

Lake Armington Association Meeting

7/30/22

The meeting was called to order at 10:35am by Polly Tafrate at the home of Kathy and Stan Soloway

Treasurer Report - Kate Merritt: In 2021 we did well financially because we had two Camp Walt Whitman contributions (for 2 years); our expenses were higher than our budget; net income of more than \$4000, which is not normal. 2022 budget is similar but our expenses continue to increase (e.g., website, portable potties); now our dues and donations cover the budget but at some point we may need to increase the dues.

Camp Walt Whitman update - Rob Shear: They have a full camp - 425 campers, full staff and full programs. They just opened the pool this weekend due to renovations that were delayed from last year. They had no parents' weekend for the second year in a row and he likes that. Family camp this year will begin on Aug 15 and run through Aug 19 (M-F). Camp opening was delayed due to COVID cases during training of staff. Bugles now are working - automated. Hiking trail to Mt Piermont is open; people should park at the top of the road near the camp entrance and should sign in. Some logging was done over the past year but didn't affect the trail and you can still get to Beaver Pond.

Weed Watching program - Linda Kline: Good weeds are growing and volunteers are looking out for milfoil, which is not on our lake or on Tarleton. We have a lot of grass, bladderworts - all are fine. Thanks to the volunteer weed watchers.

Lake Host Program - Lynn DeMerchant: Arline took over the administrative work for the lake host and was presented a hat of thanks. Kathy Soloway work was also acknowledged. The program was described to the group; it is partially funded by a grant (NH Lakes, a nonprofit but the funds may have originally come from the state) but mostly (82%) funded by LAA; dues/donations; they check boats coming in/out of the lake; the checking is voluntary and intended to be educational, to make people aware of invasive species that can be carried from lake to lake. We also have a volunteer match from CWW; anyone can volunteer; check with Arline for training; LAA has already met our match requirement for volunteer hours.

Fundraising - LAA hats are still available for \$20, we have 26 left. There was a suggestion to do tote bags in the future with embroidery; there was some interest in these by those attending.

Water quality report - Mike Poole: Everything is good, lake transparency good; In June/July water was back to the numbers in 2016 - took us 6 years.

Lake Tarleton Project Report - Ken Settler: The Forest Service issued a report and the comment period is over. No decision has been made. This does have impact on Lake Armington, Lake Catherine and Cape Moonshine Road. The LAA has not taken a position on the plan, but numerous members wrote state legislators and received responses.

The Forest Service will hold a zoom meeting with LAA to review the report's recommendations on Wed. 8/3/22 at 6:30pm. Must register before the meeting to get the link. Another presentation will be scheduled later by other groups - the Lake Tarleton Coalition made up of environmental groups, local and another state group, Standing Trees (focused on forest preservation) to give another perspective. The plan is supported by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests and a conservation group has done some work in opposition of the plan.

Some discussion among the attendees (there are pros and cons to the plan; some think it has too much clear cutting, it is not bad but sets a precedent for all the others; important to

listen to both sides). In response to a question re who owns the lake? State of NH - owns the land and the water.

Misc business:

- Kate Merritt will host the “cocktails on the lake” gathering on Sept 16 or 17 (one being a rain date). [later was confirmed for 9/17]
- New directories are available and were distributed to those attending; thanks to Alice Wellington for production; this will be the last printed ones; extras will be at Polly Tafrate’s and various other locations.
- There was a call for anyone interested in being on the LAA board to contact Polly Tafrate; one attendee said his kids want to join but the only way to do so is with a check - they don’t use checks! It was discussed to look into some kind of e-payment system.
- Polly Tafrate mentioned there have been concerns about people using fertilizer on their yards - she reminded all of the rule is to use 25 feet back from the lake.
- Loons: no chick this year; according to the Loon Preservation Committee [?], there is officially only one loon on our lake and large territorial disputes are taking place on Lake Armington; we have a two male and one female situation.
- A member [who?] raised a concern about the disrepair of the public boat access road; it was handed over to the town and they don’t want the responsibility. He suggested if 15 members gave \$10, they could buy enough gravel to smooth out the road and he would do the labor. Discussion: The town now says they don’t own it but the state made them fix the road before. It was suggested that the first step is contact the state again because of runoff into the lake, they should push the town to do this. Wendy Cahill agreed to contact the appropriate state agency.
- Maggy McGiffert raised the issue of LAA making a land acknowledgment and possibly paying a land tax in honor of the Abenaki Nation and people who once roamed this land. Voluntary land taxes would be to recognize our access to land taken from native tribes. Discussion: There was much interest and suggestions of others to contact, including interviewing Tom [?]. Another suggestion was to talk to Jed at Camp Walt Whitman and Kingswood Camp about getting the kids to volunteer to research this. Maggy/McGiffert family will coordinate, the Cahills, Reba Evans, several Soloway family members and Ken Settel/Linda Kline indicated they want to be involved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20am.

Scribe: Lisa McGiffert