



Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589-0173
July 2026

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President's Message ~ John Bottorff

Annual Dinner Meeting

Thanks to everyone who attended the ***FOLKS*** annual meeting. I want to thank Anne Meisner, Deb Kundert, Mike Krueger, George Corrigan, and Shari Krueger for the work they did on planning, setting up, and conducting the meeting. The Trivia Contest was fun and we learned information about ***FOLKS*** projects and Lake Kegonsa. Also, thanks to the Stoughton County Club and their staff. The food, drinks, and service were great.

2026 *FOLKS* membership renewal & recruiting new members – we need your help

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership. We also need your help to recruit new members. There are a number of new residents around the lake who may have recently purchased a home or built a new home and moved to Lake Kegonsa. ***FOLKS*** does not

readily have contact information for those people. Also, some longer term lake residents may not have joined – maybe because they do not know much about **FOLKS** or just have not gotten around to joining. Please talk to your friends and neighbors and encourage them to join. The best way to recruit new members is person-to-person invitations and discussions.

FOLKS annual membership dues are only \$20 per household and \$30 for businesses. Thanks to businesses for their membership and other support. Our quarterly newsletter is normally sent via e-mail. If you ask for it to be mailed, the cost is an additional \$10 for the entire year. Many of our members make an additional donation along with their annual dues. That extra support is appreciated. Our annual dues are lower than any other area lake association (although they are all good organizations as well). **FOLKS** depends on your contributions to fund our wide variety of programs and services. But more importantly, we want members to join so that they can utilize our educational and communications programs to be involved and well informed about issues affecting them and their lake.

What does *FOLKS* do for our members?

The mission of **FOLKS** is to protect and enhance the environmental and recreational values of Lake Kegonsa and its surroundings. We are an all-volunteer, non-profit lake association that serves our members. Volunteerism by the Board of Directors and our members helps keep our expenses low.

Among our popular and visible programs and services are pier pick-up program, educational & social events, roadside leaf collection in the Fall, quarterly newsletters, Lake Alert e-mails on current happenings, wildlife habitat improvements, Fish Camp Park enhancements, and many more. We work with Dane County Land & Water Resources Department to schedule, support, and keep you informed about the aquatic plant harvesting program.

What is not as visible are **FOLKS** efforts by working closely on lake issues with governmental organizations such as Dane County Land and Water Resources Department (LWRD), Dane County Parks, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Town of Dunn, Town of Pleasant Springs and other governmental organizations. We work with the University of Wisconsin Department of Limnology. We cooperate and communicate with other lake associations such as Clean Lakes Alliance, Yahara Lakes Association, and Lake Waubesa Conservation Association on projects of mutual interest. **FOLKS** is one of your connections to those lake resources.

There's something for everyone on Lake Kegonsa: boating, fishing, skiing, swimming, tubing, wildlife viewing, kayaking, canoeing, and much more. Visit the **FOLKS** website for more information on our projects and member services. [FOLKS website](#)

**Please update your membership and recruit your neighbors.
FOLKS appreciates your support!**

2026 *FOLKS* Membership

Have you renewed your membership for 2026? Do you have a new neighbor who would like to join **FOLKS**? Our membership dues remain \$20 per household (+\$10 for newsletter if it is

mailed). Your membership dues make the projects highlighted in this newsletter and a number of other services possible. If you know of neighbors who are not members, please explain membership benefits and ask them to join **FOLKS** for the \$20 membership dues. If you choose, you can make an additional donation to **FOLKS** with the payment of your dues. Please renew or join today!!! Thanks for your support.

Renew or Join online	Mail a check
https://www.kegonsa.org/membershipsubscriptions	Friends of Lake Kegonsa - FOLKS P.O. Box 713 Stoughton, WI 53589

2026 Annual Meeting

This year's annual **FOLKS** meeting was held on June 6th at the Stoughton Country Club. Approximately 71 people attended. The educational speaker this year was Jake Vander Zanden, Director for the Center for Limnology and Professor in the University of Wisconsin Department of Integrative Biology. Jake's presentation covered research by the University of Wisconsin on an aquatic invasive species, the Spiny Water Flea in Lake Mendota, emphasizing how environmental changes affect its presence and influence on the lake. The Board also welcomed the Committee to Preserve Lot 3 who had a table to answer questions and promote their work to preserve this property. **FOLKS** has committed to matching individual donations up to \$40,000 in support of this project. The keynote speaker was followed by John Bottorff's annual report to the membership where he announced the retirement of two board members, Janice Kellogg and Melissa Whittinghill. John also provided a summary of projects completed by **FOLKS** in 2025 and 2026 planned projects and ongoing programs. Finally, the membership reelected six incumbent Board Members to a two-year term as follows: George Corrigan, Mike Krueger, Anne Meisner, Andy Graham, Shari Krueger, and Christine McNerney.



Community Effort Underway to Protect Lake Kegonsa - Update

In the April **FOLKS** newsletter and a recent Lake Alert, we communicated about the Preservation of Lot 3 Sunnyside project and committed to keep you updated. The project is making good progress and recently achieved a major milestone with the Dane County Park Commission toward its fundraising efforts.

To briefly summarize the project, the Committee to Preserve Lot 3, a group of lake residents and **FOLKS** members, is working to purchase an eight-acre parcel located adjacent to Lake Kegonsa on Sunnyside Street (Lot 3). They have an accepted offer by the owner of \$920,00. The property will be donated to a land conservation trust which will keep it in its natural state for perpetuity. The property is adjacent to Lake Kegonsa and directly borders Lake Kegonsa State Park, Lower Yahara River Trail, and Door Creek Wildlife Area. Preserving this land will protect an important connection point between existing public lands, preserve wildlife habitat, protect a historic Native American site, and help safeguard the surrounding watershed and Lake Kegonsa. One of the most important factors considered by **FOLKS** is that the contour of this property carries rain run-off containing phosphorous, nitrogen, and other nutrients directly into Lake Kegonsa which is detrimental to water quality. Housing development on this particular property would increase impervious surfaces such as streets, roofs, sidewalks, patios, decks, etc. which do not absorb rainwater and would contribute to poor water quality. Leaving this property in its natural state will absorb and filter rainwater much better before it enters the lake. To be clear, **FOLKS** is not opposed to housing development. However, we believe that it is in the best interest of Lake Kegonsa and residents not to develop on this particular property because of its size, unique location, and topography carrying run-off into the lake.

Dane County Park Commission Grant Recommendation

On June 12, the Lot 3 Preservation Committee was notified that the Dane County Park Commission had recommended approval of a grant from the Dane County Conservation Fund. The tentative grant award is for 50% of total project costs in the amount of \$464,280. This amount may change based on updated project costs and cost eligibility review. The tentative grant award is contingent on the Lot 3 Committee raising 50% matching funds. It requires passage of a resolution by the Dane County Board and approval by the Dane County Executive which is expected to happen.

Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society (FOLKS) pledges a matching donation

In response to a funding request from the Lot 3 Committee, Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society (FOLKS) has agreed to match up to a maximum of \$40,000 for all donations made by individuals from May 27 to July 31, 2026. This is consistent with the FOLKS mission to project the environmental and recreational values of Lake Kegonsa and its surroundings.

Please help achieve the fundraising goal!

The Lot 3 Committee needs donations from individuals to meet the final phase of the 50% matching funds required under the tentative Dane County grant. As of mid-June, they have raised over \$742,000 including the Dane County Conservation Fund grant, **FOLKS** matching

donation, and other donations and pledges from individuals and organizations. To reach their final goal, they still need to raise about \$172,000 by August 12, 2026. Closing of the sale is scheduled for August 19, 2026. If they do not reach their goal, all donations will be returned to donors (less applicable credit card fees). We encourage you to make a generous donation to this worthwhile project. Clean Lakes Alliance is serving as the fiscal sponsor for the project. Information on how to donate is on this website link. [Preserve Lot 3 Sunnyside - Clean Lakes Alliance](https://www.cleanlakesalliance.org/donate/preserve-lot-3-sunnyside/) Thank you in advance for your support of the project.

How to Support the Effort

Tax-deductible donations supporting the purchase of the land can be made through Clean Lakes Alliance which is serving as the fiscal agent for the Lot 3 Preservation Committee. Here's how to make a donation or pledge.

Online		Check
Clean Lakes Alliance Preserve Lot 3 Sunnyside - Clean Lakes Alliance: https://www.cleanlakesalliance.org/donate/preserve-lot-3-sunnyside/		Designate "Preserve Lot 3 Sunnyside" in the <i>Memo</i> section & mail it to: Clean Lakes Alliance 150 E. Gilman St., Suite 2600 Madison, WI 53703
Pledge - contact one of the Lot 3 Committee officers		
Jeff Zoeller - President (773) 578-0413 ifzoeller@gmail.com	Kim Walz - Secretary (608) 279-6444 kwalz99@gmail.com	Scott Haumersen - Treasurer (608) 669-4950 Scott.Haumersen@cpa.com

Lake Kegonsa Chosen to Provide History of Lake Ice Event Data

Dr. Sapna Sharma and her research assistant, Faith Ferrato, wrote an article for LakeLine, a quarterly publication for those interested in lake management, discussing the importance of community scientist's efforts and highlighting the history of lake ice data collection on five lakes. Dr. Sharma is a Limnologist and a Professor and Research Chair at York University. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Limnology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is the lead at the Community Lake Ice Collaboration (CLIC) which compiles ice event data for lakes throughout Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, New York, and Maine. Dr. Sharma and Ms. Ferrato interviewed Cathie Taylor, past **FOLKS** recorder for ice events, and Deb Kundert, current **FOLKS** recorder for this article.

FOLKS was honored to be one of the community scientists organization chosen to provide the history of lake ice event data collection on Lake Kegonsa. We recognize the efforts by Doug and Ardys Pfundheller and Sheryl Renslo, Lake Kegonsa's earliest citizen scientists, who initiated the interest and invested time for years to obtain this important data. As with many lakes, some individuals have not been able to continue their efforts. Dr. Sharma explained that this has occurred over time as they have seen a reduction in lakes that submit data. **FOLKS** is proud to have taken on this responsibility and will be able to provide ice event data from Lake Kegonsa

to the scientific data base for years to come. See article in the Spring 2026 issue:
<https://www.nalms.org/product/lakeline-46-1-volunteer-monitoring/>

View Scopes are Up and Ready for Viewing!

FOLKS was excited this spring to purchase three Hi-Spy high magnification binoculars for Fish Camp County Park. A viewer is located at the bump out on the boardwalk where views of either the lake or the Osprey nest can be enjoyed.

Another dual model viewer is located on the accessible fishing pier at Fish Camp Park. This model features a standard binocular and a lower ADA compliant binocular. With the location of this scope by the Yahara outlet, many birds, waterfowl and even turtles can be viewed.



Thanks to Dane County Parks for installing the viewers and to the **FOLKS** Fisheries and Wildlife and Committee members including Deb Kundert, Anne Meisner and Mike Krueger, pictured above. Visit Fish Camp Park to use these views.

***FOLKS* Spring Educational Native American Event "Walk with Me Among My Homelands"**

This year's spring event was held on Saturday, April 11 at Springers on Lake Kegonsa. The program, titled, "Walk with Me Among My Homelands", was presented by Janice Rice who is a Tribal Clan Mother and member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, and a Lake Kegonsa resident. Janice is also an emerita UW Academic Librarian as well as an activist, environmentalist and educator. We were pleased to welcome approximately 90 attendees to this wonderful event which featured Ho-Chunk culture, history, and arts in our area. In addition to Janice's keynote presentation, other members of the Ho-Chunk Nation participated, including Bill Quackenbush, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Cultural Resources Division Manager. Bill brought his 22-foot dugout canoe and shared his journey of both constructing this canoe and actually navigating it on the four lakes, known as "Teejop" in the Ho-Chunk culture. Participants were able to share in the rich oral history from these two tribal elders who discussed what Lake Kegonsa and the surrounding lakes may have looked like when the Ho-Chunk nation populated its shores and surrounding woodlands thousands of years ago. We also were fortunate to have three Ho-Chunk artisans, Lillian WhiteEagle, Chris Sweet and Chrissy Shegonee, some of whom

are artists in the Little Eagle Arts Foundation. They displayed artwork featuring native themes and beadwork and regalia used in Ho-Chunk powwows and other ceremonies.



Art Sculpture Installed at Fish Camp Park



During May, a large wood sculpture "We Will Miss the Water" by artist and sculptor Thorsten Schütt was installed at Fish Camp Park by the Dane County Parks Department. The art piece also contains a wooden plaque where the artist describes the meaning of the sculpture. It was carved by the German artist as part of the 2024 Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival held in Monona, Wisconsin. It was donated to Dane County Parks and had previously been on display at Olbrich Park. The piece, with a height of over 11 feet, was crafted from white oak and is intended to remind people of the precious value of water and our area's aquatic connection. Given the subject matter, it seemed fitting for the piece to be installed near the water and Fish Camp Park was selected as the site. Dane County Parks asked **FOLKS** to be involved in its placement and maintenance involving sealing it with UV protective oil every two years. The Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival commemorates prominent and award winning sculptor Harry Whitehorse (1927-2017), a Native American member of the Ho-Chuck Nation, who dedicated his lifetime to creating meaningful art. The sculpture is located along the walking path just east of the boat launch ramp. Visit Fish Camp Park to see and learn more about the sculpture.

2026 Aquatic Debris Pier Pick-up Program

FOLKS works in cooperation with the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department (LWRD) to provide pick-up of aquatic debris from the end of piers around Lake Kegonsa. The program kicked-off in June. This year pick-up days will be Monday through Thursday. LWRD staff will not be on the lake on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. As in prior years, if you have your debris on your pier by Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m., it will be picked up that week.

The 2026 schedule is as follows:

- June 15 through June 18
- June 29 through July 2 (pre 4th of July pick-up)
- July 13 through July 16
- July 27 through July 30
- August 10 through August 13
- August 24 through August 27 (NEW this year for pre-Labor Day pick up)
- September 8 through September 10 (post Labor Day pick up)

Reminder of rules for aquatic debris pick-up:

- The barge crew will cover all of Lake Kegonsa and Yahara River residences on Orvold Park Drive, Alsmo Lane, and Fish Camp Road.
- The barge will be on the lake and start picking up on Monday of each week. The deadline on Lake Kegonsa for having debris on your pier is Tuesday at 7:00 a.m. for material to be picked up. The barge crew will make ONE complete pass around the lake and river. It usually takes the barge crew three or four days to make a complete pass. Please have all debris out by Tuesday morning or you may get missed. It will take the crew a few days to get to your pier, so be patient. The crew will end its work by Thursday or earlier if it has covered the entire lake.
- Place debris at the end of your pier so that the barge can safely and easily access it. If the water is too shallow at the end of your pier, the crew will not be able to perform the pickup.
- Material ALLOWED – LWRD allows residents to place lake vegetation on the end of their piers for collection. The pick-up service will collect only aquatic vegetation and other debris that either grows in the water or has washed up on shore from the lake.
- Material NOT ALLOWED — LWRD does not collect yard waste (garbage or pet waste), household waste, brush, limbs, grass clippings, or material growing on land and not the water (including material growing on your shore but not in the water). This type of material interferes with and can damage conveyors used for the offloading. If any of these materials are found, the entire load will not be collected and all material will be left on your pier with a placard explaining why. In other words, the program only removes vegetation that comes out of the lake.

FOLKS sends messages throughout the season to remind members of pickup weeks and the schedule is posted on our website and the LWRD website. This program helps the lake by keeping vegetation out of the water and helping you keep your shoreline and the lake clean. We hope to have another successful year and encourage you to utilize the program. Contact Dave Gilles, Program Chairperson, if you have questions.

Water Quality Sampling, Testing, and Reporting

FOLKS cannot control water levels, water quality, and aquatic plant growth – Mother Nature does that. However, **FOLKS** volunteers operate programs to monitor water quality, collect water samples for laboratory testing, and report water conditions. Water samples and other measurements are also taken. These programs are carried out in cooperation with Clean Lakes Alliance (CLA), Rock River Coalition (RRC) utilizing the Madison Metropolitan Sewer District laboratory and Wisconsin Hygiene Laboratory.

The Clean Lakes Alliance Program (CLA) is called “End-of-the-Pier” water monitoring and is done weekly around the lake from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Some volunteers sample until the end of September. The results are reported to the CLA website called Lake Forecast. CLA uses this information, along with the “deep hole” test data, to analyze lake conditions weekly and to publish its annual Lake Guide. The information is available to you on the Clean Lakes Alliance website. [CLA Lake Forecast](#)

The Rock River Coalition Program (RRC) tests and takes measurements at sites where water flows into the lake from the Yahara River and Door Creek and where water flows out of the lake into the Yahara River below LaFollette Dam. Water sampling and measurements are also taken at the deepest part of the lake (“deep hole”) and used by both water monitoring programs. Measurements include air temperature, water temperature, water clarity using a turbidity tube, and dissolved oxygen. Sampling and testing is done on a monthly basis, 12 months per year, unless the site is frozen over during the winter. This data is reported to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources data base called SWIMS (Surface Water Information and Management System) for analysis, study, and lake management.

Save the Date!

FOLKS is excited to bring our members several events this spring and summer! Save the date on your calendar! You won't want to miss these events!



Tuesday, July 14 9-10:30 AM (21 rain date) “Everything Bumble Bee” - a misunderstood pollinator ”

A small group educational program led by Maggie Honig, Bumble Bee Ambassador for Wisconsin DNR, learning about Wisconsin Bumble Bees, how to identify different species, and Bumble Bee conservation practices. **PLEASE** sign-up for the event on **FOLKS** website: <https://www.kegonsa.org/event-details/everything-bumblebee>

Boating Safety Education

Boating season is in full swing and **FOLKS** wants to remind you about safe boating practices so that everyone can enjoy recreation on Lake Kegonsa in a safe manner. Please share Lake Kegonsa responsibly and safely with boaters, kayakers, fishermen, swimmers, skiers, and others. Let's have a great boating season by respecting everyone's right to use the lake safely and enjoyably. Thank you for your cooperation and support!

Learn the rules of boating

Wisconsin law regulates the operation of motorboats and personal watercraft and specifies age requirements for the operation of a motorboat or personal watercraft:

WHO MAY OPERATE A BOAT

- A person younger than 10 years may not operate a motorboat.
- A person 10 or 11 years old may operate a motorboat only if accompanied by a parent, a guardian or a person at least 18 years old who is designated by the parent or guardian AND the parent, guardian or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate or was born before January 1, 1989.
- A person 12-15 years old may operate a motorboat only if:
 - They are accompanied by a parent, a guardian or a person at least 18 years old who is designated by the parent or guardian AND the parent, guardian or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate or was born before January 1, 1989 OR...
 - They have completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR.
- A person who was born on or after January 1, 1989, and who is 16 years of age or older may operate a motorboat only if:
 - They have completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the Wisconsin DNR OR...
 - They are accompanied by another person in the motorboat who is at least 18 years of age AND that person holds a valid boating safety certificate or was born before January 1, 1989.

WHO MAY OPERATE A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

- No one under the age of 12 may operate, lease or rent a personal watercraft.
- No one under the age of 16 may rent or lease a personal watercraft.
- Children at least 12 years of age may operate a personal watercraft if they have successfully completed the DNR prescribed boating safety course and possess a boating safety certificate issued by the Wisconsin DNR or another state. Adult supervision is not a substitute for a certificate.

BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has an excellent boating safety education course that is required for anyone born after January 1, 1989 to complete and receive a certified boating safety card. The course provides valuable educational information for people beginning to operate motorboats and personal watercraft to learn safe boating practices. The link below will take you to boater education course information on the DNR website. Go to

the Boating tab to find links to classes.

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/safetyEducation>

Law Enforcement

Dane County Sheriff deputies, who are part of the Marine Enforcement Bureau, periodically conduct routine patrols on Lake Kegonsa to assure safety for lake users. They are dispatched to the lake in the event of an emergency. They can issue citations for violations and also investigate complaints. If anyone encounters an emergency or witnesses a boating violation on Lake Kegonsa, please call 911 to report the issue. The Sheriff and **FOLKS** hope that citations are not needed and encourages everyone to follow safety rules and respect everyone on the lake.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website

Water Levels and Dam Openings

Check the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department website for the most current lake levels and dam status information: <https://lwr.danecounty.gov/Lake-Levels>

***FOLKS* 2026 Calendar of Events**

Date	Activity
June 29 - July 2	Aquatic debris pick-up
July 13 - July 16	Aquatic debris pick-up
July 14, 2026	DNR Everything Bumble Bee
July 27 - July 30	Aquatic debris pick-up
August 10 - August 13	Aquatic debris pick-up
August 24 - August 27	Aquatic debris pick-up
September 8 - September 10	Aquatic debris pick-up

Next *FOLKS* board meeting: July 14th

Please Shop and Support *FOLKS* Fabulous Business Members

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james@cleanlakesalliance.com
PeterSveum@coldwellhomes.com
(608)575-1054
PO Box 301, Stoughton WI 53589
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Yahara Lakes Association, Ltd.

hammeritconstruction@gmail.com

(608)205-7669

jdhellenbrand@yahoo.com

(608) 513-0690

(608) 222-9504

kari@sprinkmanrealestate.com

(608) 516-3758

kegonsadock@gmail.com

lksc.com

Sen.Ratcliff@legis.wisconsin.gov

www.menzelsamish.com

engelberger.michael@countyofdane.com

noshortselectric@gmail.com

(608) 873-5197

miles@countyofdane.com

(608) 873-3366

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Susan Sutton, Realtor,

s.suttongroup@gmail.com

aquaticweedremovers@gmail.com

(608) 873-9266

305 Industrial Circle, Stoughton WI 53589

drthaneanderson@tds.net

doghutcare.com (608) 838-2470

3039 Shadyside Dr., Stoughton WI 53589

1605 Monroe St., Madison, WI 53711

1314 Canal St., Black Earth, WI 53515

4156 County Hwy B, McFarland WI 53558

2354 County Rd N, Stoughton WI 53589

ttopshop@frontier.com (815) 335-7058

6401 Monona Drive, Monona WI 53716

2364 Jackson St, Stoughton, WI 53589

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 SHOE STORE

Black Earth, WI 53515

**THE
BARGAIN BOX**
 Shoe Box

Madison Night Mares

**FOLKS OFFICERS AND
BOARD MEMBERS
2025**

John Bottorff

George Corrigan

Anne Meisner

Deb Kundert

Mike Krueger

Dave Gilles

Mike Moss

Chris McNerney

Shari Krueger

Email kegonsafolks@gmail.com to
connect with the Board

Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589

For More About **FOLKS**,

Visit our website at www.Kegonsa.org and

on Facebook  at facebook.com/kegonsa/

Please Support Your Lake Association - Renew
Your **FOLKS** Membership.

This year's dues remain \$20.00 for households
and \$30.00 for businesses.

If you have any questions regarding
membership, please send a message to
kegonsafolks@gmail.com

Send news of interest to **FOLKS**:

P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589 or
kegonsafolks@gmail.com

Published four times yearly by The Friends of
Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc. (**FOLKS**)

The opinions and information expressed in this
publication are for general information only. Its
authors and publisher do not represent that
information herein is the official position of any
agency or governmental unit.

FOLKS Lost and Found

List lost and found items on the Website
(www.kegonsa.org) or Facebook page

FOLKS board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month except for a
couple of months in the winter. The public is always welcome.

Next Board Meeting is July 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM, Stoughton Country Club

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P.O. Box 173
Stoughton, WI 53589