

**Gregg Lake Association
Fall Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2022**

Held at the Town Beach Pavilion at Gregg Lake

Attendees:

Denise & Paul Scott, Ruth Benedict, Michelle & George Caughey, Jeanne & Earle Shumway, Steve Ullman, Joan Gorga, Celeste Lunetta, Joann Kloss, Jan & Tom Boyle, Linda & Bob Southall, Jeanne Baker, Carol Carnes, Ken Akins, Patrick Pezzati, Marlene & Jerry Schultz, Allen Sawyer, Martha Osler, Nancy Gertner, John Reinstein, Janine & Charlie Robinson

President Denise Scott called the meeting to order at 12:20 PM

Welcome

Denise Scott conveyed sad news of the June 5th death of long time GLA member Walter Kloss. Condolences were offered to his wife Joann, present at the meeting.

Recording Secretary George Caughey summarized the May 28, 2022 GLA Spring Meeting minutes, which had been provided to GLA members by email, and were approved.

Treasurer Ken Akins' GLA financial report showed a balance at the May 28, 2022 GLA meeting of \$1427.58. Since then, GLA received \$375.43 in dues deposits and paid out \$134.95 to cover annual costs of hosting the GLA Web page. Balance as of the present meeting was \$1668.06. Dues remain \$25/household if paid by personal check and \$26.90 if paid online (preferred) at http://www.gregglakeassociation.com/store/p5/Pay_your_dues%21.html.

Old Business

Visit to Harbor Camps (Aranu'tiq/Seneb/Reflections). Ten GLA members met with Nick Teich and Umut Dursun June 10th for a walking tour of Gregg Lake's Harbor Camps, witnessing many improvements to camp facilities and welcoming opportunities to ask questions. After this season, Harbor Camps will be run by Umut, who succeeds Nick as Executive Director/Camp Director. For more information see <https://harborcamps.org>.

Loon Preservation Committee presentation. Multiple GLA members attended an informative slide talk/show-and-tell on NH loons held June 16th at Antrim's Tuttle Library.

GLA Website is active. Ruth Benedict and Betsy Landis continue efforts to enhance content and functionality. Ruth asked for submissions of content, including photos and videos, and welcomed advice on how to improve the site generally.

GLA Member Contact Information. The Google Forms document allowing members to share contact information voluntarily and privately, as set up by Patrick Pezzati, works on initial

testing and is nearly ready to open up to all members, who will need to request permission to contribute to the document by responding to a forthcoming email invitation.

Proposed Memorials. Steve Ullman updated his proposals for memorials at Gregg Lake. These include erecting a sign identifying the dam as the Ben Pratt Memorial Dam and installing an inscribed granite bench at the town beach honoring Steve Sawyer. Permission was obtained from the Antrim Parks & Rec Dept and Selectboard to erect the bench. Contributions to these respective memorials can be made by sending a check to the Bank of NH made out to the Ben Pratt sign fund or Steve Sawyer bench fund. Contact Steve Ullman for additional details.

Antrim Wind/TransAlta. The NH Site Evaluation Committee investigation of complaints of excessive turbine noise continues. Denise is not aware of any updates since May of this year but expects one soon via the required quarterly report.

Water testing. Joan Gorga reported that Gregg Lake water temperature was 3°F warmer than average in June and a remarkable 6°F warmer in July, but returned to near-normal levels in August. Despite this, no major blooms of filamentous or toxic algae were noted. Last year in August anything deeper in the lake than 12 ft (44% of lake volume) had levels of dissolved O₂ too low to support fish life, but this season that figure improved to 18 ft (24% of volume). Below 24 ft the lake had <1% oxygen, which is associated with liberation of phosphorus from sediments, which can promote growth of algae. This was an encouraging improvement over the values for last year. Although results of August sampling for phosphorus are pending, prior measurement are better this year than in 2021. This year levels of suspended algae remain higher than desirable, but fortunately less than last year, which was much wetter. Joan reports that now with a tradition of sampling 3X/yr, they can better assess trends across years and seasons.

Soak Up the Rain NH is a voluntary, non-punitive program managed by the Dept. of Environmental Services to help homeowners protect lakes and streams from negative impacts (erosion, algal blooms) of stormwater pollution. Joan Gorga reported that another round of property inspections in Antrim was conducted June 28th. In the two rounds so far, ~20 properties have been evaluated by Soak staff plus another by peer-to-peer inspection. Soak staff offer to provide a demonstration “fix” for a property in Antrim, if anyone is interested. For more info, contact Joan Gorga, lisa.loosigian@des.nh.gov or robert.livingston@des.nh.gov.

“Gregg Lake Beach Park” Improvement Plan. Joan Gorga and Celeste Lunetta updated the \$330,000 plan to rebuild bathhouse, provide staff shelter, build accessible pathways, and re-landscape the beach area for erosion control. Funding was delayed by a now-resolved potential requirement for all materials to be American in origin. Timing is an issue because of a need to complete demolition, engineering, and foundation work before winter so that the project can be completed and the beach opened next summer. Otherwise there may be further delays to avoid beach closure during the 2023 summer season. For details see <https://www.antrimnh.org/parks-recreation/pages/gregg-lake-beach-park-improvement-plan>.

Other Recreation Dept. Matters. Antrim Rec Director Celeste Lunetta referred GLA members to links on the town website to give input to selectboard members and committees now forming budgets. For example, the Rec Dept. is considering renting kayaks at Gregg Lake, which would be safer for the Lake with respect to exposure to invasive aquatic organisms. Celeste stressed that under current rules, renters in Antrim still need to pay to park at the beach. Free parking is for taxpayers. She outlined potentially controversial beach rules about use of personal flotation devices (PFDs), inviting input, and sought feedback about the present season's use of the beach parking lot as a drop-off point for town programs. She reported that water quality (*E. coli* counts etc.) was good this year in the beach area. 70 children took swim lessons. Although the raft has been removed in the absence of lifeguards, the swimming buoys will remain up through October. She notes that on July 4th and 5th fireworks were set off at the beach area, and were not well cleaned up. She reminds us that it is illegal to set off fireworks without permission on land that isn't yours, including town land. She also expects to put up security cameras pointing towards parking lot and kayak rack.

Lake Hosting. Celeste reports that so far this season paid and volunteer Lake Hosts have logged 1230 boater encounters. Donations of money helped make this possible. Increases in funding from the town and private donations have been used to extend the Lake Hosting season as well as to improve parking lot management and clean up. The Lake Host program needs volunteers for early morning and evening hours (5-7 PM Sun-Thu & 6-8 AM Sat-Sun.) To donate volunteer time contact GLA member Michelle Caughey at ghc@sbcglobal.net or Celeste at antrimrecdir@tds.net. GLA Training is online & you will be paired with experienced hosts.

Vacant House Monitoring. GLA members again are encouraged to complete the Antrim Police Vacant Property form before leaving for extended periods so that officers can contact owners regarding observed problems. A copy of this form is on the GLA website. Per Denise, the 30-day limit on the form is not absolute. Lake homeowners away for the winter should fill in the expected interval of absence, however long that is.

New Business

Lead Fishing Tackle Collection. Per Denise Scott, lead tackle is the largest cause of documented preventable loon deaths. It is responsible for 41% of loon deaths in NH. Lead tackle sales now are banned in NH. The Loon Preservation Committee has additional information on their website about drop-off locations for your lead tackle. Learn more at LoonSafe.org.

Resident Loon Update/Boat & Jet Ski Issues. The loon chicks on Gregg Lake were born June 13th and 15th. Jet skis and fast boats are hazardous to loons and are the 2nd highest cause of loon death. Boaters harassing loons, behaving recklessly or driving at illegal speeds, can be reported to the Marine Patrol.

Hybrid Meetings Discussion. Denise Scott noted the impracticality of holding hybrid meetings, especially in areas with poor cell phone coverage, like the Town Beach Pavilion.

Nominating Committee Report. Mary Dillon is staying in Florida and is resigning as GLA Vice President. Jeanne Shumway agreed to replace Mary as VP. Other officers have agreed to stay. The slate as modified was proposed by Steve Ullman of the GLA nominating committee, and was seconded and adopted. Denise encourages development of a succession plan and volunteering for GLA leadership positions.

Next meeting:

The 2023 GLA Spring Meeting was proposed to be held May 27th at 10 AM at the home of Jeanne & Earle Shumway (187 Gregg Lake Rd); this proposal was seconded & enthusiastically endorsed.

President Denise Scott adjourned the meeting at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
George Caughey
Recording Secretary