

July 12, 2025 - Lake Armington Association Meeting and Social

It was a lovely day and the meeting was well attended

Kathy called the meeting to order at 11 am.

She thanked Ken and Linda for hosting.

Then there was an acknowledgement of the departing board members –

Sam Rounds, Assistant Treasurer. Her duties been taken over by Wendy Cahill.

Christine Palmucci and Bill Musty

She thanked them for their many years of service, good judgement, and valuable input.

Then she presented the three new members of the board –

Beth Wellington, Shawn Hennessy and Lauren Tafrate.

Kathy read their bios and asked for a vote to approve. Kate Merritt motioned to approve; Cindy Jette seconded the motion. The new members were approved unanimously.

Bill Musty read a report on lake water testing by Mike Poole. The water was tested on July 8th, and it was found to be less transparent than previously, possible due to heavy spring rains. The next test will be on July 13. Aimee Spooner asked if the lake is tested for e coli. It will be tested for e coli in August. Joyce Tompkins from Lake Tarleton voiced a concern over blue-green algae present in Lake Tarleton. For now it is localized, but it is toxic if it blooms.

Lynn DeMerchant gave a presentation about the Lake Host program. She will continue to apply for the grants for the time being, and she is working with Lisa McGiffert and Kathy this year on staffing the program. We only needed \$2,634.09 to fund the program in 2025 due to a surplus available from the 2024 program. She then discussed staffing issues. Due to state verification rules, we lost one of our longtime Lake Host employees, Nick. The other Lake Host employee Peter has changed his schedule to help assume some of the coverage that Nick previously handled. Laurie Gramlich reported that we don't have to check out-of-state boat stickers because there is no longer reciprocity in effect between states. Laurie also reported that there were no suspicious plant sightings on boats that were inspected this summer.

There was a report on the loons by Amy Spooner. On May 15th Amy found a nest in the shallows by the Caswell's island, and she was concerned about kayak traffic through that passage near the nest. She contacted Linda Kline who contacted the Loon Preservation Committee, and they installed "Loon Nesting" signage at both approaches to the nest. There were two eggs in the nest that both hatched, but after a few days only one chick was seen. That chick was doing well and swimming with the parents as of the meeting date.

There was a presentation of the budget by Kate Merritt. She reported that we did very well in 2024, with a net income of over \$4,000 due to an increase in dues and donations. Kate stressed that we should focus on building a cushion in anticipation of future expenses such as the removal of invasive phragmites in 2026. Kate has budgeted the same amount for donations in 2025 and slightly less for dues. Currently we have a money market account, and Kate is looking into certificates of deposit as an alternative. She will wait until we have a quote for the phragmites removal before we consider moving the funds to a certificate of deposit.

Beth Wellington reported on the 2025 Boat Parade. The Parade was scheduled for August 9th with a rain date of August 10th. Beth will post flyers and request RSVPs, and Cindy Jette offered to help with the Boat Parade.

Linda Kline gave a report on Weed Watchers. We have more Weed Watchers this year, and we are very fortunate that there is no milfoil on Lake Armington or Lake Tarleton so far. Linda then spoke about the phragmites removal project. The prior vendor, Swamp Inc., did not complete their work and our experience with them was unsatisfactory. Linda reached out to another qualified company, Solitude, Inc.. They were very responsive. Linda is waiting for their quote and they did say that permitting could be expensive. We will most likely be waiting until August of 2026 for the treatment. The treatment will be applied directly to the plants and may involve a second year of follow-up treatment. In that case we would need another permit for 2027.

Laurie Gramlich commented that she received a notice from the electric cooperative notifying her that they intended to spray herbicide along the power lines. Lynn DeMerchant and Stan Soloway also received the same notice. Lynn said she was not going to consent to spraying on her property. Linda Kline will check with Amy Smagula to find out what we can do regarding this subject. Any entity other than the federal government requires a permit for herbicide

applications like this. The electric cooperative is using a private contractor hired by the state, but if the land is owned by the US Forest Service, they can do whatever they want.

Bob Dennison spoke about the White Mountain Lake Tarleton Forest Management project. Bob spoke to Brooke Brown, the National Forest ranger-in-charge, and she said they are planning to do some work around Lake Katherine this year to reestablish the shoreline. The project is going out to bid this winter, and work will begin in the winter of 2026-27.

Carolyn Dorfman has created a Google doc that we hope to use for the new LAA directory. Creating a new directory will be an on-going process.

She also had laminated copies of the Living on the Lake information sheet for members to post in their properties and for us to pass around to neighbors. Information was added to the information sheet regarding jet skis and 'No Wake' regulations.

Lastly, Kathy wanted to give a special thanks to Linda Kline for her continued efforts with the phragmites removal project. She asked if there was any new business. There being no response, a motion was made by Kate to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Stan.

Minutes submitted by Deborah Jenson