

Minutes for the Annual Lake Armington Association Meeting:,July 11, 2026

Deborah Jensen, LAA Vice President, led the meeting in place of President Kathy Soloway.

The meeting commenced at 12:17 pm following a brunch buffet provided by the LAA members. Deborah offered a warm welcome to the 26 attendees and announced that the business meeting would conclude by at 1:00 PM in order to allow time for a special presentation on loons by Mariah Haug from the Loon Preservation Committee.

- 2 **Lauren Tafrate** notified everyone that we now have new 2026 LAA Directories. Printed copies were available at the meeting as well as electronic copies which can be accessed by this link: <https://tinyurl.com/LAADirectory2026Final>

Thanks were given to Carolyn Dorfman for her work in creating the directory and to **Camp Walt Whitman** for printing our copies.

If folks are not included or need a correction please e-mail Kathy Soloway.

- 3 **Thanks were expressed to Wendy Cahill** who stepped in last year and took over Sam Rounds' work as Assistant Treasurer.

Special thank you to Linda Kline not only for heading up our Weed Watcher team but for spearheading the research and hire of the company to take care of our phragmites. Linda is also working to limit the use of herbicides by The NH Electric Cooperative around the lake with the Opt-out Program (see below.)

- 4 **And a heartfelt thank you was offered to Lynn DeMerchant** who is stepping off the board after serving 10 years. In addition to her general work on the Board, Lynn served as Chairperson of the Lake Host program.

- 5 **Search for New Board Member:** A nominating committee headed by **Deborah Jensen** has been created with an end to filling this board member vacancy. Members are encouraged to nominate themselves or others by contacting Deborah with nominations.

- 6 **A vote was taken approving the present slate of Board members** who are willing to continue serving for this coming year:

Kathy Soloway – President

Deborah Jensen – Vice President

Kate Merritt – Treasurer

Beth Wellington -Secretary

Arline Cochrane – Corresponding Secretary

Lisa McGiffert- Lake Host Chair,

Ken Settel, Carolyn Dorfman, Lauren Tafrate, and Shawn Hennessy.

The motion was called and the slate of Board Members was approved unanimously.

7 Treasurer's Report_ Kate Merritt

The LAA budget is the same as in years past, with significant funding going to the effort to eradicate the Phragmites infestation. At present we have only \$200 in membership dues in the LAA bank account. Members are urged to pay their dues in person, by check or online on the Lake Armington Association web site: www.lakearmington.com

By scrolling down past greetings and news you will find buttons to select to pay dues for singles (\$25) or couples/ families (\$50). There is also a button if you wish to make an additional donation. All annual membership dues and donations are fully tax-deductible.

Checks may be sent by mail to:

Lake Armington Association

P.O. Box 143

Piermont, NH 03779

8 Herbicide Opt-out option and phone campaign -Linda Kline

There is general concern that the planned herbicide spraying by the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative that is scheduled in two weeks this July will pollute the lake and harm the environment for wildlife and humans living around the lake. A phone campaign was suggested in order to make known the membership opposition to spraying of any kind near the lake and its dwellings and phone poles along the roads close to the lake, including Sirecho Shores Road. In addition to making a formal "Opt-out "request to inhibit herbicide spraying on anything previously hand cut, Linda suggests that we also call Mike Couture directly to express our opposition to hazardous spraying of toxic chemical herbicides. She handed out slips of paper with his phone number on it: **MIKE COUTURE 603-325-3227**. Please call him and add your voice to this effort to protect the lake. He is willing to listen.

9 Linda also noted that we have our permit from the State and that Solitude, the company we have contracted with for the removal of the Phragmites, will begin their work towards

the end of August. They will notify all homeowners near the site of any precautions they recommend.

10 **Lake Host Update: Lisa McGiffert**

There are two employees: Peter Alford and Laurie Gramlich, who handles data entry as “manager.” We will follow the same schedule as 2025: Peter works 4-6 hours on Saturdays and Sundays. There will be no Friday evening hours. No work on Columbus Day. **The Lake Host Program begins on May 29, Memorial Day weekend** and shuts down at the end of September and the porta-potty is removed.

LAA Members are encouraged to drop by and check in on Peter at the Boat Launch and then report these visits as volunteer hours to Lisa. Volunteers submit time sheets recording the hours spent checking in on the lake hosts. Lisa has done the Lake Host training and will coordinate the volunteers who check in on Lake host employees, Peter and Laurie.

Routine maintenance needs to be scheduled for the following:

- Take down Lake Armington sign on dead tree and remove dead tree.
- Update the Bulletin Board
- Procure a map of the lake with depths marked out.
- Post updated flyer on new invasive species: Spiny water flea.

11 **Annual Boat Parade-Beth Wellington**

The Lake Armington Boat Parade will take place on Saturday, August 22nd with a rain date on Sunday, August 23rd. Please bring your human-powered watercraft together with your creativity, your pets, your instruments and your sense of fun to the Boat Launch at 10 am. Those who are not boating are encouraged to come to their docks to join us lakeside so we can serenade you. Decorations on docks and boats are welcome!

Other Business:

Water testing- Mike Poole

The lake water was tested on Monday, July 6 with excellent results. Transparency was one meter better since the previous test in April-May.

In Memoriam:

Deborah noted the passing of Arline Cochrane’s husband, Tom. And the membership observed a moment of silence.

President Kathy Soloway wrote in absentia:

“We remember Tom Cochrane who we lost this year. Tom was the man who when a tree fell across the road and the rest of us were scratching our heads trying to figure out what to do or who to call, He was already out there on his tractor with the road half cleared. He was a wonderful neighbor. And as I’m sure you know he was Arline’s husband. He is very missed.”

The business meeting ended at 1:00 PM

The presentation by Mariah Haug from the Loon Preservation Committee was enthusiastically received by all. Some stunning takeaways:

Loons can fly up to 80 miles an hour. They even make round trips from their winter locations on the coast to check on nesting sites here.

The same loon pair is probably returning to our lake every year.

Loons can live to be 40 years old.

Finding a mate is hard work! Both males and females will fight to secure a mate.

We also got to listen to all four loon calls and when they use them: tremolo, wail, hoot (to their chicks) and yodel (males only)

Post-meeting update:

The Drinks on the Lake Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 30 at Alice Wellington’s Lake House at 32 Sirecho Shores Road from 4-6 PM.