

LAA Drinks on the Lake Meeting: Minutes September 6, 2025

This LAA meeting took place in the home of Chris Palmucci who graciously offered to host this year's end-of-season gathering, "Drinks on the Lake."

Kathy Soloway, LAA Board President, convened the meeting portion of this social event at 4:50 PM with a view to updating the LAA membership on the various activities and plans that were discussed by the LAA Board this summer.

Kathy expressed her thanks to Chris Palmucci for hosting the event and introduced the new LAA Board members, Shawn Hennessey (in absentia, biking in Italy) Lauren Tafrate, and Beth Wellington.

Boat Parade

Beth Wellington, who organizes the Boat Parade, provided a slide show with photos of all twelve boats as well as the docks decorated by observer-participants. The Boat Parade was a tremendous success this year thanks to good weather, increased participation from members of all ages and over-the top decorations. Of special note was the appearance of the "Dragon Boat" brought over for the event by Dorothy Wallace of Lyme, NH. This enthusiastic response bodes well for the vitality of this event going forward. Members who took photos may send them to Kathy Soloway for posting on the LAA web site. Many thanks to those who participated on the water and on land!

Ambulance Service

Ken Settel provided an update on the availability of ambulance service to Lake Armington. The service provider has been changed to the Upper Valley Ambulance Service. As this service is based in Fairlee, and part of a larger system, it will take a little longer for an ambulance to arrive. For emergencies, call 911, as before. The Piermont Fast Squad will be first to respond. A triage decision regarding which hospital (Cottage Hospital in Woodsville or Dartmouth Hitchcock in Hanover) will be made depending on the situation. Overall, this new ambulance service is excellent.

Water Quality

Polly Tafrate reported that further to her conversation with Mike Poole, who tests the water quality of Lake Armington, the lake water continues to be "very good." Welcome news!

Phragmite infestation update

Linda Kline reported that Solitude Lake Management has been contacted to eradicate the phragmite infestation, the only service recommended by New Hampshire Environmental Services. Solitude Lake Management has submitted a proposal: a

permit will be sought in the spring of 2026 followed by a treatment of phragmite infestation later in the summer of 2026.

Budget

Kate Merritt reported that the LAA is under budget with regard to dues at present. To make donations and dues easier to do online, Gene Robinson (our webmaster) and Kate set up a “Stripe account” – an online payment processing service) on the Lake Armington Association website. There are now three payment buttons available:

- a button to pay dues for singles
- a button to pay dues for families
- a button for making donations.

Lake Host Update

Laurie Gramlich offered a comparative report on the inspections and hours worked this year vs. last year with a view to clarifying the need for personnel coverage going forward:

2025: 197 inspections; hours worked: 211 (some hours not worked due to weather, and we have three weekends before the end of our season.)

2024: 234 inspections; hours worked: 224

She noted that there were only 13 inspections on Fridays in 2024; accordingly, Peter Alford who stepped in to fill a staffing vacancy this summer, worked only Saturday and Sunday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, but no Fridays. Kathy Soloway thanked Laurie Gramlich for her assistance to Lisa McGiffert who has managed the Lake Host Program from Texas this year. Volunteers who have stopped by to check in on Peter are encouraged to report all hours. LAA volunteer hours help us to maintain the NH Lake Host program. Kathy Soloway noted that we need a new person to manage the Lake Host Program which does not require the manager to be at Lake Armington every weekend. While Peter Alford plans to continue working as a Lake Host, the search for a second host will take place in the spring.

Directory

The effort to capture the information required to produce the LAA Directory has been challenging. Response was poor to the original attempt to gather emails and addresses through a survey on Google docs. Kathy Soloway noted that changes will be made to this survey so that we are able to produce a new Directory, hopefully for next summer. LAA members and residents are encouraged to respond even if none of their

information has changed so that everyone's information can be located in one place in a Google document for ease of producing future editions.

In Memoriam

Five members of the Lake Armington community passed away this year:

Susan Leber, Betsy Hare Kemp, John Quinn, Barbara and Carlos Manrique

Bill Cahill and Polly Tafrate shared fond remembrances of their contributions to our lives and to the beauty and well-being of the lake and its residents.

The meeting concluded with warm remarks by Cindy Theroux-Jette in appreciation of the Lake Armington community.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.