

CANAAN LAKE ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

Revised September 2023, June 2024, June 2025

Mission

1. The Canaan Lake Association works to ensure the health of Canaan Street Lake for the benefit of the natural world and for its use and enjoyment by people of all ages, now and for generations to come.
2. Activities of the Canaan Lake Association shall be appropriate to its mission. They shall include, without being limited to, the following:
 - a. Sponsoring educational activities and dissemination of information on watershed protection, boating safety laws, etc.
 - b. Providing a forum where Members and residents of the area can become acquainted and can discuss the problems and opportunities of the Canaan Street Lake area.
 - c. Providing a channel for communication between the Association, the Town of Canaan and other government agencies.
 - d. Supporting, with approval of the Members, organizations that pursue activities which benefit or improve Canaan Street Lake and the surrounding area esthetics, recreation, conservation, environment, and water quality.

Membership

3. Membership is open to all who are interested in the mission and activities of the Association. Membership is acquired and maintained by payment of annual dues. Membership may be corporate, family or individual, all of whom have one vote.

Voting

4. Voting at Membership Meetings of the Association, Annual or Special, is restricted to Members.

Directors

5. General management and direction of the Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors. The Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, the Head of Cardigan Mountain School and up to seven other Members of the Association.
6. The Town of Canaan Select Board shall be invited to select one among them to serve as a member of the Board of Directors and act as a liaison between the Town and the Lake Association.

7. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for formulating policies and programs of the Association and recommending them to the Members for approval. They shall oversee the direction by the Officers of approved programs, monitor progress, and report annually to Members. They shall recommend to the Members for approval an annual program and budget, which shall balance commitments against resources.
8. The Directors shall meet each year in advance of the Annual Meeting to consider and prepare the proposed policies, programs, and budget for the year, and the Agenda for the Annual Meeting. In addition, they shall hold such meetings throughout the year as may be required. The President shall call and preside at all meetings where possible but may delegate this role to the VicePresident. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the Clerk of the Board and keep the record. Four members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum of four Board members is physically present at any meeting, other members may participate by telephone and/or electronic means and may vote.

The President shall invite to Board meetings a representative from the Weed Watcher, and/or Lake Host programs as appropriate.

9. Nothing in the foregoing paragraphs 5- 7 shall limit the right of an individual Member to propose policies, programs, or budget items for consideration by the Association at any Membership Meeting, or for consideration by the Directors prior to any meeting of the Association.

Conflict of Interest

10. Any possible conflict of interest on the part of any member of the Board shall be disclosed in writing to the Board and reported, as a matter of record, to the Annual Meeting. Where the transaction involving a Board member exceeds five hundred dollars (\$500) but is less than five thousand dollars (\$5000) in a fiscal year, then a two-thirds vote of disinterested directors is required. Where the transaction involved exceeds five thousand dollars (\$5000) in a fiscal year, then a two-thirds vote of disinterested directors and publication in the *Valley News* is required. The minutes of the Board meeting shall reflect that a disclosure was made and record the full vote including abstentions. Every new member of the Board will be advised of this policy upon entering the duties of office and shall sign a statement acknowledging understanding of, and agreement with, this policy. The Board will comply with all requirements of New Hampshire law in this area and the New Hampshire requirements are incorporated into these by-laws.

Officers

11. The executive authority of the Association shall be vested in a President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer, at least one of whom shall be a full-time resident of Canaan.

President

12. The President shall act as Chair of the Board of Directors, shall preside at all meetings of the Association, and shall call special meetings of the Association, when necessary, when requested by a majority of the Board of Directors, or upon written request from five Members of the Association.
13. The President shall have responsibility for execution of approved policies and programs of the Association, and is authorized to appoint and instruct appropriate committees to perform specific assignments. The President will report to the Annual Meeting on the activities of all committees.

Vice President

14. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in case of absence or disability of the President, or as the President may request.

Secretary-Treasurer

15. The Secretary-Treasurer shall perform the usual duties of such office, including but not limited to:
 - a. Communications on behalf of the Association, whether external or internal, including correspondence, notices, minutes of meetings, press releases, etc. The Secretary is not responsible for committee reports.
 - b. Acting as Clerk for meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors and maintaining full and accurate records of proceedings.
 - c. Maintain up-to-date membership lists, available to all Members.
 - d. Authorize postings on the Association’s website.
 - e. Billing and collecting of membership dues and special assessments.
 - f. Handling funds, serving as Signatory on accounts and maintaining adequate financial records. Paying all bills.

<u>Amount of Bill</u>	<u>Prior Approval Required by</u>
Up to \$2000	Treasurer
Over \$2000	Board of Directors

- g. Providing the Board of Directors with financial data required for the preparation of the annual budget.
- h. Following Board approval, prepare a budget statement for approval of the Annual Meeting.
- i. Report to members at the Annual Meeting on the financial status of the Association.

Auditor

- 16. The Board of Directors shall appoint an Auditor who shall audit the books and accounts of the Secretary-Treasurer annually and shall report the findings to the Board and to the Association at the Annual Meeting. The Auditor may not serve as a Board member and may not hold any other office.

Ad Hoc Committees

- 17. Ad Hoc Committees shall be appointed to perform detailed work in areas deemed important by the Directors. Standing Committees shall formulate, or assist the Directors to formulate, plans and programs for the approval by the Board. After approval they shall take such actions as may be required to carry out the plans and programs. They shall report to the President at least annually. Committees shall be responsible for their own internal organization and detailed assignments.
- 18. Ad Hoc Committees may comprise any number or persons, as needed. The President shall appoint the Chair, who shall appoint the remaining members and any replacements that may become necessary.

Election of Officers and Directors

- 19. Officers and Directors shall be elected initially for two-year terms by vote of the members at Annual Meetings. To ensure continuity of administration, elections shall be staggered so that the President, the Vice-President, and the Secretary-Treasurer are not all elected in the same year.
- 20. The term of office shall commence at the adjournment of the Annual Meeting wherein elected. No Director or Officer shall be elected to more than four consecutive two year terms, but may serve again on the Board after a lapse of one year. The Nominating Committee may waive the one-year lapse requirement by majority vote.
- 21. A Nominating Committee Chair shall be appointed by the President as soon as possible after the Annual Meeting. The Chair shall then select no fewer than two Association members to form the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a recommended slate of Candidates and shall report the slate at the next Annual Meeting. Alternate candidates

may be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting and if seconded, shall be included in the voting.

22. The President shall have the authority to appoint a replacement for any Officer or Director except himself/herself who may leave office between elections. Such replacement shall serve until the next Annual Meeting at which time the appointment shall either be confirmed to serve the balance of that term or members shall elect a replacement for a one or two-year term as the case may be. In the event that the President resigns, the Vice-President will substitute and the Vice-President's post will remain vacant until the next Annual Meeting.

Meetings

23. The regular Annual Meeting shall be the principal business meeting of the year. Elections of Officers and Directors; annual reports of Officers, Directors, and Committees shall be presented; and major matters requiring approval of members shall be voted upon.
24. Special Meetings may be called, as required, in accordance with the policy at paragraph 11.
25. Notice of any meetings shall be sent to all members not less than fifteen days before the meeting. Mailing to the address of record shall constitute such notice.

Dues and Assessments

26. Annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors and shall be due and payable as of the date of the Annual Meeting each year. The Association shall use proceeds from the dues to defray expenses incidental to carrying on the business of the Association, the cost of programs and activities approved and budgeted.

Provisions for Dissolution

27. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, assets shall be distributed to one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, or other tax exempt organizations.

Amendments

28. The original Bylaws were adopted by consent of the members in accordance with RSA 292:6. The power to alter, amend or repeal the bylaws or to adopt new bylaws shall be vested in the Board of Directors. Such action is subject to repeal or change by a 2/3 majority vote of the members. The amendment and reasons therefore shall be forwarded to members prior to the next Annual Meeting.

29. An amendment may be proposed at any Board of Directors meeting without prior notice, but the vote on said amendment shall be deferred to a Board meeting not less than ten days later.

Notice of a proposed amendment shall be sent to all Directors at least eight days prior to voting.