

**Minutes of the 72nd Lake Groton Association Annual Meeting
Saturday, September 1st, 2018**

Preamble: The By-Laws require an annual meeting of the membership during the months of July, August or September for the purpose of electing trustees and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before the meeting.

1. Call to Order and Quorum Confirmation

Rusty Reader, President, presided over the meeting. At approximately 10:15 a.m. Rusty asked Susan Pelkey Smith to confirm that there were at least 20 members in attendance to meet the by-law requirement. Susan confirmed attendance exceeded the minimum. Rusty called the meeting to order.

2. Introduction of New Camp Owners and Association members

On behalf of the Welcoming Committee, Jim Soutar reported on the following new camp owners and welcomed them to the association:

- Marty Dexter – 592 West Shore Drive
- Dave Jalbert – 400 Sunset Trail
- Goober Schaarschmidt & Ashley White – 347 Sunset Trail & adjacent lot
- Mark & Martha Gherardi – 328 French Road
- Butch & Judy Gandin – 38 Hosmer Brook Road

3. Moment of Silence for deceased members

Rusty read the names of members who died during the past year and asked for a moment in their honor:

- Milt Lamberton
- MaryAnn Dubois
- Mary Page
- Gary Klinefelter
- Gary Downer

4. Volunteer Thank You

Rusty referred to the numerous volunteers who were listed on the agenda and asked membership to join him in thanking the volunteers for their time and expertise.

5. Email Address Request

Rusty requested email addresses for members not currently receiving emails from the Association. Please provide your email addresses to Jon Desilets at jonsandydes@gmail.com

6. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 2, 2017 Annual Lake Groton Association Meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

7. Financial Report

Susan Pelkey Smith, Clerk, gave the Treasurer's Report and referred to the handout. As of August 31, 2017, the Association had cash of \$8,197.02 consisting of \$2,418.97 in a Certificate of Deposit, \$33.13 in petty cash, \$3,945.91 in operating funds, \$1,558.37 in Fireworks Fund and \$240.64 in Bladderwort Fund, for a total of \$8,197.02. Receipts totaled \$8,184.12, including dues of \$3,050, \$4,747 for fireworks. Expenditures were \$6,113.05, including \$5,000 for fireworks, leaving the balance prior to the collections at the meeting at \$10,268.09. The balance in the fireworks fund is \$1,305.37. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

8. Nomination and Election of Two Trustees

Of the six Trustees, two are up for election every year. The slots currently held by Steve Clark and Peter Welch need to be filled. Janet Page was nominated and unanimously elected to replace Steve Clark.

Rusty asked that approval be given to amend Articles 2 and 3 of the by-laws to remove the clerk from an annual elected position. The amendments will be drafted during the year and brought to the membership for a vote at next year's annual meeting. Instead of annually electing a Clerk, the Trustees will elect a Treasurer and a Secretary to fulfill the roles previously fulfilled by the Clerk. Barb Zander recommended that when by-laws are being amended that it would be helpful to have the proposed changes in writing ahead of the vote. Rusty asked for nominations from the floor to fill the Trustee position being vacated by Peter Welch. Susan Pelkey Smith was nominated and unanimously elected.

9. Financial Recommendations from the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees recommend approval of the following:

- \$250 donation to Groton Fast Squad

- \$250 donation to Groton Fire Department
- \$50 donation to Loon Recovery Program
- Dues of \$40 for the following year

The above recommendations were unanimously approved.

10. Committee Reports

A. Goose Report: Peter Lyon reported on adding the goose eggs (spraying oil on the eggs to prevent them from hatching). Peter reported that there were three chicks, which subsequently disappeared. Peter thanked those who called him to report Canada geese sightings and reminded members not to chase the geese as this pushes them to nest further inland and makes it harder to find the nests. Peter asked to add Ricker Pond to our permit and Jon Desilets said he would take care of this.

Peter Lyon reminded members that they can buy tickets from him to the annual Groton Chicken Pie Supper on Saturday, October 6th. Volunteers are needed to peel potatoes and squash the night before.

B. Website: www.Grotonpond.com: Dave Spencer requested members to continue sending him photos and relevant information. The website contains a lot of interesting information about the lake and lake history. Please notify Dave with any corrections or updates. Dave added a link The Vermont Shoreland Protection Act Project Worksheet to help landowners determine if a shoreline permit may be needed for maintenance or development.

C. Lay Monitoring Report: Bob Ricker reported that the water clarity continues to be clearer than usual. The water was sampled 12 times so far with visibility at 3.5 - 4.5 meters, or 11 feet to close to 15 feet. Total phosphorous and chlorophyll results are expected to be available in February from the State of Vermont.

D. July 4th Activities: Rusty thanked Goober Schaarschmidt and Ashley White for offering their location for the 2018 fireworks. They have offered their location again for 2019. Tentative dates of Saturday 7/6 and rain date of Sunday 7/7 have been proposed for the 2018 fireworks. Rusty thanked the donors. A minimum of \$5,000 is needed for fireworks; without donations, there will be no show.

Jon Desilets accepted the nomination to be the 2019 boat parade grand marshal and will announce the date and time at a later date.

E. Loon Report: Darlene Sprague gave the annual loon report. The south end pair nested in 2018 and produced one chick that is 8 weeks old. The north end pair did not nest and there is a third pair on the east shore that has not nested. Darlene provided a reminder to be alert for loons when boating.

F. Bladderwort: Allen Goodine thanked the committee volunteers. Bladderwort blooms have been few in 2018 and no organized bladderwort removals were needed.

G. Groton Forest Trail Run: Rusty reported that there will be a first-time trail run on Saturday, September 8th starting at Boulder Beach. There is a maximum of 100 runners and it has been fully enrolled. Those participating in the 26-mile portion will start at 7 am and those in the 15-mile portion will start at 9 am.

11. Park Update

Susan Bulmer, Northeast Parks Regional Manager, reported on her 20th year. In the Groton State Parks, usage was up everywhere except flat at Ricker Pond and down at Kettle Pond.

Susan has been working with the Marshfield/Plainfield running group on the trail run over the winter and everyone is excited for this event.

Sarah Alberghini Winters, from Vermont Parks Forever, gave a brief presentation. Vermont Parks Forever is a separate nonprofit organization that does fundraising for Vermont State Parks. They are partnering with The Echo Leahy Center in Burlington to update The Nature Center here in Groton State Forest. They are \$85,000 short of their fundraising goal and asked for help in making donations, spreading the word and storytelling. Their website is vermontparksforever.org

Stillwater Park Ranger Kyle Rowe stated that the Stillwater gate will be dummy locked through Columbus Day. Kyle asked that everyone entering and exiting Stillwater to dummy lock the gate behind them. After Columbus Day, to launch or pull a boat, call Kyle at the Big Deer house to make arrangements.

12. New Business

Boater Safety: David Freeman and Paul White with the Marine Division of the Vermont State Police gave a presentation on boater safety. They have 30 troopers serving approximately 120 bodies of water in Vermont. They are funded

from a federal grant to the Coast Guard under Homeland Security. Their mission is twofold: law enforcement and education. They have a zero-tolerance policy for noncompliance with life jacket laws, which apply to any vessel, which could include paddling an inner tube. They reported that 70% of the tickets they issue are for life jacket violations, which must be wearable and readily accessible. They reminded attendees that if you are born on or after July 1, 1974, you must take an approved boater safety course; they honor courses taken in another state. Any motorized vessel must be registered; when towing, an observer is required and they must be at least age 12; there is a minimum age of 11 for the boater safety course. You must be at least 16 to operate a personal watercraft; if you are towing, the personal watercraft must be rated for at least 3 people and include an observer. When you are within 200' of anything (swimmer, dock, shore, another boat, etc.), you must observe the no wake rules, which means traveling at a speed of 5 mph or less. The troopers had "The Handbook of Vermont Boating Laws and Responsibilities" available and encouraged everyone, especially those who rent camps, to have these available and refer to them.

The meeting adjourned at about noon for the members and guests to enjoy the potluck lunch, organized by Gail McDonnell.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Pelkey Smith, Treasurer