

LWIA Meeting Minutes
Saturday, June 24, 2023 | 9:00 A.M.
Online Meeting (estimated attendance 20)

Welcome (Bill Kobertz)

- At least one meeting each year will be online/virtual to make it possible for more people to attend, and one will be held in person at the lake.

Approval of August 2022 Minutes (Bill Kobertz)

- The August 6, 2022, meeting minutes were reviewed. Mark Heminway moved to pass; Linda Barnes seconded. The minutes were unanimously accepted and will be posted to the LWIA website https://lakewinonanh.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/LWIA-Meeting-Minutes_6Aug2022.pdf

Treasurer's Report (Nora Foster)

- Jay Buckley is on vacation; Vice President Nora Foster provided the Treasurer's Report.
- 2022
 - Ending balance as of Dec 31, 2022 was \$7,404, giving us a surplus of \$778.
 - \$3,870 were collected in dues last year (about 95 people paid).
 - Biggest expenses last year were printing the contact book, which is done every two years, water testing, Aug. potluck/meeting, and a mailing to collect unpaid dues.
- 2023
 - To date, about a third of lake owners have paid dues, which are \$30. West Shore Road dues are \$250 (\$220 road fund + \$30 LWIA general dues)
 - We will do another mailing in late July to collect unpaid dues.
 - Mail your dues to Jay Buckley at PO Box 87, Plymouth, NH 03264.

Lake Water Committee Report (Mark and Linda Heminway)

- End of last year, Hawkins Pond Inlet had an elevated E coli level, but still below the state median for E coli testing.
- Another water test will be conducted this summer. Tests are generally conducted on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, based on when DES can drop off the pickup bottles and the requirement that samples need to be returned to DES by 2:30 PM day of testing. DES closes early on Fridays.
- Volunteers are welcome. The group spends roughly an hour on the lake taking samples and clarity tests. Paul Epstein has volunteered to help with the next testing. Please contact Linda if you're interested.
- Latest water quality reports are available on the website (<https://lakewinonanh.org/protect-your-lake/lake-water-quality-report/>). Mark also created a page showing year-over-year trends.

Lake Host Program Report (Kay Anderson)

Lake Host and Volunteering

- Our Lake Host, Matt, majors in Environment Education and Conservation at Plymouth State. Last year, he was available Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. This year, he will be manning the launch ramp starting July 1, Sat & Sun, 7 hrs each day. He will be with us for 10 weeks.
- He is unavailable August 25-27; we need volunteers to cover those days.

- Kay Anderson will take the Friday morning shift for the summer. Volunteers are needed for the Friday afternoon shift and other morning or afternoon shifts during the other days of the week.

Donations

- Thank you to everyone who donated to the LWIA's Lake Host Program via the NH Lakes portal.
- Thanks to donations and the \$1,700 grant from NH Lakes we should be able to retain Matt's services through Labor Day,
- We start late compared to other lakes. If we raise more money, we can start earlier, and go until around mid-September.
- Please consider contributing. Donations go directly to our Lake Host Program, and every dollar pays the salary of the lake host. The online form is here:
<https://nhlakes.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/nhlakes/donation.jsp?campaign=124&&test=true>

Loon Update (Linda Heminway)

- Our loons have been nesting since the end of May. We don't know how many eggs are present; will know when the chick(s) hatches. Egg gestation period is 27 to 28 days (our loons have traditionally been 27 days).
- Once the egg(s) hatch, please stay at least 150 feet away from the nesting raft. For a closer view, use binoculars. Keep an eye out, particularly if you're in a motorboat on the lake. The chicks can be hard to see on the water.
- Last year we had two chicks; only one survived. We don't know what happened to the second one.
- Loons are territorial. The number of acres on a lake dictates the number of nesting pairs. A small lake like Winona can only support one pair. If another tries to settle here, the first pair will drive them off.
- A free talk on loons by Harry Vogel, director of the Loon Center, will be held at the Meredith Community Center (1 Circle Dr, Meredith, NH 03253) on Wed, August 9, from 6-8:00 pm.
- A loon was spotted off the coast of Maine that looks like our 2018 loon that was born with a broken lower beak. The photo is here: <https://seanettters.wordpress.com/2011/12/06/the-loon-in-winter/>.

The Loon Census Needs a Volunteer

- The annual loon census will be Saturday, July 15, between 8:00-9:00 a.m. We need a volunteer to go out on that day and count loons and chicks in the air and on the water.

LWIA Officer Nominations—Nominating Committee 2024-2026 (Nora Foster)

- Board member positions are two-year terms, and alternate. President and Treasurer are up this year.
- Current President, Bill Kobertz, and current Treasurer, Jay Buckley, are willing to continue for an additional term.
- Jay shared that if reelected, it will be his last term. He would like someone to step forward now to shadow him throughout his term and then take on the Treasurer's role in August 2026.
- Nora made a motion that the current leadership be re-elected for the 2024-2026 term. Kay seconded. The vote in favor was unanimous.
- If you want to know more about the role, please contact Jay (jay3mega@gmail.com).
- Nora is seeking volunteers to be on the nominating committee to begin seeking candidates for the 2026 election. Mark Heminway volunteered.

August 2023 Meeting Date Change Vote (Nora Foster)

- The original date for the Aug potluck and meeting had been August 12, but Bill and Nora have conflicts. Propose changing the date to the 19th. The Anchorage is available. The vote in favor was unanimous.
- Moving to a brunch instead of lunch is to see if more people might attend a meeting held earlier in the day (this was voted on at the August 2023 meeting). Brunch will start at 9:00 AM; business meeting will start at 10:30.
- Volunteers are need to help with set-up at 8:15 AM. Bob Swartz, Kay Anderson, and Peggy Lewis volunteered.
- As in the past, Nora will ask people to RSVP and to share what dish they will bring.

LWIA Historical Records (Bill Kobertz)

- Katie Hedberg has several bankers' boxes of LWIA papers and records that need to be reviewed and cataloged. Katie and Bill volunteered to take the lead on the project. Linda Barnes volunteered to assist.
- Since 2007, historical documents like meeting minutes, by-laws, and financial records have been stored on Google Drive. Old information should be scanned and put here.
- Nora Foster asked if a historical timeline of key events and people (e.g. In 1974, we did this...) could be extrapolated from these documents.

Winona Road NHDOT Guardrail Project (Catherine Greenleaf)

- NHDOT plans to install a traditional steel guardrail along a portion of Winona Rd that directly abuts the edge of the lakes. They may have to augment with a rock embankment or go right to the rock and eliminate the guardrail, as they have done in other places in the area.
- Project is still in the design and permitting phase and DES will be consulted to create the plan.
- The anticipated construction date is now set for the summer 2025 rather than 2024.

Richard Dunn Trespassing (Bill Kobertz)

- Richard Dunn is out of jail and trespassing on West Shore Road again. He drives a white Subaru Outback with silver/gold on the lower portions and has been parking near the mailboxes or on Roger Hawkins's property. We do not have a physical description.
- Kay Anderson volunteered to ask Roger whether he has Dunn's license plate number.
- New Hampton police have been informed that we do not want him trespassing again on any private property around the lake, including Anchorage Road and its abutting streets.
- If you see him, do not confront him. He has mental/cognitive issues.
- If he is on your or someone else's property, call the respective town authorities to have him picked up: New Hampton police (603-524-8585) or Center Harbor police (603-527-5454).
- The Lake Host will be advised not to talk with Dunn if he shows up at the boat launch.

New Business & Items from the Floor

Japanese Knotweed (Mark Heminway)

- The LWIA has been extremely careful about invasive species in the lake, however, Japanese knotweed (JK) is now present on a piece of land across from West Shore Road. JK overtakes native species on land and chokes them out, and is almost impossible to eradicate.

- Mark contacted Neil Irvine, New Hampton’s Town Administrator, about this issue. Irvine explained that the town does not have the bandwidth to eradicate the plant. However, because it is “town property” volunteers can go onto the land and take steps to remove it.
- Linda Barnes will invite her neighbor, who works for the NHDOT and knows a lot about knotweed, to the August meeting to explain more about the plant and how to get rid of it.

50-Acre Property for Sale (Catherine Greenleaf)

- There are 50 acres of old-growth forest and wetlands available for sale for \$400,000 along Winona Road in Center Harbor. The property is roughly 300 yards past the tip of the lake (https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/Winona-Rd-Center-Harbor-NH-03226/211092749_zpid/).
- As an association, we do not have the money to purchase the land and put it into conservation use.
- Catherine spoke to the Lakes Region Conservation Trust. She was advised that if the Association wished to prevent developers from buying the property, a letter should be sent from the Association stating our concerns and objections, with definitive arguments as to why the LRCT should take over the property to maintain and preserve it.
- Bill Griffith, Paul Epstein, Windy Traynor, and Don Thibeault volunteered to serve on a committee to draft the letter. Catherine and Bill will get the LRCT contact information.

Mystery Snails (Mark Heminway)

- These snails look like traditional snails and are currently in Squam and Waukegan Lakes.
- Information sheet is available here: <https://nhlakes.org/wp-content/uploads/3-Lake-Concerns-Invasive-Species-Chinese-Mystery-Snails-NH-LAKES.pdf>
- If you find one in our lake, please contact NH LAKES at info@nhlakes.org or (603) 226-0299.

Invasive Sunfish Species (Mark Heminway)

- Last year, we notified owners of the presence of a new Sunfish species in area lakes. They look similar to the common Pumpkinseed fish, but have larger mouths and are voracious eaters.
- The state asks that if you catch them, do not release them. If you find one, please hold on to it and contact Linda or Mark Heminway. They will take it to DES for verification.
- <https://nhfishgame.com/2023/05/19/invasive-green-sunfish-confirmed-by-fish-and-game-in-new-hampshire-waters/>
- <https://newhampshirebulletin.com/briefs/invasive-species-popular-aquarium-sunfish-found-in-nh-waters/>

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.