

**Minutes of the 71<sup>st</sup> Lake Groton Association Meeting  
Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**

**Preamble:** The By-Laws require an annual meeting of the membership during the months of July, August or September for the purpose of electing trustees and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before the meeting.

1. Call to Order and Quorum Confirmation

Rusty Reader, President, presided over the meeting. At approximately 10:15 a.m. Rusty asked Jim Soutar to confirm that there were at least 20 members in attendance to meet the by-law requirement. Jim reported there were at least 65 in attendance. Rusty called the meeting to order.

2. Introduction of New Camp Owners and Association members

On behalf of the Welcoming Committee, Jim Soutar reported on the following new camp owners and welcomed them to the association:

- Faith Wuenschel – purchased the former Sykas camp
- Sean and Allison Gorman – purchased Margery Walker's camp
- Chris and Lisa Birchmore – purchased the former Gagnon camp
- Stuart and Donna Russo-Savage – purchased former Ron Dugas camp

3. Volunteer Thank You

Rusty referred to the numerous volunteers who were listed on the agenda and asked membership to join him in thanking them for their time and expertise.

4. Email Address Request

Rusty requested email addresses for members not currently receiving emails from the Association. Please provide your email addresses to Jon Desilets at [jonsandydes@gmail.com](mailto:jonsandydes@gmail.com)

5. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 3, 2016 Annual Lake Groton Association Meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

6. Financial Report

John LaRosa, Clerk, gave the Treasurer's Report and referred to the handout. As of August 31, 2016, the Association had cash of \$5,949.01 consisting of

\$2,411.70 in a Certificate of Deposit, \$33.13 in petty cash and \$3,504.18 in the checking account. Receipts totaled \$2,149.22 and expenditures were \$1,109.24, leaving the balance prior to the meeting collections at \$6,398.01. Additionally, there is \$1,558.37 in the Fireworks Fund. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

7. Moment of Silence for Deceased Members

Rusty read the names of members who died during the past year and asked for a moment of silence in their honor:

- Paul Sykas
- Don Babic
- Frederick Dana
- Mike Concannon
- Marcel Smith
- Leon Tucker
- Ray Munson

8. Nomination and Election of Two Trustees

Of the six Trustees, two are up for election every year. The slots currently held by Rusty Reader and Gail McDonnell need to be filled and Rusty reported that both have agreed to serve another term. Rusty asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, Rusty called for a vote and Rusty and Gail were unanimously reelected.

9. Nomination and Election of Clerk/Treasurer position for one-year term

John LaRosa nominated Susan Pelkey Smith for the position of Clerk. There were no other nominations from the floor and Susan was unanimously elected.

10. Financial Recommendations from the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees recommend approval of the following:

- \$250 donation to Groton Fast Squad
- \$250 donation to Groton Fire Department
- \$50 donation to Loon Recovery Program
- Dues of \$40 for the following year

Additionally, the Trustees voted to trade the bladderwort boat's 25 hp motor for a 50 hp motor; this was an even trade with no monies exchanged.

The above recommendations were unanimously approved.

## 11. Park Update

Stillwater Park Ranger Kyle Rowe gave a report on the Groton State Parks usage. Kyle reported that Boulder Beach day usage was down while Stillwater's camper visits was up. Stillwater is the 4<sup>th</sup> busiest campground in the Vermont State Parks.

Kyle reminded camp owners and their renters and guests to wash all boats before launching. The Stillwater gate will be dummy locked through Columbus Day. Kyle asked that everyone entering and exiting Stillwater to dummy lock the gate behind them. After Columbus Day, to launch or pull a boat, call Kyle at the Big Deer house after 3:00 pm.

Kyle reported that there were no significant bear incidences in the park this year.

## 12. Committee Reports

A. Goose Report: Peter Lyon reported on adding the goose eggs (spraying oil on the eggs to prevent them from hatching). Peter reported that he successfully added eggs on one nest and found a second nest in an interesting location with 6 hatched chicks. Peter thanked those who called him to report Canada geese sightings and reminded members not to chase the geese as this pushes them to next further inland and makes it harder to find the nests.

B. Website: [www.Grotonpond.com](http://www.Grotonpond.com): Dave Spenser requested members to continue sending him photos and relevant information. The website contains a lot of interesting information about the lake and lake history. Please notify Dave with any corrections or updates.

C. Lay Monitoring Report: Bob Ricker reported that the water clarity continues to be clearer than usual. The water was sampled 11 times; 10 readings were visible at 3.5 meters. The reading after the 2-inch rainstorm was less and the measurement is not yet available.) Total phosphorous and chlorophyll results have not yet been received from the State of Vermont.

D. July 4<sup>th</sup> Activities: Rusty reported that the Association did not have a 2017 fireworks display. Cindy Spoor and Dale Thorenson were unable to provide their site. Dwaine Smith and Susan Pelkey Smith offered their site but Northstar did not approve that site and no one else volunteered. Rusty reported that the Trustees will continue to look for an alternative location for

the future... If Boulder Beach were to be used, the Association would need to provide volunteers for the period of set up until launch to ensure the fireworks were secure.

The date for the 2018 July 4th Boat Parade will be Saturday, July 7th, with rain date of Sunday, July 8th.

E. Loon Report: Darlene Sprague gave the annual loon report. The south end pair did not nest in 2017. They previously nested on an artificial nesting platform, which has not been used in the past few years to encourage them to nest naturally. The north end pair successfully nested on the platform maintained by Doug Duckett and two chicks were born in early July. To date, the chicks have survived the bald eagles and other predators and dangers. Darlene provided a reminder from Eric Hanson, loon biologist with the Vermont Loon Conservation program, to be alert when boating. On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the annual loon watch day, the lake count was 4 adults and 2 chicks.

F. Bladderwort: Allen Goodine reported there were several successful volunteer bladderwort harvests around the lake and thanked the volunteers.

### 13. New Business

Rusty reported there was no new business.

### 14. Roundtable

Jim Soutar reported on a boating incident he witnessed this summer, which he reported to the Vermont State Police, Marine Division. The incident concerned a personal watercraft going between a boat and the tube it was pulling. Jim reminded everyone to boat safely, to keep a copy of the Vermont Boating regulations in their camp and to report any serious violations, and the importance of obtaining boat registration numbers to assist the police.

Kevin McDonnell reminded boaters to wash their boats before launching, especially when launching from a private site. Following the meeting, Kevin will demonstrate the fire pump and hose that has been added to the bladderwort boat.

Peter Lyon reminded members that they can buy tickets from him to the annual Groton Chicken Pie Supper on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to peel potatoes and squash the night before.

Bob Ricker reported that Pat Randall, owner of the Forest Store, is considering discontinuing offering trash disposal services to camp owners due to continuing issues of overloaded dumpsters and unauthorized usage. The membership approved offering to contribute to a game camera to monitor the situation. Ray Johnson, Jr., offered to donate \$100 for this purpose. Bob will follow up with Pat.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. for the members and guests to enjoy the potluck lunch, organized by Gail McDonnell.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Pelkey Smith  
Clerk