

Squam Lakes Natural Science Center

2022 Annual Meeting for Members

Saturday, August 13, 2022

Attendance: 34

- The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Board chair Justin Van Etten.
 - Justin thanked people for being there and talked about the past 2.5 years. It is a testament to the organization, staff, volunteers, trustees, donors and everyone that there is so much support for the Science Center.
- The 2021 Annual Meeting minutes were motioned for approval by Lisa Aulet, seconded by Emily Preston. The 2021 minutes were approved.
- Justin introduced Anne R. Lovett for the 2021 Financial Report.
 - Anne reviewed the key indicators and noted that 2019 was a year of record trail attendance and that 2021 was the second highest trail attendance in Science Center history. It was a good rebound year with strong attendance, donations, and investments.
 - Anne specifically gave kudos to Justin in his time as Board chair for having the pulse on Covid as things constantly shifted.
 - Anne also thanked Dick Starbuck for his time as chair of the investment committee.
 - Anne thanked Kevin Barrett as chair of the audit subcommittee for a clean Audit performed by Malone, Dirubbo, & Co.
 - Anne thanked Brian Eaton for stewarding the finances of the Science Center so well.
- Justin honored the retiring trustees and thanked them for their service including Laurie Beeson, Laurie Burke, Ken Evans, Emily Preston, and Dick Starbuck. Each retiring trustee was presented with a small gift.
- Justin introduced the trustees nominated to serve another three-year term including Kevin Barrett, Sarah Brown, and Anne Lovett. Lisa Bennett motioned for approval, seconded by Martha Grant. The trustees were unanimously approved.
- Justin introduced the new trustees nominated to serve a three-year term including Lisa Doner, Cris Salomon, and Frank Stevens. Anne Lovett motioned for approval, seconded by Geoff Steward. The trustees were unanimously approved.
- Justin introduced the slate of trustee officers including Sarah Brown, Chair; Justin Van Etten, Vice Chair; Anne R. Lovett, Treasurer; and Susan Lynch, Secretary. Diane Garfield motioned for approval, seconded by Sandy McGinness. The officers were unanimously approved.
- Sarah Brown introduced Executive Director Iain MacLeod commenting that Iain has a unique mix of talents with a broad base for what we do at the Science Center.
- Iain MacLeod recognized staff milestones including:
 - Kim Beardwood Smith, Development Officer, 5 years
 - Sarah Wall, Visitor Services Manager, 5 years
 - Carol Raymond, Volunteer Manager, 15 years

- Ian presented the Horizon Award to (a very surprised) Ken Evans.
 - Ken joined the Board in 2013 and was elected Treasurer that same year. In 2016 he was elected Board Chair and served in that role for three years. During that time, he chaired the Strategic Planning Committee and then served as Capital Campaign chair for the very successful Education Matters Campaign that resulted in the opening of the Early Childhood Education Center (home of the Blue Heron School), the new Lake Cruise HQ and the new Raptor Exhibit.
 - Ken's steady hand helped guide us through the acquisition of the "channel property" — site for the Lake Cruise HQ, as well as the sale of the Holderness Inn. Ken's dedication to the Science Center has been an inspiration to many.
- Ian talked about the previous year and specific achievements including:
 - 2021 was a bounce-back year after the craziness of year one of Covid. We had a strong financial year; visitors came back in great numbers, donor support was outstanding, staff remained generally healthy and once again showed a lot of resiliency and adaptability through this difficult time. Let me just take a moment to recognize all of the staff for enduring the last two years with patience and stamina and a "roll with the punches" attitude. You all make me proud every day. Thank you to all our wonderful staff.
 - One of the highlights of last year was the opening of the new Raptor Exhibit, one the centerpieces of the Education Matters Campaign. Visitors loved the new exhibits, particularly the migration flyway and giant owl sound dishes.
 - Blue Heron School completed its Covid school year of virtual learning in June 2021 and thankfully went back to in-person learning in September. A huge hats off the Blue Heron staff for navigating through a very challenging time and thanks to the students and parents for their team spirit.
 - School field trips came back in the spring, although we still had protocols in place to limit the numbers and all programs were taught outside in this structure which we repurposed into an outdoor classroom. Our talented education staff adapted yet again to presenting educational and engaging programs with live animals in different ways.
 - Our Winged Wonders Summer Splash, which was a virtual event, was a lot of fun. But we were all so pleased to come back together again in person this year (more on that in a second).
 - Another highlight last year was the visit of the Caterpillar Lab at the beginning of August. They were great! I'm delighted to report that they will be visiting again this year beginning on August 24.
 - In November, we started phase one of our major solar array project. Our goal is to install enough solar panels to offset 100% of our electric use on the campus. The first phase saw the installation of 68 panels on the roof of the Blue Heron School. Phase 2 which will start in September will be the installation of another 240 panels in between the main parking lots. We have raised more than \$300,000 in grants and donor gifts for that project.
 - At the end of December, we said a fond farewell to Janet Robertson after 31 years with us.
 - 2022 has been another busy year with several major achievements.

- In May we opened the Celebrate Birds building again after a couple years of refurbishment. It's clear that our two Black-crowned Night-herons feel right at home in their lovely new enclosure and quickly demonstrated that they are a male and a female . . . they have been busy building nests and courting all summer long. Love is in the air.
- I am thrilled to have published the Birds of the Squam Lakes Region after three years of collaboration with Bob Ridgely and Ken Klapper. Get you copy if you haven't already.
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- In May we said farewell to Brenda Erler after more than 40 years with the Science Center. We were delighted to welcome their daughter Emma to the team to continue the Erler legacy.
- Our "gala" committee decided to try something very different this year as a return to in-person summer gatherings. This new Summer Family Picnic was a great success and attracted a lot of families and new attendees. 250 people enjoyed food, games, live animals and music.
- I was able to return to Scotland again in May leading one of my very popular Hebrides Tours after two years of Covid postponements. I already have two full trips in 2023 and two in 2024 . . . so get on the list soon for 2025.
- Iain introduced Sarah Brown to talk about the Strategic Plan
 - Sarah talked about the Strategic Planning process and speaking to different constituents. There are four high level priorities including:
 - Be top notch stewards of the animals. Our goal in this key area is to showcase local species in engaging ways that (a) increase understanding of their behaviors and habitats, and (b) teach about ways to ensure their future well-being. In so doing, we aim to exemplify humane, state-of-the art animal care, enrichment, and stewardship.
 - Address climate change. Our goal is to help equip both young people and adults with scientific evidence and understanding that will enable them to take intelligent, effective action.
 - Be welcoming to a wide variety of individuals, groups, and families.
 - Secure the Science Center's financial future with the goal of both cherishing our existing supporters and also engaging additional people, families, groups and sectors in the Science Center's magic.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.