will establish accounting policies, procedures, and internal controls which it will regularly review and update, as necessary, to ensure that they are working properly to safeguard the corporation's assets. Such policies, procedures, and controls, including any material changes, must be approved by the Board. Annual reports shall be submitted to the Board showing income, expenditures, and bank balances. The financial records of the corporation are public and shall be open to the membership, board members, and the public.***

Resolution #2 approved with unanimous vote. 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

Resolved, that the Board of Directors ratify and approve, and submit to the membership of Mirror Lake Protective Association, for ratification and approval, the following expenditures:

"Payments, to Rick Van de Poll, on Sept 13, 2019, of \$1955 for the preparation of a seven-page Rapid Ecological Assessment Report of the Hersey property and, on Feb 7, 2022, of \$2800 for a 37-page Rapid Ecological Assessment Report of Selected Mirror Lake Lots plus an executive summary.

Resolution #3 approved with unanimous vote. 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

10) Adjourn 10:00am