

Canaan Lake Association (CLA)  
Annual Meeting Minutes -- DRAFT  
Canaan Meeting House, Saturday 19 July 2025

**1. Welcome**

- a. Meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by President, Karen Henry who welcomed all Members. New Members stood to be recognized. Attendees were encouraged to sign in on attendance sheet.

**2. Announcements**

- a. Chair reminded those present of the requirement that boaters must have a Boating Safety Certificate and reviewed rules related to boat speed when traveling within 150 feet of shore, people or objects on the water. Full details and copy of the NH BOATING LAWS can be found on CLA website.
- b. The updated/new Source Water Protection Plan for CSL is complete and has been posted on the Town website. It focuses on ways to reduce factors contributing to cyanobacteria blooms and the protocol to be followed when a bloom has been identified.
- c. CLA will be present for Canaan Old Home Days (August) with fun educational materials for kids and information related to our lake. CLA 'swag' and maps will be available for purchase.

**3. 2023 Minutes approval**

- a. Bill Stone made the MOTION to accept 2024 Annual Meeting minutes.
- b. Motion was SECONDED by Kim Franks and PASSED unanimously.

**4. Guest lecture: New Hampshire's LAKE SMART Program**

- a. Speaker: Andrea Lamoreaux, President and Policy Advocate NH LAKES
  - i. Andrea reviewed normal changes to lakes over time; discussed threats to the health of lake ecosystems and ways in which LAKE SMART practices can help to protect water quality and lake health.

**5. Reports**

- a. Treasurer's report
  - i. Elissa Close (Sec/ Treas) reviewed proposed budget. She reported on two recent changes with potential to impact the budget going forward: pay increase for Lake Hosts went into effect last year, adding approximately \$2000 to the EXPENSE line. Dues/donations (the Association's largest source of income) and memberships have been down this year when compared to the last 3 years July data. A possible budget shortfall at end of the year may require funds to be moved from Reserves to Checking Account. Reserves are funded end-of-year surplus and was established years ago to offset anticipated costs associated with unforeseen circumstances (at the time focused on milfoil). 2025 surplus may be insufficient to transfer funds to Strategic Reserves. NH Lakes LAKE HOST program is the single greatest annual expense for CLA (a total of about \$4500 annually). Other costs (fixed costs) are covered by an annual contribution to CLA from the Town (\$2000). This year the Association is anticipated to generate about \$6000 and pay out about \$6000. Reserves will be used to cover shortfalls or unforeseen needs. Treasurer emphasized the importance of continued membership in NH Lakes. The organization serves as a resource for information, lobbying in support of lake-friendly bills, collaboration and networking, among other benefits. Early 2026 season financial needs (typically, about \$1500) may need to come from the Strategic Reserve Fund. Treasurer supports this plan and cautions against making changes to membership dues structure that could negatively impact income, while considering how best to manage these INCOME to EXPENSE changes longer term.

Based on input from Membership at Annual Meeting last year, Strategic Funds have been redistributed between two CDs and MMA.

- ii. Claude Lemois made the MOTION to approve the 2025 budget.

Andrew Terhune SECONDED the motion which was APPROVED unanimously.

**b. Loons**

- i. Elissa Close, CLA representative to the state-wide Loon Preservation Committee, reported that no loons have nested on the lake this season. 5 loons have been present all season. Based on information in the necropsy report, the loon found with BB shot and other injuries last season suggested this female was likely the loon that mated and hatched a chick with her mate last season (the chick disappeared over July 4 holiday). Loons will mate

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with a new partner if one of the pair dies. Possibly the new partner of CSL's pair moved to new territory with its new partner leaving Canaan Lake without a territorial pair. Some or all of the loons on the lake may be juveniles from last few seasons who won't mate until about 5 years old. Top factors contributing to loon mortality include: boat collision, fishing line entanglement, disease, gunshot, but lead ingestion far outpaces all of these. Members were reminded to remove ALL lead weighing 1 ounce or less from tackle boxes. NH Lead Buy Back program increased its vouchers from \$10 to \$20 per 1oz or more lead turned in. More information and list of participating shops can be found on the Loon Preservation Committee website.

**c. Water Quality**

- i. Kristi Wilson (VLAP volunteer) reviewed VLAP testing data to date. Samples are collected during June, July, and August and analyzed by Colby Sawyer College. Of the 6 parameters that are sampled 3 times each summer, conductivity continues to be of greatest concern. Road salt is the greatest contributor to rising levels of salt in the lake. Efforts to reduce salt application along Canaan Street (a State Road) met resistance from the school superintendent over concerns related to winter safety for school buses. There is no further plan to reduce road salt currently. Kristi then introduced members to new testing equipment purchased this season to reduce risk of introducing invasives to the lake (past use was shared between lakes). New equipment was displayed and its use demonstrated to the enjoyment and edification of all present!

**d. Lake Host Program**

- i. Elizabeth Jutila reviewed last year's data: 886 boats were checked for invasives of which boat ramp sheets indicate that among the arriving boats, many had last visited a lake known to be infected with invasives (13 lakes identified). Thus far in 2025, 573 boats have been inspected, predominantly watercraft without motors/ engines. Paid Lake Hosts continue to check boats for invasives and educate boaters about the lake and their role in protecting it. This year, they are reminding all visitors recreating on the lake to stay away from the reservoir. (Buoys are not in place to delineate the reservoir.) Elizabeth proposed that in the future, the CLA Vice President be involved in the Lake Host Program as an element of VP their responsibilities. The VP would complete the NH Lakes grant application for program funding; and, once the application is approved, would hire a Program Manager who will oversee and coordinate program operations for remainder of season. Volunteer Lake Hosts cover lunch breaks for Paid Hosts (12-2pm). Talon Luce was recognized as a Super Volunteer for his generous commitment to staffing many of the volunteer shifts. Volunteers are always needed - those interested in participating are encouraged to contact Maria Clark.

**e. Weed Watchers**

- i. Rick Roesch (Weed Watcher Coordinator) recognized Weed Watcher volunteers and reported that this year, as last, no aquatic invasive plants have been identified in the lake. Invasive plants are reported to the State who coordinate and participate in remediation/ removal of the invasive. The number of Chinese Mystery Snails continues to increase. Snails are now found along the shore from the Town Beach to reservoir and recently some have started to appear on the Corno Road side of Crescent Cove. Both Chinese Mystery Snails and Purple Loosestrife are listed as "invasive". NHDES states that, "there is concern that, over time, the invasive snails will out-compete native species for food and could serve as host and vectors for numerous parasites, some of which could be harmful to humans." Chinese Mystery Snails should be collected, removed from the lake and disposed of in trash. Presence of Purple Loosestrife should be reported to Rick Roesch, Weed watchers.

- f. **Advisory Committee** THANKS FOR THE TREATS! Sweets and coffee to accompany our pre-meeting coffee hour were provided by the Advisory Committee.

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**6. Nominating Committee**

- a. Sarah Booker, Sylvia Rich, and Sophia Havasy, submitted the following names to serve as Officers and Directors of the Canaan Lake Association for the July 2025 to July 2027 term:

**Secretary/ Treasurer: Ben Hayden (new role)**

Director: Maria Clark

Director: Kim Franks

Director: Carol Williams

Director: Kristi Wilson

Karen Henry continues to serve as President

Elizabeth Jutila continues to serve as Vice President

Deb Hutchinson, Chris Day (Head of School, CMS), and Bill Stone continue as Directors.

- b. The Committee extended sincere thanks to all those noted above.  
c. Kim Franks made the MOTION to approve all candidates, as submitted.  
i. Motion SECONDED by Andrew Terhune and APPROVED unanimously.

**7. Social Media**

- a. Maria noted that the Association's Facebook page now has 491 Friends and has resulted in at least 3 new members - one from Alabama!  
b. New among social media offerings/opportunities is a heading under "About CLA" on the Canaan Street Lake website that enables those interested to JOIN, RENEW, and DONATE from the comfort of their home desk or armchair!

**8. President's Report**

- a. Karen showed a LIDAR image of Canaan Lake and surrounding watershed indicating that the Lake was apparently formed by glacial scour. She noted that the Source Water Protection Plan is complete and that CLA will have a significant role to play in education and outreach related to its implementation. She encouraged lake shore owners and (equally as important) those with property away from the lake, in the watershed, to sign up for a Lake Smart visit and education about how to make properties more 'lake friendly'.

**9. Bylaws Changes**

- a. The amount of money that the Treasurer can spend without requiring approval of the BOD was last increased about 20 years ago. At that time amounts between \$200-500 came to the BOD for approval and over \$500 were approved at the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer requested, and BOD voted to approve the following amendment to Bylaws at the July 2 special meeting via ZOOM. Per Bylaws: "Such action is subject to a repeal or change by 2/3 majority of the Members."

Current Bylaw with changes in bold:

The Secretary-Treasurer shall perform the usual duties of such office, including but not limited to **(f)** Handling funds, serving as Signatory on accounts and maintaining adequate financial records. Paying all bills.

Amount of Bill

**Up to \$2000** (prev. up to \$500)

**\$2000 and over** (prev. \$500 and over)

Prior Approval Required by

**Treasurer**

**Board of Directors**

Neither call for repeal nor change to the amendment was voiced by Membership.

**Bylaws change is adopted.**

**10. Next Meeting**

- a. Karen Henry announced next Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday 18 July 2026.**

**11. Kim Franks made the MOTION to adjourn.**

Bill Stone SECONDED the motion which PASSED unanimously.

Annual Meeting concluded at 11:40.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elissa Close

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Secretary/ Treasurer, 23 July 2025