



# Watchic Lake Association Annual Meeting

Via Zoom  
July 11, 2020

# Thank you!

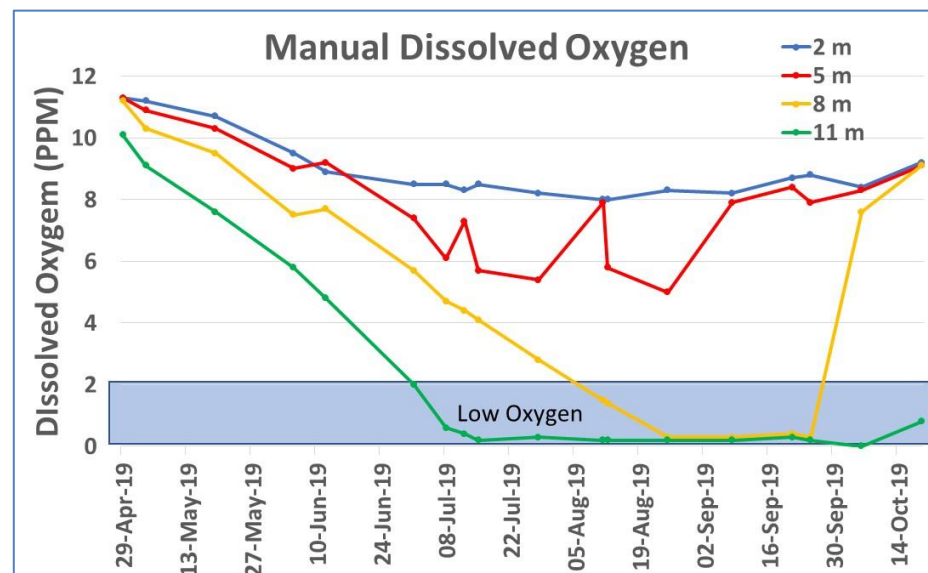
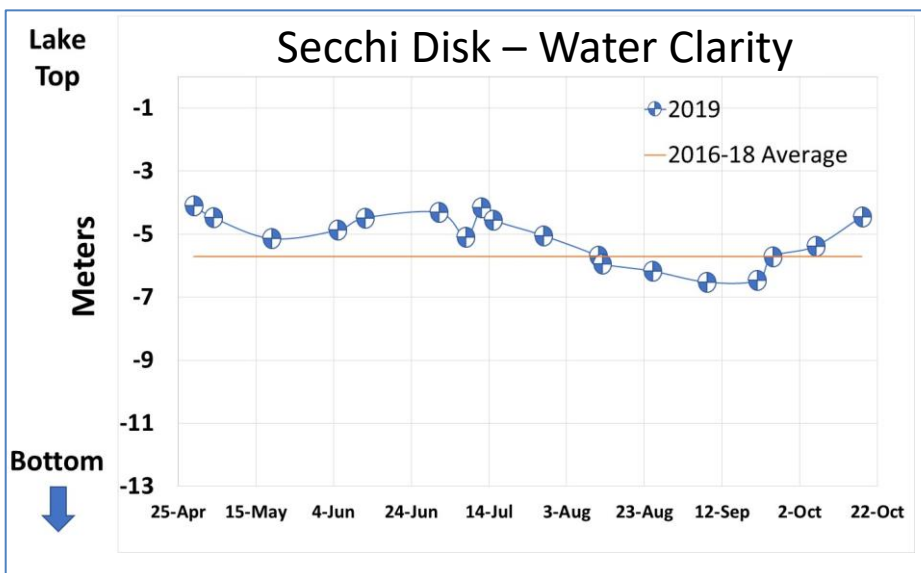
- **Thank you for your continued support!**
- **Covid-19 has created some challenges, but most volunteer work continues**
- **Making progress on long-term goals:**
  - Recent success with Watershed Protection Plan and applying for grants
  - WLA volunteers now managing advanced water quality testing
- **Our biggest challenges:**
  - **Nutrient rich runoff** and development around the lake increase algal bloom risk
  - Funds to cover potential major projects such as invasive plant removal



- Water Quality
- Environmental – Invasives and Loons
- Dam Update
- Watershed Protection Plan
- Membership and WLA Online Store
- Finance
- Other Lake News
- Voting

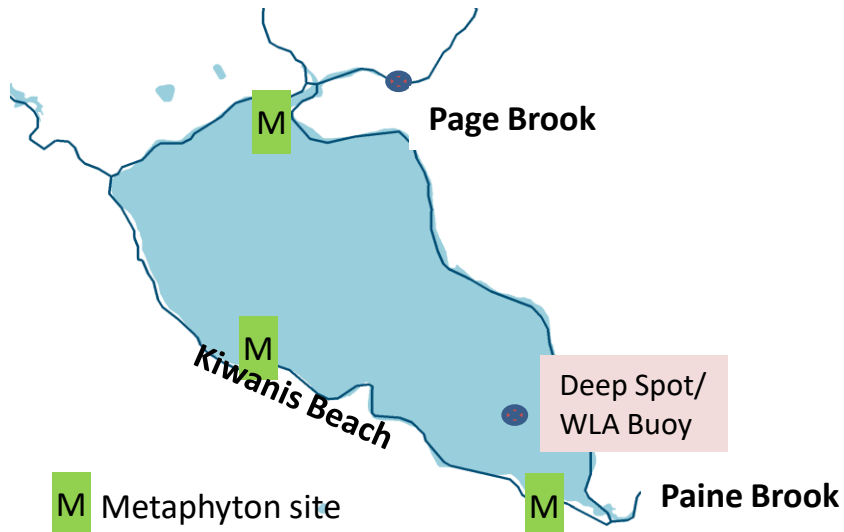
# Water Quality – Cathy Watson

- Water quality of Watchic Lake remains good and is substantially unchanged from data collected over the previous 3 years (2016-2018)
- Loss of oxygen in the lower depths of the lake still of concern



## Increased Metaphyton Reported

- Cotton candy-like algae that usually floats near the top of the shallow water but can get stuck in lake vegetation and accumulate.
- There has seemed to be an increase in Metaphyton in Maine Lakes
- Metaphyton is fueled by extra nutrients entering the lake from run-off
- Shorter duration of ice in winter due to climate change also a likely contributor



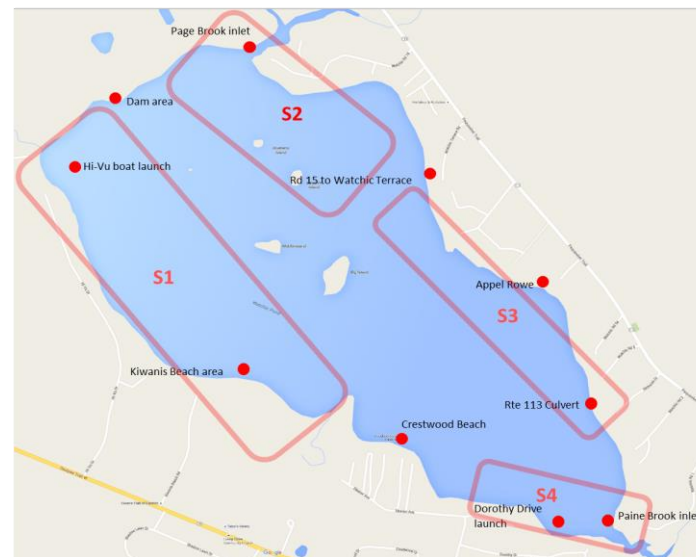
# Water Quality Long Term Risks

- While **water quality is good today**, Watchic Lake is in a delicate balance with it's environment,
- **Human activities, large and small** within the watershed are increasing the amount and transport of harmful chemicals, pollutants and dangerous foreign materials into the lake and its streams.
  - Large waves increasingly believed to churn up bottom sediment – please keep wave size down.
- **Increased rainfall, especially catastrophic events** such as mega-storms put roads, drainages, and septic systems at risk of introducing deadly runoff.
- **Its up to each property owner and road association to do their part:**
  - Check your property for signs of unmitigated runoff, and soil erosion
  - Maintain a vegetated shoreline buffer
  - Don't use lawn chemicals containing nitrogen or phosphate compounds.
  - Maintain your septic system



- For the fourth year the WLA ran an LSM (Lake Stewards of Maine) certified plant inventory event in the summer of 2019.
- 23 native plants identified and submitted to LSM.
- No invasives found.
- Watchic Lake has not experienced any invasive plants but must remain vigilant.
- **Renters, visitors, seaplanes – please clean ALL watercraft and fishing gear before entering the lake!**

Watchic Lake Survey Sites – August 2018



## Inventory map.

Thanks to Steve and Kim Lajoie, Don and Martha Drew, Paul and Nancy McNulty, Cathy Watson, Wendi Rodriguez, Dave Maus and Owen Smith for making our 2019 inventory day a success!

**2020 Plant Inventory - TBD:** Paddle the lake to gather and evaluate native and invasive plants. Learn more by contacting Steve Lajoie at [steve03229@aol.com](mailto:steve03229@aol.com)

## Loons – Kim Lajoie

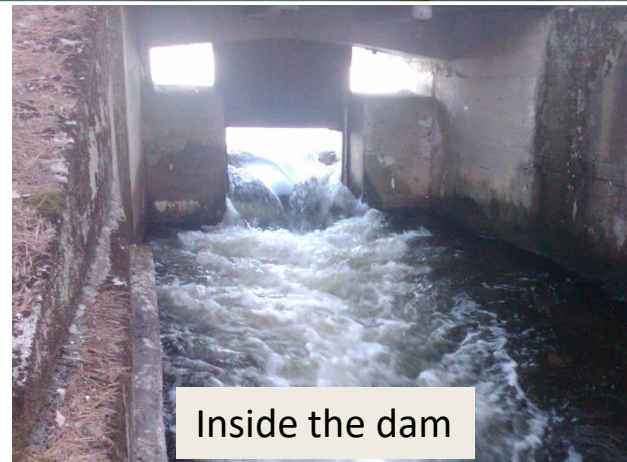
- Currently 10 or 11 loons on the lake.
- We have one nesting pair this year at the west end of the lake, and the chick (or chicks) should hatch any day.
- When the chicks are in the water we will post pictures on the website so check there.
- As you know loon chicks are very small at first and parents with chicks will not dive so be extra careful and stay at least 200 yards away from the loons.
- The leading cause of loon deaths in Maine is boat hits – please be vigilant when boating and watch out for diving loons!
  - Annual Loon Count July 18, 7:00 to 7:30 am
  - For more on the loons contact Steve or Kim Lajoie





# Dam Update – Owen Smith

- Dam gate installed in 2015 continues to operate well.
  - West sluiceway wall may need some minor erosion repairs.
- Dam was closed March 26, three days after Ice Out.
- New safety buoys installed in May.
- **Spring goal:** raise the water level fairly quickly after ice-out to protect loon nests and eggs from flooding.
- **Fall goal:** lower water level to help protect the shoreline and docks.



**This plan supports our mission:** protecting and improving the ecosystem of Watchic Lake and the watershed.

- Completed **our 2020 Watchic Lake Watershed Protection Plan**.
- Maine DEP and Federal EPA have approved this plan. **This is a big deal** as this allows us to apply for state funding.
- A grant application was submitted to the DEP May 15.
- Grant application requests funds to support \$125k of various remediation projects in the watershed and on the lake
  - Three culvert improvements by Town of Standish
  - Three road improvements
  - Up to eight private property/LakeSmart improvements
- Grants are approved in September. If approved, work must be done by end of 2022.
  - DEP funds 60% of costs. WLA, Standish, property owners fund the balance.
- Much more on our website.

# Membership – Paul McNulty

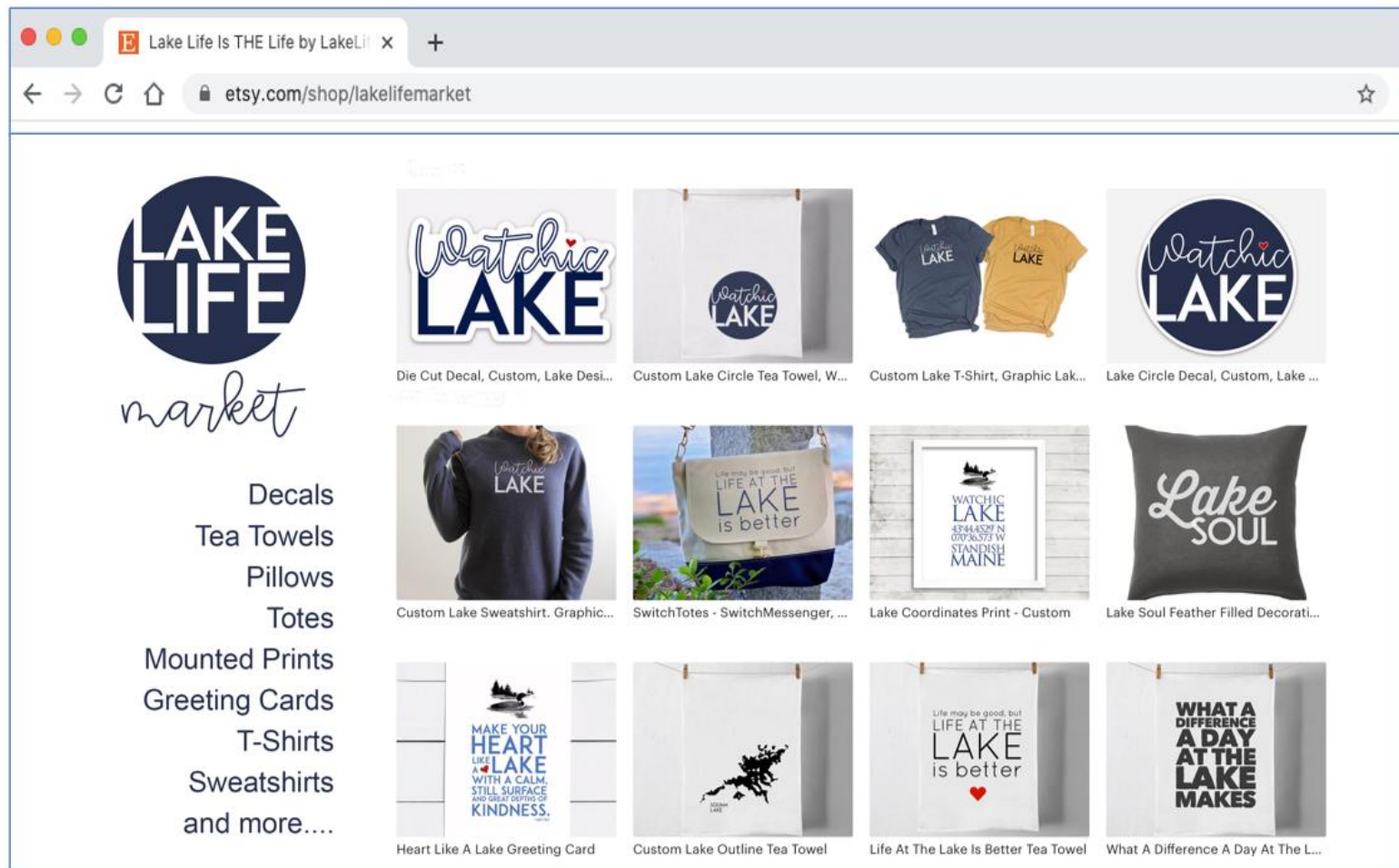
- Due to Covid-19, in 2020
  - We changed membership dues to “whatever you can afford”
  - Limited seasonal lake usage might be causing lower membership?
- Members as of 7/10/2020
  - People: 119 (high was 155 in 2015)
  - Properties: 85
- About 60% of member properties are seasonal and 80% lakefront
- Please encourage email usage – quicker, less costly, more engaging.



As of July 10, 2020

## Support the Lake – Give Great Gifts – Profits to WLA

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/lakelifemarket>



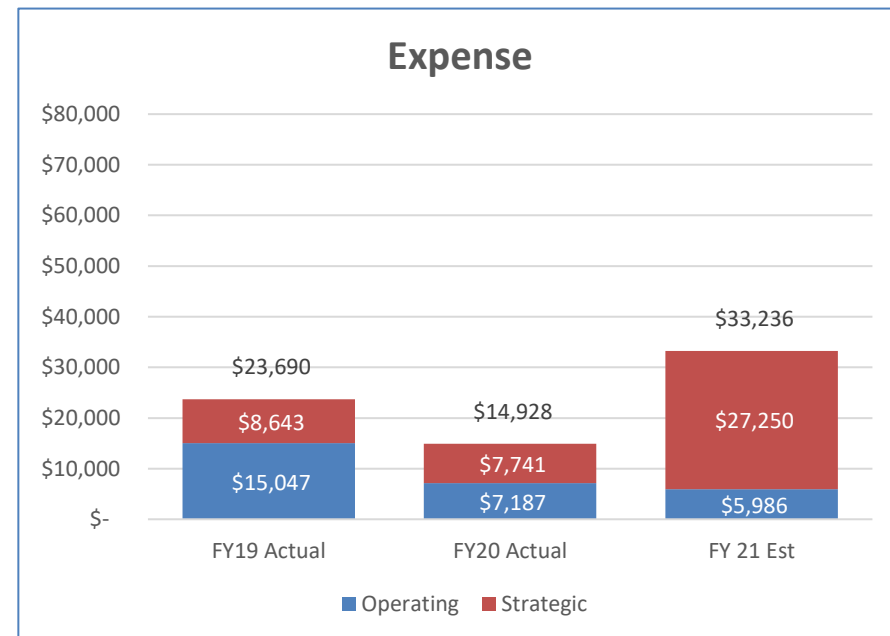
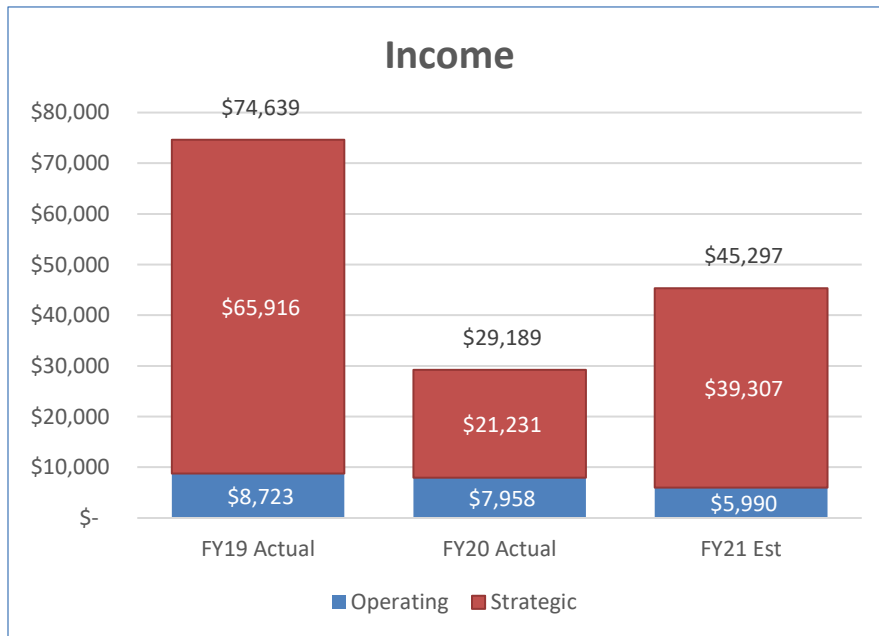
The screenshot shows the Etsy shop page for 'Lake Life Is THE Life by LakeLife'. The browser address bar displays 'etsy.com/shop/lakelifemarket'. The shop's logo, 'LAKE LIFE market', is prominently displayed on the left. A list of product categories is provided: Decals, Tea Towels, Pillows, Totes, Mounted Prints, Greeting Cards, T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, and more....

The main product grid features the following items:

- Die Cut Decal, Custom, Lake Desi...**: A decal with the 'Watchic LAKE' logo.
- Custom Lake Circle Tea Towel, W...**: A white tea towel with a circular 'Watchic LAKE' logo.
- Custom Lake T-Shirt, Graphic Lak...**: Two t-shirts, one blue and one yellow, both with the 'Watchic LAKE' logo.
- Lake Circle Decal, Custom, Lake ...**: A circular decal with the 'Watchic LAKE' logo.
- Custom Lake Sweatshirt, Graphic...**: A blue sweatshirt with the 'Watchic LAKE' logo.
- SwitchTotes - SwitchMessenger, ...**: A messenger bag with the text 'Life may be good, but LIFE AT THE LAKE is better'.
- Lake Coordinates Print - Custom**: A framed print with the text 'WATCHIC LAKE 47°04.4529' N 070°36.573' W STANDISH MAINE'.
- Lake Soul Feather Filled Decorati...**: A black pillow with the text 'Lake SOUL'.
- Heart Like A Lake Greeting Card**: A greeting card with the text 'MAKE YOUR HEART LIKE A LAKE WITH A CALM, STILL SURFACE AND GREAT DEPTH OF KINDNESS.'.
- Custom Lake Outline Tea Towel**: A white tea towel with a black outline of a lake.
- Life At The Lake Is Better Tea Towel**: A white tea towel with the text 'Life may be good, but LIFE AT THE LAKE is better' and a red heart.
- What A Difference A Day At The L...**: A white tea towel with the text 'WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY AT THE LAKE MAKES'.

# Financial Update – Agnes Wiggin

- Splitting operating and strategic income/expense for better control and transparency.
- FY20 (year end 6/30/20) positive net operating income (\$755) and overall positive due to strategic donations.
- FY21 breakeven operating income, assuming no major unfunded projects. Volunteers take on more water quality testing.
- If DEP grant approved, DEP grant income will equal DEP project expenses in FY21.



As of 6/30/20 Operating Savings: \$41,827. Strategic Savings: \$117,774



- **LakeSmart** - free opportunities learn how to manage your home and yard to protect the lake.
  - 1 new property and 2 renewals in 2019
  - For more information contact Martha Drew
- **Route 113 culvert replacement** (at Page Brook and near Watchic Road 19) will close Rt 113 from about 8/3 to 9/1. ME DOT will notify before road closures. The WLA will provide updates as we learn more.

- **Nominations for the Board:**

- Bob Babcock            3 years
- Martha Drew            3 years
- Steve Lajoie            3 years
- Owen Smith            3 years
- Cathy Watson           3 years
- David West (new)    3 years

- David's family has had property on Watchic since the 1940s and has lived on the lake for 8 of the past 10 years. He enjoys spending time on the lake swimming, kayaking, canoeing, and looking for loons. David works as an attorney and looks forward to helping preserve and protect our beautiful lake

- **Nominations for Officers:**

- Treasurer, Agnes Wiggin    2 years
- Secretary, Martha Drew    2 years

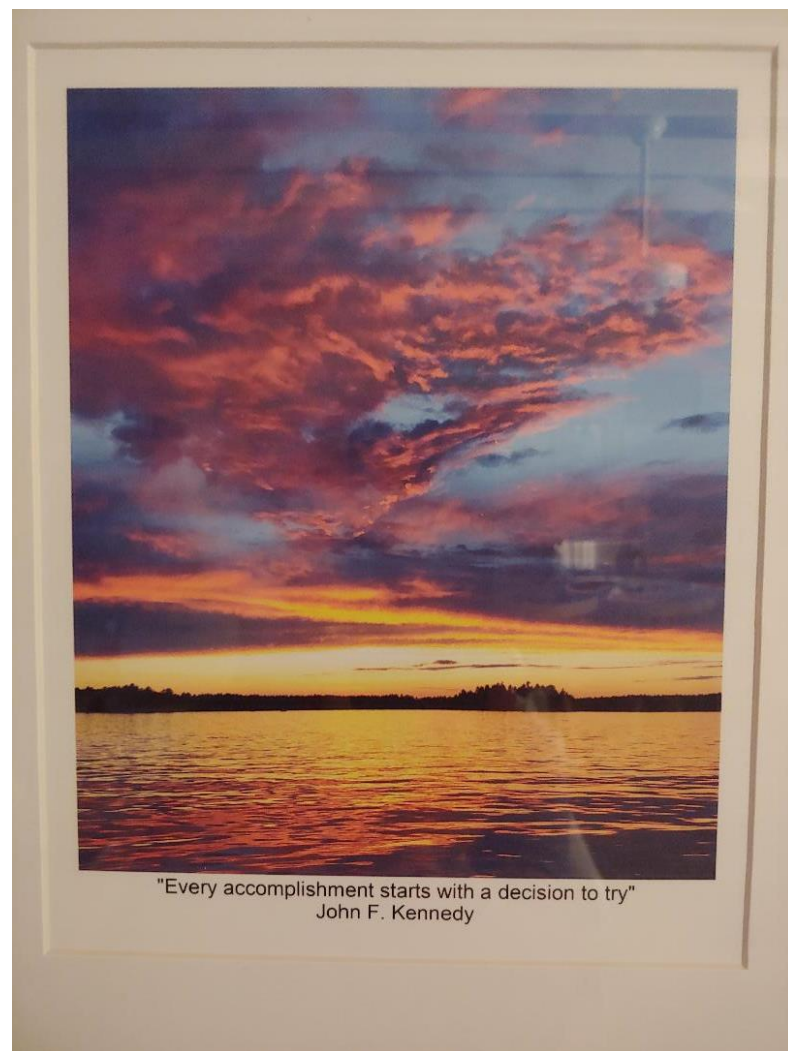
- **Approval of July 6, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes published on website August 2019.

## Unsung Hero 2020 – Kim Lajoie

This year we present the “Unsung Hero Award” to an outstanding volunteer on our lake. This Award is given to an individual who goes above and beyond giving greatly of their time, their energy, their expertise and their commitment. The board and its members are proud and honored to work with this volunteer.

Thank you, Paul McNulty



## Closing Remarks – Owen Smith

- **Shorter Term** – The Covid-19 pandemic makes for challenging times. During these times WLA volunteers will continue to
  - Manage and maintain the dam
  - Monitor water quality and invasives
  - Report on loon health
  - Address other issues as they come up.
- **Longer Term**
  - Make the most of our watershed protection plan, and hopefully make full use of any associated grants
  - Increase our pool of strategic funds via Stewardship program
- **Volunteers needed and welcomed!**

Thank you! Your time today and throughout the year is a gift to the lake and all who use it.



**Thank you!**

Courtesy Eileen Burnell