

MINUTES OF THE 2021 LAON ANNUAL MEETING

The 2021 LAON Annual Meeting was held via Zoom on Saturday, July 10, 2021. There were approximately 60 people in attendance.

Sal Girifalco, LAON Board President, opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. The minutes of the 2020 annual meeting were approved. Sal introduced the LAON Board members. **He reviewed the LAON sponsors: Ari's Pizza & Subs; Cafe Nomad; Crooked River Heating & A/C; Dow's Law Office; Edward Jones Investments; Granite Ridge Estate & Barn; Norway Lake Marina; Norway Savings Bank; TD Bank; The Lake Store; White's Marina and The Town of Norway and encouraged everyone to thank and support our Sponsors!**

Sal shared **GOOD NEWS FROM THE LAKES.....**

Community support continues in the age of Covid.

Invasive plant program is working well: Preventing (Courtesy Boat Inspection); Containing/Remediating (Yellow Iris); Detecting (Invasive Plant Patrols to back up CBI's)

Watershed improvements are continuing: North Pond and Lake Penn

5th Annual Boat Parade on Lake Penn (July 3) Thanks to Arell Nankervis for hosting and getting this going. The 6th Annual Length of Lake Swim will be held August 15. **CONTACT LAON IF YOU PLAN TO SWIM OR CAN PROVIDE BOAT SUPPORT.**

The MISSION OF LAON is to protect the health and beauty of our fragile lakes through preventive programs, remediation, and **individual actions!** We have close to 600 lake property owners in Norway! Reaction is expensive.... prevention is key! **Focus on individual responsibilities. You can help or hurt your lake...it is your choice! LAON volunteers, property owners and boaters all have important roles to play...your support/participation/awareness result in increased prevention.**

Detailed updates were given about: Courtesy Boat Inspection/CBI; Yellow Iris; Invasive Plant Patrols; Water Quality; Watershed Management; and LAON Finances. Highlights of each area follow. Visit www.norwaylakes.org for the complete presentations.

COURTESY BOAT INSPECTION UPDATE BY NORM BAKER

For the period May 1-June 30, 2021, 881 inspections were done. Each of the last two weekends in this period had 100 boats inspected. In 2020, over 2600 boats were inspected; we are on track for even more this year. Most non-Maine boats are from MA and NH. CBI's ask boat owners coming to Lake Penn about the previous bodies of water in which their boat has been. This is important because there are a number of infested (Variable Leaf Milfoil/VLM) waterbodies nearby: Bryant Pond, Little Sebago Lake, Long Lake, Sebago Lake and Thompson Lake. Photos of look-alike plants can be found on the LAON site.

Remember to always: clean your boat of any plants and debris; drain the boat and any compartments of standing water; dry the boat prior to entering any new body of water (5days) or pressure wash @140 degrees or wash with 10% chlorine. In addition to stopping the transportation of invasive plants, this DEP guidance is meant to reduce the chance of an organism like the zebra mussel from being transported on the hull of a boat or in the wells. Young stages of organisms like mussels can be almost microscopic, so visual inspections do not always detect them.

Members of the CBI team are Roger Mack, Jerry Higgins, and Larry Levesque.....and YOU! There are some open weekday time slots so if you are interested in helping with CBI, please contact Sal or Norm.

YELLOW IRIS UPDATE BY LISE DIETRICH

Yellow flag iris is bad for Maine lakes and waterways because they crowd out native plant species and impact plants, wildlife (ducks) and fisheries. They can impact the natural flow of water (for example, in the Penneesseewassee Stream). Even one plant left to propagate will spread widely.

We need to PREVENT OR MINIMIZE PROPAGATION & ELIMINATE THE PLANTS IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT ENHANCE SPREAD.

Lise explained how yellow iris spread: Flowers turn to seed pods which float downstream to a favorable spot to establish. Root fragments can float downstream and establish in a new location. Rhizomes (roots) spread to expand the stand of Yellow Flag Iris.

Birds are not attracted to yellow iris seeds so they do not spread them. We do not know how Yellow Iris got to Lake Penn. They may not be sold in Maine; however, they are available on-line. Unsuspecting buyers may purchase them for their pond.....and the seeds escape and spread!

The yellow iris team includes: Lise Dietrich (Middle of Penneesseewassee and overall coordination); Jim Gibson (north end of Lake Penn; Penneesseewassee Stream Plant extraction); Norm Baker (south end of Penneesseewassee & boat captain); Cynthia Reedy (boat hand & spotter); and LAON MEMBERS & FRIENDS who are keeping a watchful eye and reporting suspicious plants.

Please consider joining the Yellow Iris mitigation team.....we can use a few more people to inspect the shorelines next year (you must be available in June) and mitigate yellow iris sites. WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPAND THE SURVEY TO HOBBS, SAND AND NORTH PONDS!

If you are good with computers and record keeping, we would love to have someone set up the inventory on a shared platform and maintain notes as we mitigate sites.

If you see a yellow flag iris, send a photo and GPS coordinates or street address to LAON, along with your contact information. Lise will add it to the inventory & contact you to discuss next steps. If you are not sure if it's a yellow flag iris, let LAON know anyway...we will check it out when they bloom next June.

INVASIVE PLANT PATROL (IPP) UPDATE BY LYNN GIRIFALCO

Since the CBI's are only on Lake Penn and can never be 24/7, or foolproof, we need everyone to be our "Eyes on the Lake"

Lynn explained that the IPP teams get to know their lake sectors and can do their "job" while enjoying time on the water just by keeping an eye out for aquatic plants that do not belong.

A first step is the "Plant Paddle" ,,,,, a fun and easy way to learn more about invasive plants. This year it will be held in the first week of August.... you will be trained on gathering plants and how to use the "Quick Key" to identify possible invasives. Look at the LAON site to see some of the "interesting finds" from prior plant paddles.

Thanks to our volunteers, we have patrols on all 4 lakes. We will need more patrollers for some unpatrolled and over-extended areas. Volunteers for the various sectors on each of the 4 Norway lakes are shown on the slides posted on the LAON site. **Please email LAON (norwaylaon@gmail.com) if you want to become part of the IPP program.**

WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR 2020 BY JIM O'BRIEN, PAUL SHOOK, JEANNE SILVERMAN, STEPHAN ZEEMAN

Steve presented a summary of the "Health of the Lakes" with these key points:

Water clarity held steady last year in all lakes except Penneesseewassee, where it declined, and Hobbs where it improved.

Hobbs and Penn are showing improvements in surface phosphorus levels. However, phosphorus in the bottom waters is increasing in Sand and Hobbs Pond due to an accumulation of phosphorus in the sediments over time. Phosphorus is released from the sediments when oxygen levels drop.

Chlorophyll levels dropped in all lakes (which is good)! But, one year does not represent a trend!

Remember, YOU SHOULD MANAGE YOUR PIECE OF THE WATERSHED!!! Erosion has the most impact on water quality.... go out during a rain downpour to see where runoff is getting to the lake! EROSION=PHOSPHORUS=ALGAE.

Visit www.norwaylakes.org for detailed charts on measurements by lake (current and historical)

LAKE PENNESSEEWASSEE WATERSHED UPDATE BY JIM O'BRIEN & SAL GIRIFALCO

Jim provided **background information**: A survey was conducted June/July 2019 to identify erosion sites throughout the Lake Penn watershed. This resulted in a 10 year/3 phase plan to address 185 sites. Phase 1 will focus on the most impactful sites and concentrated sources of erosion (16 Town and private road sites; 10 residential sites; State DOT sites). Work started Fall of 2020, and will continue on Goat Island & Gibson Brook Road sites. In 2020 LAON received a two-year grant award of \$77k for Phase 1 projects to be completed by December 2022.

Jim reported on the **current status**: Four of our largest projects were completed in partnership with Goat Island & Gibson Brook Road associations. Three 36" culvert replacements were done on Goat Island. Gibson Brook Road solutions included reshaping and grading the road, culvert installation and replacements and turnouts. We provided input to Maine DOT who addressed sites on Greenwood Road in preparation for repaving and transition to town. Reviewed all Town sites and assisted in development of solutions and schedule. Most of these will be addressed by 2022. Some great "Before/After" photos can be found at www.norwaylakes.org

Jim talked about what is still to be done in 2021 and 2022: The remainder of private road sites are on Goat Island and North Norway will be addressed. We will also address erosion sites on private property where the grant pay half of remediation, up to \$350, through Residential Matching Grants (RMGs). Workshops will be conducted on road maintenance and buffer plantings in 2021. Town road site work will continue through 2022

YOUR ROLE IS IMPORTANT! TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A RESIDENTIAL MATCHING GRANT. VOLUNTEER TO WORK ON OTHER'S SITES. BE VIGILANT AND PROACTIVE WITH RUNOFF WATER: SLOW IT DOWN, DIVERT IT, SEND IT THROUGH STABLE VEGETATION. CHECK "HOMEOWNERS' TOOL KIT" ON LAON WEBSITE www.norwaylakes.org

LAON has made progress through partnerships and commitments:

Town of Norway, Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District, Maine DEP and DOT and the US EPA, Lane 18 Road Association (Goat Island), Gibson Brook Lane Road Association, Poland Excavation (who provided helpful remediation suggestions), and individual property owners.

Thanks to the Watershed Plan Steering Committee of property owners and technical experts: Alice Goodwin, Paul Shook, Jon Jacobsen, Steve Zeeman, Barbara Howard, Amanda Pratt, Tom Brown, Michele Windsor, Roy Ulrichson, Sal Girifalco, Jim O'Biren, Bob Story and Deb Partridge

Sal presented information about BOAT WAKE which is becoming a bigger issue with more traffic and bigger boats.

Wake matters because it: Is hazardous to swimmers and other boaters; Erodes shoreline & releases phosphorus, which feeds algae; Damages property, including docks; and Harms nesting birds, such as loons.

SINCE WAKE DIMINISHES WITH DISTANCE, THE FARTHER FROM SHORE, THE LESS DAMAGE. LOOK TO SEE IF WAKE IS HITTING THE SHORE. IF IT IS, IT IS ERODING

STATE LAW: "Headway speed" within 200 feet of any shore....REALLY MEANS NO WAKE!

LAON HAS DEVELOPED "WAKE ZONE & DEPTH ZONE MAPS". REFER TO www.norwaylakes.org FOR DETAILED MAPS AND GUIDANCE. LAON will place a large wake map in the Lake Penn kiosk and will discuss with the marinas to see if they will display and/or handout information. We are considering 8 1/2 X 11 inch laminated copies of the wake maps to distribute to boaters.

IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL IDEAS ON WAKE, PLEASE EMAIL LAON AT norwaylaon@gmail.com

Sal shared highlights of the **LAKESIDE DEVELOPMENT PLAN on Lake Road** at the Eastern end of the lake (1400 of lake frontage). The goal for this development is to become the hub for 4 season entertainment, events, and outside sporting activities. The proposed plan is to: develop 6.64 acres on the shore of Lake Penn; provide a parking lot for 67 cars + buses+ other parking; be a venue for events (weddings, concerts), a Brewery tasting room, food, and outdoor activities. 60% of land to be covered (assumed to be impervious surfaces). Any development must meet Maine DEP and DOT requirements and must follow the Town of Norway Site Plan Review process.

The Town of Norway has said that this project is in early planning stages; and only approved for limited use (Pleasant Hill Landscaping & Norway Brewing). The Site Plan Review Process has many requirements for both protection and fairness that the developer needs to meet to the satisfaction of Planning Board (which is independent of the Town's Select Board.

There is concern about misinformation being communicated. **To review the full plan, email Town Code Enforcement Officer, Scott Tabb ceo@norwaymaine.com Do not call for the plan. People should communicate any concerns about this development plan to the Town Manager and Code Enforcement Officer.**

LAON has not taken a position on this development plan. LAON will be guided by its mission to preserve, enhance and protect the health and beauty of the lakes of Norway. Our attention is on potential pollution (runoff, noise, light).

Susan Jacoby announced that the LENGTH OF LAKE SWIM will be held on Sunday, August 15. Call/text Susan at 617/833-0646 for more information

SAL PRESENTED A FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR LAON:

The financial condition is stable. Dues are on target. No unusual expenses are expected. Donations were received in memory of Anne Lowery and Jay Partridge. CBI expenses will increase by 10% due to the increase in minimum wage. There were no invasive plant survey expenses in 2020 because of Covid. There will be a new annual expense for the placement and removal of buoys.

Details are within the meeting presentation on LAON website: www.norwaylakes.org

The slate of officers was presented, voted on and approved as follows:

Sal Girifalco	President
Jim O'Brien	Vice President
Tom Webster.	Treasurer
Pat Daniels.	Secretary

Sal thanked Jeanne Silverman for her service as Vice President since 2014.

MISCELLANEOUS REMINDERS:

LAON shirts & totes are available for purchase online under "support" on the LAON website.....check them out.....for yourself or for gifts for friends and family!

Provide your email address & put LAON's email in your contacts.

Boaters (you & your guests)...ensure boats, trailers, fishing gear and lines are free of plants (in and out)

Control erosion on your property (refer to the LAON newsletter & website for details)

Get involved with LAON activities. Pay LAON dues (currently only 40% of lake homeowners are members)

Whenever you buy on Amazon, use Amazon Smile and designate LAON so it gets .5% of every dollar spent. Find the link on LAON website.

Focus on Individual Responsibilities - You can help or hurt your lake...It's your choice!

BE WELL

STAY SAFE

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Daniels
LAON Board Secretary