



MLPA Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday June 13, 2024 9:00am-10:00am

Tuftonboro Free Library

President: kathleensciarappa@gmail.com

MLPA Website <https://www.mirrorlakenh.org/>

1. **Welcome & Opening**

We have a new location and schedule with the ML Estates meeting following at 10:00 am.

Preparation notes went out ahead of this meeting; we hope this format will inform attendees and those unable to attend of the issues.

The July 4 parade was a great success. The Hoffer family won the “Best Boat” Award.

A reminder of the ML Mingle on July 30; please RSVP to Beth Argeros or Kathleen Sciarappa.

We have a baby chick on the lake, keep an eye out for another. There is some interest in giving the chick a name! (Clair the Loon was the winning name.)

Remembrance of Karen Baker, Warren Cassidy, Dr. James Conway, Ron Freeze, Joan Lawrence. We appreciate them for adding to our community, sad to see them go.

2. **Business**

•**Minutes of 2023 meeting:** Tiina Urv moved to approve; Kip Lachner seconded

In Favor: all

Opposed: none

•**Treasurer’s Report**

To date, we have four donations from institutions for a total of \$2500. We looked at spreadsheets to highlight that the biggest expenditure which is core sampling at \$7,300. We noted that we've made donations to other organizations which is a fixed cost to a total of \$850.

Our annual income is about \$6,000 as are the expenses.

There was a note that the board recommends considering we put the balance of approx. \$45,000 money into a money market account. Conversation followed regarding some additional revenue opportunities which include perhaps investigating charitable gaming as a source of income for us. The NH Lottery Commission is the group to whom we need to connect. Robin will start the investigation; she may need a bit of help from Val. We also discussed that people could direct some or all of their RMDs (Required Minimum Distribution) from a retirement account to be a QCD (Qualified Charitable Donation) to the MLPA. The advantage is that they are making a tax-deductible donation so they will not be taxed on the portion of the RMD that is used for a QCD.

•Approve Treasurer's report

In Favor: all

Opposed: none

•Nominations presented by Dusty Davies

Dusty Davies, John Dawson (current chair of the MLPA Conservation Committee), and Gene Kelley are on the MLPA Nominations Committee. Ann Torregrossa and Steve Cloutier are rotating off. Ann has agreed to return to the board. Steve has decided to step aside from his position on the board. John Dawson has been suggested by the nominating committee to be a new board member.

•Approve Nominations of Ann Torregrossa and John Dawson to be board members. Motion to Approve by Steve Scappichio, seconded by Steve Cloutier

In Favor: all

Opposed: none

•You Can Make a Difference

1. We need additional lake hosts both paid positions and volunteer positions. Prefer adults who may be a bit more comfortable speaking with adults bringing boats to the lake.
2. Looking for someone to be our Charity Gambling Coordinator. Seamas Oscalaidhe volunteered to investigate getting onto the list of casinos and doing the paperwork to get us into this market. Val explained that this does have the potential to be a very lucrative opportunity for the MLPA.
3. We are looking for a Legislative Advocate (45 bills in NH were lake-related over the past year) who can read the summaries and use sample letters to write to local representatives. Kip Lachner has volunteered. For example, in the Shoreline Protection Act, we've learned of a loophole that needs to be closed.
4. We need to be "aggressively good neighbors" to educate new neighbors in our neighborhoods. Help them especially if they are new to lake life.

•Lake Management Plan II

1. MLPA's \$100,000 loan application was turned down by NHDES in 2023. Since the NH Clean Water State Revolving Fund (NHCWSRF) monies are only available for municipalities, the town of Tuftonboro must borrow the money and let MLPA use it. In order to authorize the loan application, a warrant article must be presented to the Tuftonboro voters at the Tuftonboro Town Meeting held each March, and there must be a two-thirds positive vote for the measure to pass. The town selectmen agreed to add the warrant article to the 2024 agenda and a vote was held at the March 2024 meeting. The voting results: 165 yes and 45 no votes, well over the two thirds required. If the state accepts the application, we are good to go. The MLPA will pay the interest which is expected to accrue to \$2,000-\$3,000 over the next several years. In this way, there will be no cost to the town of Tuftonboro.
2. If we get the money, we anticipate working on several big projects: A shoreline survey; revisiting MLPA Watershed Management Plan I restoration sites (designed by Geosyntec) and assessing their impact; an updated Action Plan to include updated municipal ordinances; an outreach and educational plan; and developing in-lake restoration strategies.
3. Integrate Watershed Management Plan I and II—we made available hard copies of the information so engineers can implement it.

There was a short discussion of strategies that will likely be employed and a few terms were defined:

Pervious Surfaces—allow water to go through, very helpful in improving runoff quality

Riparian Buffers—filter the runoff water using natural vegetation

•Core Analysis Results

Our phosphorus (P) level is like other lakes in the area. Much is bound to the sediment, so it won't go free and set off a bloom. The non-bound P is the cause of blooms. The external load comes from streams, the highest P is in the middle of the lake in the deep area commonly known as the Deep Hole.

It might be that we, at some point in the future, oxygenate the water, especially at the Deep Hole. Another remediation option is to put a layer of Al to bind to the P. The key for the present is to cut down on the runoff which brings in over 50% of the P load.

Recommendations from the state as best practices for watershed and lakeside property owners: Employ strategies from LakeSmart. The process begins with a resident taking a survey online to assess their property and their own practices. If desired and requested by the homeowner, a group or individual comes to examine your property and make recommendations for what may be improved after you take the survey. They can come to you, or you can send pictures and they can advise.

A second NH state recommendation is to utilize their publication: Soak Up The Rain. This information can help property owners develop ways to decrease runoff into the lake.

3. Open Questions & Discussion

- It was suggested that in addition to participating in the Shoreline Survey as part of developing MLPA Watershed Management Plan II, the researchers might gain a better understanding of your property needs by surveying your total property. If you are interested in providing permission for the people who are doing the survey to come onto your property, give your name to Kathy Sciarappa.

- Kip Lachner needs help with the beach and bank erosion in the Long Pond Beach area.

- Larry Gil—brought up the volunteer river protection program. ML has only one major tributary (braided stream originates off Waumbeck Rd). Samplings can occur at headwaters, a few places along the way, and at Mirror Lake church. We are looking to see what is there. As an example, if the water is high in chlorides and salts, it can change the dynamics of the lake. Another example is that recently we saw oil, we can try to track it down, etc. Beth Urda had been doing this and Larry and his group have taken it on. We need some younger people to get involved both by understanding the issues and helping to work on the projects. Additionally, when lots are cleared, that changes the water runoff patterns and flows; we will be interested to see what happens because of the house and tree removal at 29 MLD.

- Septic Systems—update the system and pump regularly. Get on a schedule with your company. Systems have a carrying capacity. You should connect with your company to get a sense of what you need. There is a difference between septic pumping and septic inspection. Most owners only tend to septic pumping while waiting for their property to sell before getting an inspection. If you get an inspector to come to examine the system, you can find out if your system is working properly. Cost is about \$350 for an inspection. The MLPA has info for 90% of the septic systems on the lake from a previous septic survey conducted during the Geosyntec management plan. If we get the \$100k loan we can update the information.

•Land Conservation: Our Problem

John Dawson of the land conservation committee reports we are trying to get large and small plots into land conservation easements. State organizations that generally do this are not interested in small plots. The larger organizations generally work with plots of land 100 acres or more. But on Mirror Lake, we have very small plots of land (2-5 acres) that would benefit the ecology of the lake if they were

placed in conservation. The committee is attempting to work within these parameters.

4. Closure

We are ripe for change! Keep in mind the four pillars for environmental change: Sound Science, Solid Finance, Political Will, and Public Support.

Sound Science: MLPA has the science in place with over 40 years of data on the chemistry of the water.

Solid Finance: MLPA treasury is solid, but we will likely need more money over time to address threats to the lake, although the \$100,000 NH Clean Water State Revolving Funds will be very helpful.

Political Will: the NH Legislature has become keenly interested in healthy lakes (although some are still voting negatively) and in the past couple of years some forward thinking legislation has passed with more to come.

Public support: MLPA has always enjoyed strong support from residents and the larger body of the public in New Hampshire has become more engaged and interested in preserving lakes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 am