

**CANAAN LAKE ASSOCIATION (CLA); BOD MEETING MINUTES**  
**10/16/2024 @ 4:30p, Powers Room, Cardigan Mountain School (CMS)**

**DRAFT**

**Welcome Ben Hayden!** Meeting opened with ‘welcome’ and introductions.

**Members present:** Pres. Karen Henry, Vice Pres. Elizabeth Jutila via zoom, Sec-Treas. Elissa Close, Maria Clark, Ben Hayden, Bill Stone, Kristi Wilson

**Approval of BOD Minutes**

Minutes of September 18, 2024 Board of Directors (BOD) meeting

- Bill made the **motion** to APPROVE August minutes.
- Maria seconded the **motion** which **passed** unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurer’s Report** – Elissa reported that *Income* increased reflecting receipt of a donation designated specifically for Lake Host payroll. The annual Town request letter (\$2,000 donation to CLA) was posted today and donation is typically received near end of the year.

*Expenditures* increased about \$200 with payment of final NH Lakes invoice that zeroed out the Lake Host account. Total seasonal expense for Lake Host Program was \$6,431.39 of which \$2,290 was grant funded.

CLA bank balances total \$28,119.52 and include Checking, Money Market Account, 5-month CD, and 12-month CD.

The Association’s financial situation remains strong.

Weed Watchers – Season has concluded; no report.

Lake Hosts -- Bill recognized Elizabeth’s dedication to the Lake Host Program over many years as Coordinator (*and* problem solver *and* backup Lake Host *and* advocate for Lake Host program) for which she is owed a debt of gratitude by CLA and the lake community. Members raised a “Huzzah!” in agreement. He observed that having an employee entails responsibility for payroll tax withholding and periodic reports/payments to the feds - tasks for which a payroll company is typically engaged. Better to have any such person be an employee of NH Lakes but supervised by the CLA.

Paid Lake Host Coordinator Job Description has been posted on the CLA website.

Water Quality – Kristi reported that VLAP testing has concluded for the season. We await the annual water quality report.

Loon Update – While participating in a recent Squam Lake cruise, Kristi learned that the lake is home to 7 or 8 loon pairs. She understands that a number of floating nest rafts are available to the pairs who, evidently, utilize them with some success. She suggested that, through use of a nesting raft, CSL loon chicks might have a better chance of surviving to fledging stage. Demise of this season’s chick over July 4 holiday has been a concern and frustration for many on the lake.

The reservoir presents a singular opportunity for loons to nest in an area with restricted human access. There has been no recent history of loons nesting in this location, likely due to shoreline which appears not to have suitable habitat for nesting sites. Further information is required regarding whether locating a nesting raft and family in this restricted area is permissible. For further discussion at next (April 2025) meeting.

Pros and cons of placing a nesting raft on CLS were reviewed. Based on past discussion with Loon Preservation Committee (as well as Vermont Loon Conservation Project – VLCP - website), repeated “nesting failure” and predation are cases in which nesting rafts have proven beneficial. Two comments summarize information that can be found on websites of the NH and VT loon conservation groups:

1: “Nesting rafts can do more harm than good if they lure loons away from sheltered and well-hidden natural nesting sites...” (LPC)

2: “It takes much time, effort, and funding to place, maintain, and monitor loon nesting rafts. Therefore, we’re careful about when and where to use them...” (VLCP)

**CANAAN LAKE ASSOCIATION (CLA); BOD MEETING MINUTES**  
**10/16/2024 @ 4:30p, Powers Room, Cardigan Mountain School (CMS)**

**DRAFT**

Loon data from last 9 years demonstrate that egg loss has not played a significant role in chick survival. CSL loons have consistently established nesting sites, mated, laid eggs and attentively cared for them. Once since 2016 (in 2017) an egg failed to hatch. To date on Canaan Street Lake, life for loon chicks becomes precarious AFTER hatching. Once the safety of the nest is gone, a few hours after hatching, human interference threatens their wellbeing.

The topic generated a good deal of discussion and eagerness by all to identify ways to support/ protect CLA loons and chicks. For further discussion.

Further information required: Elissa will contact LPC regarding the following: Permissible to place raft in reservoir? Are rafts likely to be available from LPC in 2025? Obtain update from LPC regarding current guidelines and success of placing rafts. Discuss Squam situation to learn more. Any new strategies (beyond signage) available or recommended when chick survival, rather than egg viability, is the issue?

Advisory Committee – no report

President's Report

- *Source Water Protection Committee*: Writing of the plan continues. Anticipated completion date: Spring 2025.
- *Nominating Committee*: Chair of Nominating Committee is appointed by CLA President. A group of three members who attend to the duties of the Committee are then selected by Committee Chair.
- *Paid Lake Host Coordinator Job Description*: Karen reported that information from NH Lakes indicates an option for Coordinator to receive compensation and that doing so need not exclude CLA from membership in NH Lakes. She will forward the relevant email to BOD. The group opted to learn more about this possibility before moving forward. For further discussion.
- *Status of salt reduction request*: School Superintendent remains opposed to salt reduction plan for school safety reasons. Chet Hagenbarth (Town Administrator) is in discussion with NH DOT regarding options. No further role for CLA at this time.

**Board Members on the Canaan Lake web page**: Chair asked if BOD members present were comfortable posting contact information on website. Currently, names of Chair and Vice-Chair are linked to email on the BOD page; Maria's name is likewise linked to email on "Lake Hosting" page. Those present expressed their preference for posting their names, but not contact information.

**Signage (& Social Media posts) for public access areas of CLS**: (see also last month's discussion).

Locations of existing signage were reviewed and possible location for new signage suggested. Two types of signs were discussed.

(1) Signage related to protection of water purity of the lake and

(2) Signage related to safe operation of all boats per NH State Law and for protection of loons.

**From NH Boating Regs Handbook:**

- When operating within **150 feet** of another boat, swimmers, rafts, shore, docks, or mooring fields, the operator must maintain only headway speed.
  - No person may operate a vessel or ski at a speed over six mph within **150 feet** of the shoreline.

Elizabeth noted that historically, a buoy placed outside the swim area (at 150' from shore) has served as an aid to boaters in discerning the required distance. This apparatus was damaged after last season so not present summer 2024. Elizabeth will speak with John Coffey about a replacement.

After further discussion, there was not consensus on whether and where more signage should be posted – there is already a lot of signage at the Public Beach – further discussion delayed until future meeting, with the EXCEPTION that an attractive visual reminder of the 150' distance may be helpful. Kristi will draft a sign (3 school

**CANAAN LAKE ASSOCIATION (CLA); BOD MEETING MINUTES**  
**10/16/2024 @ 4:30p, Powers Room, Cardigan Mountain School (CMS)**

**DRAFT**

buses = 150') to further educate those recreating on the lake about 150-foot distance as it pertains to boaters and loons. The group concluded that more information is required regarding signage and location of signs. For further discussion.

**Subcommittee to plan 2025 Annual Meeting –**

No concrete plans, but acknowledgement that advance notice for some aspects of meeting preparation (linked to financing CLA commitments, ie NH Lakes) are time limited. Executive Committee will meet to consider these elements in order that the Planning Subcommittee for 2025 Annual Meeting can be identified and begin their work.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion of Bylaws requiring prior approval for payment of invoices:

Current bylaws regarding bill payment:

<u>Amount of Bill</u>	<u>Prior Approval Required by</u>
Up to \$500	Treasurer
Over \$500	Board of Directors

Program expenses related to Lake Host program have increased over the years. Checks to cover payroll have increased beyond thresholds noted in Bylaws. Bylaws changes will be addressed at the Annual Meeting, but the BOD was supportive of a change that would **raise the amount of bills requiring BOD approval from \$500 to amounts over \$1,000.**

**To remember:**

- Mission Statement Change -- to comply with the Articles of Agreement --April 2025
- Bylaws change (noted above – re: bill payment prior approval); for approval at Annual Meeting.
- Schedule for future CLA BOD meetings in 2025
  - April 16, May 21, June 18, August 20, September 17, October 15,
  - Annual Meeting July 19 (PROUTY July 12)

**Motion to adjourn:**

Elizabeth made the **motion** which was **seconded** by Bill and PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elissa Close, CLA Sec/Treas