

RAINBOW LAKE ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JULY 9, 2016

Phil Holstein called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. We then went around the room and everyone introduced themselves. There were 39 members present representing 25 camps.

The reading of the minutes were waived. Lionel Schuman made a motion to accept the minutes. George Saba seconded and all approved.

Ralph Bennett gave the Treasurer's Report. To date there are 145 members. There is \$13,036.10 in the General Fund Account and \$39,605.86 in the Reserve Fund. Ralph and Phil explained that the Reserve Fund was created for the purpose of hiring lake stewards if we did not receive grant money to fund the program and to have money on hand in case we developed an invasive species problem.

Ralph also explained that the Rainbow Lake Water Protection District was funded through a tax paid by lakeshore owners for the upkeep of the dam. This is a separate entity and the RLA has no say in how it is run. The only thing the RLA can do is recommend people to be on the Board of Commissioners. These people must be lakeshore owners and be full time Rainbow Lake residents.

Lionel Schuman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Peter Geertz seconded and the membership approved.

Phil then recognized Ralph Bennett for his 25 years of service as Treasurer for the RLA and presented him with a gift from the membership. Thank you Ralph! He also received a standing ovation (which was well deserved).

Jim Hauber then introduced our Lake Stewards from Paul Smith's college. Lauren is the supervisor and Grace is the primary steward. There has been no invasive species found so far. They inspected 226 boats so far and spoke about the invasive species program to 393 people.

Joe Deignan told us that the RLA has more volunteer lake stewards than any other lake association in the area.

Paul Smith's might stay at the boat launch through Columbus Day.

Peter Geertz reported that we did not receive a grant this year. We are employing Paul Smith's college to man the boat launch at Buck Pond Campground for two days per week. Paul Smith's is giving us a third day at no cost to us. Their stewards covered the boat launch Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from Memorial Weekend through June. Starting in July the RLA volunteers cover the boat launch on Fridays and Paul Smith's covers Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

The cost is \$6,200 for the season. Joe Deignan made a motion to approve spending the \$6,200 for the lake stewards. Peter Geertz seconded and the membership approved.

Joe Deignan reported on the Water Quality Survey. The report is on the RLA website. (<http://www.rainbowlakeassn.org/>) This report is the 19th consecutive year of data. The phosphorus levels have dropped for the past six consecutive years. The dissolved oxygen levels are steady. The lake water is neutral not acidic.

The cost of the Water Quality Survey has increased to \$1,700 this year and \$1,900 next year. John McKeon made a motion to spend the \$1,700 for the survey. Cissy Isaac seconded and the membership approved.

Faith Lundgren reported that no one has been notified about spraying on the National Grid right of way.

Faith and Linnae Hamilton hope to complete the welcome kit for new lake owners and renters. It will contain tips and facts about how to keep the quality of the lake environmentally sound.

Concerns were made about boaters not complying with NY State Water Safety Laws. These laws are on our website under "Water Safety" with Boating Safety links. (<http://www.rainbowlakeassn.org/>)

Faith presented the Board approved slate of officers for 2017.

President – Sue Fallone

Board Member – Todd Kahn

Vice President – Cathy Unruh

Board Member – John Greene

Secretary – Ilene Geertz

Board Member – Stephanie Ratcliffe

Treasurer – Peter Geertz

There were no nominations from the floor at this time. Attendees were encouraged to contact Phil Holstein or Sue Fallone to nominate someone for any of these positions. They will be voted on at the August membership meeting. Also, if anyone would like to be part of the Nominating Committee they are encouraged to contact Sue Fallone.

Stephanie Ratcliffe presented the recommendations made by the By-Laws Committee. Committee members are Stephanie Radcliff, Anne Joyce, Todd Kahn, Joe Deignan, and Alyse Holstein. The last By-Laws were changed in 2003. By-Laws are a "living document" for Not for Profit organizations and should be updated every 3-5 years. The recommendation from the committee is two-fold. First is administrative, to clarify and update the language and to comply with changes made in NY State law for Not for Profit organizations. The second is to address the issue of members with deeded access lake rights to be able to be elected to the Board and to be able to have a vote.

There will be two separate votes at the August membership meeting. One for the Administrative items and one for the changes in membership.

Stephanie then went through the administrative changes one by one with members making comments and asking questions. Stephanie informed us that if the committee had to make any changes from the document handed out to everyone today, we would not be able to vote on it in August and would have to wait till next year to vote on it. It is important to approve the administrative part as is, especially since we need to be in compliance with NY State law. She suggested that we vote on the By-Law changes as is and that next year the committee can fine tune certain items suggested by the members. Members were encouraged to contact Stephanie or any other committee member with thoughts relating to items that might need "fine tuning" for next year.

Next the Membership Amendment was presented and discussed. Many different views were expressed. Stephanie noted that when doing the math of lakeshore owners and those with deeded lake access rights, the lakeshore owners will always be in the majority. In addition, according to the proposed

change this will only apply to non-shore line property owners with deeded lake access rights on Rainbow Lake as of July 2016.

John McKeon reported that the DEC stocked our lake with 9,000 walleye fingerlings four weeks ago. John commented that one of the reasons the DEC stocks our lake is because of the high quality water level of our lake.

A location, Chairperson, and volunteers are needed for the August 13th picnic. Steve and Cissy Isaac volunteered to be in charge of refreshments for August. Thank you Jim and Nancy for all the years you were in charge of refreshments.

There are still some RLA car stickers available for \$5.00. Please contact Ilene Geertz if you would like one.

John McKeon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. There were multiple seconds.

Respectfully submitted

Ilene Geertz, Secretary