

Canaan Lake Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

8/20/2025 4:30 PM | Powers Room, Cardigan Commons, Cardigan Mountain School

Attendees Present: Karen Henry (President), Chris Day (CMS Head of School), Maria Clark (Director), Kim Franks (Director), Kristi Wilson (Director), Ann Johnson (Member), Deb Hutchinson (Director), Ben Hayden (Secretary-Treasurer), Elizabeth Jutila (Vice President)

Meeting was called to order by Henry at 4:31 PM.

LakeSmart Program: Ann Johnson spoke about LakeSmart and encouraged board participation in property evaluations, aiming for 12 properties by next year's Annual Meeting. Henry noted evaluations are educational and non-regulatory. The board discussed outreach via email, Facebook, and the website. The LakeSmart team would like to have four properties for evaluation before they visit a lake.

Motion to Rescind April Dues Elimination Motion: Henry recommended rescinding the April motion would make membership dues voluntary. **Motion to rescind** made by Henry, seconded by Jutila. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- 6/18/25 Board Meeting Minutes: No comments from the board. **Motion to approve** made by Jutila, seconded by Franks. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- 7/19/25 Annual Meeting Minutes: Discussion re: inaccuracies corrected by Henry before circulation to the BOD for review. No further comments from the Board. **Motion to approve** was made by Wilson, seconded by Jutila. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report: Hayden reported projected year-end operating deficit of ~\$650, down from ~\$3,000. \$500 donation from Bill Van Zandt was acknowledged. CLA holds ~\$31,000 in assets, including prepaid Lake Host funds. Noted \$2,000 transfer from Money Market to Checking made by the former Treasurer to cover expenses in light of anticipated deficit.

- Hutchinson asked about Lake Host grant; Jutila explained it's based on prior-year volunteer hours and boat launch traffic. Hayden noted the \$2,200 grant + ~\$4,000 from CLA combined fund the Lake Host program for the year.

CLA Tax Exempt Status: Hayden clarified CLA is currently a 501(c)(4) organization and will file paperwork to convert to a 501(c)(3) to enable tax-deductible donations.

Committee Reports

- Weed Watchers: Clark noted no major updates. Henry noted hearing about increased purple loosestrife this year, especially on Burnett property.
- Water Quality: Wilson reported final sampling scheduled. Equipment upgrade discussed; dissolved oxygen meter (~\$1,000) recommended but will continue to explore options. No concerns to note.
 - Hutchinson inquired about beach shutdowns due to high bacteria counts. It was noted that the State is responsible for this testing and does not inform CLA of the results. Discussion followed about how to discourage ducks: don't feed, tinfoil, dogs.
- Lake Hosts: Clark noted the program nearing completion. Volunteer participation was strong with all slots filled. Jutila praised paid hosts for professionalism.

- Loon Awareness Signage: Wilson presented a hand-painted sign and was commended for her work. Suggestions included modifying text to clarify the message.
- Advisory Committee: No report.

Snail Harvest Event Planning: Safety protocols and operational risk management plan discussed. Wilson recommended adding hand sanitation after handling snails. Jutila inquired about the structure of the event and Henry clarified that CLA is supporting volunteers coordinated through Hypertherm. Jutila volunteered to serve as “boss boat” and designated 9-1-1 caller in case of emergency.

Wish List Brainstorming: The Board brainstormed ideas for one-time gift and/or increased income:

- Extend paid lake host coverage to weekdays, “drop in” lake host days
- Beach and boat launch improvements (swale, plantings, perched beach) noting that the boat launch is state-owned and the beach is owned by the town.
- Water quality equipment upgrades
- Educational outreach and expanded mailing campaign
- Landscaping and runoff mitigation projects

Board members will continue brainstorming and revisit the topic at the next meeting.

Other Business

- Cyanobacteria: No signs of cyanobacteria blooms despite 75° water temp through the entire water column. Henry posited this is due to no rain / no runoff.
- CD Maturity: \$5,183 CD maturing 9/4 will renew at ~3.85%. Consensus was to allow the CD to automatically renew.

Jutila made a **motion to adjourn** and was seconded by Franks. **The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:33 PM.**