



PO Box 143 Piermont, NH 03779
www.lakearmington.org

Minutes Lake Armington Association Annual Meeting Kate Merritt's House - September 17, 2022

Polly Tafrate brought the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and we adjourned at 5:40 pm.

LAA Board Members elected for the next year 2023 are:

Lynn Dennison, Polly Tafrate, and Alice Wellington, Co-presidents; Kate Merritt, treasurer; Lisa McGiffert, recording secretary; Arline Cochrane, corresponding secretary. Carolyn Dorfman and Ken Settel renewed 2-year terms; Sam Rounds, banking administration and Deborah Jensen begin 2 year terms (Deborah replaces James Jensen as board member); all other members are the same as the previous year. See www.lakearmington.org for all Board and Project/Team Leaders.

Kate Merritt Treasurer Report

In 2021 our income was good because we had two Walt Whitman Camp donations totaling \$3500 (for 2 years); otherwise our intake from dues was down while donations were up. For 2022, our net income and budget was level for 2022. We collected \$1800 in dues. Expenses are up by 4%. Lake Host cost is \$7800. All of our costs are increasing, so in 2023 we will likely need to increase dues (for example to \$25 for individuals and \$50 for families); this is not yet done, but may have to do this. We have \$16,000 in the bank now plus what we receive today in donations.

Linda Kline Weed Watchers Report

Some Phragmites (Common Reed) has been found on the lake. It is a small outbreak, but the plant is invasive and outlawed, so we must eradicate it. There is a small patch on the water, but we cannot pull it out. It has to be removed by professionals without disturbance, as it spreads via rhizomes. In 2013/2014 we had some on the lake and treated it. The plan is to do this quickly. A contract will be approved by the board; it will be expensive, but we have a rainy-day fund to cover it. We have loons on the lake this summer, but none were nesting.

Mike Poole Water Quality Report

The July and August numbers were fine and the state was happy when they checked in June. As he reported earlier in the summer, the transparency of the water is back to a prior status a few years ago. The lake water level is lower than normal due to lack of rain. Testing for e-coli bacteria was done as usual in August and details are forth coming. Some lake quality reports are available on a state website <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1f45dc20877b4b959239b8a4a60ef540>.

The NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES identified Lake Armington to join a study of changes in lake levels that's run by the Lake Observations by Citizen Scientists & Satellites (LOCSS) group and funded by NASA. A lake water level gauge was installed for this study near the dam. Mike Poole and

Tim Donelon monitor its measurements and send them to their LOCSS contact at UMass Amherst. See www.lakearmington.org and www.locss.org for more info.

Lake Host program

We had a good year with the workers doing a good job. They did over 400 inspections and it is still going on. Overall in the state of NH, lake hosts found six bad plants (statewide, not on Lake Armington).

Tote bags for fundraising.

We now have tote bags for sale; they are canvas with a zipper and sell for \$25. Hats are also available for \$20. See Lynn DeMerchant.

Lake Tarleton Project Report - Bob Dennison

The U.S. Forest Service and the Standing Trees environmental group have held Zoom meetings about the Lake Tarleton Project. The Forest Service did an assessment, based on information from 20 years ago. They are talking to Standing Trees, a nonprofit weighing in on the report, and are having continued discussions with those concerned. The Forest Service's point of view is to use 880 acres for logging. Want to thin out and do some clear cutting, but in a limited way. They want to eliminate invasive trees and to build a landing for Lake Katherine.

The argument against the project is that this is a pristine area and should be preserved. All information is on the LAA website home page www.lakearmington.org including links to the report and presentations by all positions.

A lively discussion ensued with the following comments captured: The Lake Tarleton Coalition meetings are being held on the first Tuesday of each month that people may attend. They want minimal changes. The Forest Service wants to open the understory. The work would only be done in the winter (December or November), so the work will not start this winter. One issue is that there will be more boating on Lake Katherine with a landing but without a clean station and no lake hosts. Everyone is against the cut through (including the AT) which is now 100 feet (was 50 feet before). This would leave no protected scenic areas west of I-93, so many are pushing for a designation of "scenic areas." The Forest Service is still talking about using herbicides and when they came to meetings, didn't realize it was downhill. Streams that feed into Lake Tarleton are not even listed - a lot to still discuss. There was overwhelming opposition in the comments received. The Forest Service has a right to reassess in 15 years, then 20 years. Everyone is waiting for mid-term elections to see what the politicians say. A lawsuit is expected if they decide to go through with this.

Neither Lake Tarleton Association nor the Lake Armington Association are taking a position at this point. There is one holdout in the Lake Tarleton Association. Individuals were encouraged to take a position and pay attention to this since the lakes are so closely related.

Remembering LAA members who have passed this year

Three members of the Lake died this year: Marg Light, Lou Faustini, and Chris McGiffert. Memories were shared about all of them. They will be missed.

Kate Merritt moved to close the meeting and Lisa McGiffert seconded the motion. The meeting was ended at 5:40 pm.

Signed by Lisa McGiffert, Recording Secretary