

LTPA Annual Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m. St. Helen's Church Hall Chasm Falls, NY

(To be approved at 2026 annual meeting)

Board Members:

Attendance:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ President, Dick Chalifoux | ☒ Trustee, Terri Livingston |
| ☒ Vice President, Allison Howard | ☒ Trustee, Franz Fredericks |
| ☒ Treasurer, Dani Rapier | ☒ Trustee, Bob Smallman |
| ☒ Secretary, Deb Venuti | ☒ Trustee, Scott Spillane |

Call to Order

Muster List: Paula Dampier, John Henry Brehm, Dan Riley, Beth Blauch, and Ethel Sample, remembering our friends who have passed on.

Motion to approve the 2024 annual meeting minutes:

Motion made, seconded and approved by all

Welcoming Committee (Laura VanDeusen):

New owners were welcomed: John Parkinson (not present; bought Frankie Lytle's camp)

Quorum established

(56%) 44 representing members present; record attendance

Treasurer's Report (Dani Rapier)

Detail provided on the website

- § The LTPA had another strong year financially in 2024 and we're off to a great start for 2025.
- § Revenues last year totaled \$31,000 including realized and unrealized investment gains of \$3,400, with expenses at \$25,000.
- § This yielded a net profit of \$5,700.
- § We've had a healthy surplus in the \$5,000 range in each of the past four years.
- § Operating funds are solid for an organization such as ours at roughly \$85,000.
- § In addition, our endowment increased significantly due to an incredibly generous contribution of nearly \$23,000 from Louise Murtagh's estate.
- § Despite the turbulence in the market early in the year, our endowment and operating fund investments are up approximately 6.25% YTD.
- § The endowment today is just over \$156,000 as of yesterday, up from \$147,000 as of the end of last year.
- § Dues are coming in well, thanks especially to Phil and Muffy's terrific Equinox.
- § Prior to the meeting, we had 68 paid Lake Shore Owners and several Associates and Friends, and several more paid today.
- § As a reminder, dues have increased to \$150 per year to cover a greater portion of ongoing expenses; dues are coming in well; 112 lake shore owners
- § We continue to be incredibly grateful for all your support.

Thanks to Stephen Todd for his help on our insurance renewal.

President's Report (Dick Chalifoux)

- We are financially sound
- Weir (*not a dam*) and trails are in good shape
- Insurance is used for the weir, and liability on trails/docks/beach
- Board is considering authorizing an annual withdrawal from the endowment fund
- New mission statement has been approved and will appear on the website to help explain our organization
- Working with DEC for possible clearing at the South Beach

New Business: Land Donation Vote

- Yays: 40
- Nays: 0
- Motioned, seconded and APPROVED!!
- Huge thanks to the Howard/Picket/Rapier families for their generosity

Breakfast Walk (Regina Darling)

- Please volunteer; sign-up sheet at the desk
- Graeme Smallman has retired as boat parking captain. We thank him for his years of service!! Any families with teenagers, especially someone to take over the captain's role, would be appreciated; contact Regina Darling @ reginadarling@gmail.com

Raffle and Silent Auction (Kathy Goodwin)

- Please volunteer; sign-up sheet at the desk
- Still in need of items to raffle and silent auction; contact Kathy Goodwin @ kpg4243@aol.com
- Tables are needed
- Dock sale was successful; t-shirts are available for preorder; contact Teri @ tplivingston@verizon.net

Water Quality/Invasive Species (Andy Picket/Alison Sims)

- 2024 was similar to the past 2 years – overall good!
 - No public boat launch helps; any boats brought to the lake must be washed prior to launch
 - When removing a boat from the water is suggested to leave it out of the water for 24 hours
- 9 volunteers surveyed the perimeter in 2024, looking for 7 invasive species, and only found 1; looking for volunteers to complete the survey this year
- Good on all key metrics, no concerns
- Increase in road salt due to Route 30; not much we can do, not alarming
- Dirk Schroeder and Alison Simms met with the Northern Lakes Group (Chateaugay Lake and Horse Shoe Pond) and did a survey of growth (see full report in the Equinox); no major concerns reported

Weir (Rick VanDeusen)

- Inspection reveals it is in great shape
- Volunteer clean up went well; Ralph Childs picked up and disposed of the wood debris (thank you!!)
- Potholes on the launch road need to be attended to

- New gate looks and performs great!
- Lake level is good
- Charlie Bryden noted the lake level over the winter was too high and recommended 2 inches lower to protect docks; Bob lowered water level on 11/15, and will discuss lowering more than 6 inches with the BOD
- Recognition plaque will be erected by Billy Slack to honor his family's contribution to the area (thank you Slacks!!!)

Communications (Muffy Charlebois)

- Our website, Laketitus.org
 - New pages devoted to raffle and silent auction, fire safety, Wednesday dock parties
 - Updated information on the boating regulations for licenses
 - Encourage to view the buy/sell pages
 - New page will be added for the loons on our and neighboring lakes
- Equinox – kudos to Phil and Muffy for doing such a great job!!
 - Cost to print is high (print and mail 1 copy is \$15.00), so the BOD agreed to stop printing copies, however they will be available for purchase @ \$20.00 – payment can be added to annual dues
 - § Respond to Phil's emailed copy of the Equinox next May to request a printed copy

Land and Forest Management (Dick Chalifoux)

- 3-year agreement with the company was delayed due to depressed market conditions
- Slated to begin work on the harvest this coming fall
- The harvest is a three-year project and the work scheduled for this season will be complete by May/June of 2026

Navigation (Besty Suatoni)

- Lots of new big boats – please watch speed and look for swimmers and canoes/kayaks
 - Large wakes cause shoreline erosion and floods several docks
 - Please drive your boat straight out instead of cutting into other shoreline areas
 - Please slow down near the marina channel area, just past the beach; high wake from “plowing” is causing the damage
 - Marcy spoke to the sheriff's department; next month a boating course will be offered at the Malone Center, free of charge
- Safety is key!
 - Water skiers need a watcher in the boat
 - Swimmers who cross the lake or go out far must have a boat accompanying them
 - Please ensure lights are on boats at night
- Beware of the loud music and do not blare music; not everyone likes opera!
- 100 feet from shoreline; shoreline owners can put buoys out to mark 100 feet
- Will arrange meeting with new committee members this summer
- Boating certification course takes 8 hours to complete, and the information is on the Equinox and on the web site
- When renting camps or have small children, please caution against swimming too far out

Loons (Laura VanDeusen)

- Full report in Equinox; tracking since 2014
- South loon nest is out of the water and being prepared for next year
- Thank you Dave Goodwin for putting in the loon nest in the south end
- 5/25 spotted a loon on the nest, and on 6/23 saw a little chick in the nest (which is now gone) and one chick with the parents; 2 eggs in a nest in Snake River
- Thanks to the Rickert's on the north end, deployed in June; Margo will monitor the north
- Weekly report sent to Loon Center in Saranac Lake
- If/When loons squawk at you, please move away and leave them be

Fire Safety (Steven Tood)

- Please keep in mind that we are vulnerable to wildfires (just like the Canadians)
- Malone fire truck cannot access lake water
- Risk management – be mindful of outside cooking, don't cook outside on a windy day; be mindful of bonfires and burn fires and do not locate them near trees
- 3 camps have been lost to fire on the lake; camp fires are likely to spread to the adjacent forest or neighboring camps
- Make sure you have the proper fire extinguisher, as some can spread a fire instead of putting it out
- Fire blankets work well to extinguish fires

Trails (Dave Goodwin)

- Mt. Immortelle in good shape
- 4.6 miles to hike Elephant's head from the beach; good shape but a chain saw is needed to clear downed trees; looking to down brush to clear the view at the top. Our trail markers were removed by the state on their land, however paint is allowed and the trail is now marked in red paint

Activities (golf tourney, Hicks Cup)

- Breakfast Walk and Hicks Cup 8/2
- Riley Golf Tournament 8/3

Ice-Out Contest (Muffy)

- Muffy awarded the 3 winners

Nominating Committee (Rick VanDeusen): Election of Trustees

- Deb Venuti and Dani Rapier re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer, respectfully
- General board
 - Bob Smallman as Trustee
 - Allison Howard as Trustee
- Motions made, seconded and approved

Beach Project

- Allison is working with the DEC and exploring designations and permits before maintenance work can be completed (e.g., branches/nubs sticking out of the water)
- Garbage is often found in the area, including dirty diapers; ALL GARBAGE MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE AREA – CARRY IN, CARRY OUT!!

Meeting Adjournment

Respectfully submitted, **Deb Venuti**