

**Gregg Lake Association  
Spring Meeting Minutes  
May 27, 2023**

Held at the home of Jeanne & Earle Shumway at 187 Gregg Lake Rd.

**Attendees:** Denise & Paul Scott, Jeanne & Earle Shumway, Michelle & George Caughey, Marcia & Steve Ullman, Joan Gorga, Celeste Lunetta, Jan & Tom Boyle, Linda & Bob Southall, Patrick Pezzati, Marlene & Jerry Schultz, John Reinstein, Linda Drake Gobbo, Bart & Joanne Woodworth, Linda Morehouse, David & Martha Osler, Ben & Bev Renda, June Kempton

**President Denise Scott** called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM.

**Welcome and Introduction.** Denise welcomed attendees, who introduced themselves.

**News.** Denise provided the following updates since August meeting:

- Former GLA Vice President Mary Dillon's home in Florida was flooded in September by hurricane Ian
- Cyanobacteria blooms were seen in October and as late as November 15<sup>th</sup> at various sites in the lake, including the south end and outlet cove
- Loss of longtime GLA members Sylvia Christine (Chris) Kohler (96) and Ellie Nevala (91½) who began renting cottages on the lake in 1961 from Miss Cilley and Miss Brooks
- Request in March from BC student Megan Sharkey to complete survey about Antrim Wind as part of her Environmental & Geology major senior thesis
- Two loons are back on the lake but are not yet occupying a nest

Denise welcomed and introduced **new Vice President Jeanne Shumway**, who graciously agreed to replace Mary Dillon and was nominated and accepted at the last GLA meeting.

**Recording Secretary.** George Caughey summarized the August Annual Meeting minutes, which had been emailed to GLA members and were approved by those attending the present meeting.

**Treasurer's Report.** Ken Akins' emailed report showed a balance at the August annual meeting of \$1668. Since then, GLA received \$450 in dues deposits and paid out \$160 to the state of NH for water testing, leaving a balance of \$1958. Notes: starting this month, website hosting fees now will be paid every 2 years rather than annually because it is less expensive that way. 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](http://www.gregglakeassociation.com/store/p5/Pay_your_dues%21.html).

**Corresponding Secretary.** Ruth Benedict was not in attendance, but requests notification of any changes in member email addresses or other contact information. Emails received via the GLA website at [www.gregglakeassociation.com](http://www.gregglakeassociation.com) will now go directly to the GLA email address. Ruth will monitor and respond as needed.

## Old Business

**Antrim Police - Vacant home report.** Other than many branches coming down from storms Denise knows of no major problems affecting vacant lake properties over the winter season. She requested an update from the Antrim police department but has yet to hear back. However, she is aware that police personnel do check on properties for which a vacant property request form has been completed. A copy of this form remains on the GLA website.

**Google Sheets document containing GLA names and contact info.** Per Patrick Pezzatti, no recent changes in this document sharable by GLA members.

**Recreation Department Update.** Antrim Rec. Director Celeste Lunetta provided several updates:

- The Lake Host program will continue. Some familiar paid hosts are not returning because of medical school and other commitments. Celeste's plan is to staff a full-time paid Lake Host position beginning June 17<sup>th</sup>. She reminds us that we can help by contributing money to fund paid hosts or by volunteering our time, especially for early (7-10 AM) and late (after 5 PM) slots, which can be busy, but are usually uncovered by paid staff. As in the past, Michelle Caughey is helping to coordinate and schedule Lake Host volunteers. Contact Michelle ([ghc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ghc@sbcglobal.net)) or Celeste ([Recdirector@antrimnh.gov](mailto:Recdirector@antrimnh.gov)) if interested in volunteering.
- The swimming dock will be anchored in its usual spot at the town beach starting June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Rec. Dept. is launching a new lifeguard class for the beach (lifeguards must be 16 or above and certified but can be trained at age 15) and learn-to-swim classes are continuing at various levels. There is also a "Gregg Lake Swim Team" for graduates of prior schools.
- Town beach now has security cameras with 4 views + audio, which can see and hear the road, beach, parking lot, and point. Celeste and a selectboard member have access to the feed.
- A landline phone inside the beach's locked shed is available for emergencies when staff are on site. Cell phone coverage remains poor, which raises potential safety concerns for 911 and other emergencies in this congested area. Options for improving emergency contact services at the site were discussed, including tying into the WiFi serving the security cameras.
- Antrim in the Evening is returning. The Rec. Dept. secured grant funds to increase exposure to out of state musicians. Performances occur Wednesdays 6-8 PM. Several acts are already on the schedule, which can be viewed on the Antrim web site or in the Limrik.
- The Stay Active for Independent Living (SAIL) program will be offered MWF 1:30-2:30 starting in June. This evidence-based program focuses on balance, strength and fall prevention.

**Lake health:** "Lake goddess" Joan Gorga provided the following updates:

- Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) report for 2022 received for Gregg Lake from NH Dept of Environmental Services (DES) predicted that logging in watershed on Hattie Brown Rd and Craig Rd areas will increase nutrient influx and advised to continue regular sampling and look out for cyanobacteria. The lake's higher pH trend was encouraging and consistent with ongoing recovery from many past decades of exposure to acid rain.
- Compared to the big summer rain year of 2021, when more nutrients were thought to flush into the lake, last year the lake had less chlorophyll A consistent with less algae. On the other

hand, in 2022 the lake had unusually warm water temperatures. Thermal layers set up early, leading to early appearance of the low-O<sub>2</sub> “dead zone” at the bottom, which may have increased release of nutrients like phosphates from sediments, leading to less decline than expected in a drier year.

- **Cyanobacteria.** The Harmful Algal Bloom contact person at NH DES was away during last fall’s cyanobacteria bloom at Gregg Lake, which, therefore, was not registered and is the reason that our lake does not appear on the DES list for blooms. However, we have had well-documented brief blooms for the past two years. The toxicity of these blooms is uncertain because they were not tested and, in any case, occurred well after close of swimming season. NH DES is working on a new program to determine how reports should be reported and acted upon.

- **Town Beach and Boat Ramp Renovations.** A grant supporting renovations was written and awarded. The funds are insufficient to carry out all that was envisioned and the project remains in planning stages with assistance from a landscape architect and input from the Selectboard. Basic components of the project include rebuilding the bathhouse, putting in accessible pathways, planting to prevent erosion, and leveling the parking area. A boat launch was not part of the original plan. Recently, a grant was submitted to ARPA to fund stabilizing the boat launch area with permeable paving material.

## **New Business**

**Antrim Newcomers and Community Fair:** The recently formed Antrim Newcomer’s group will include GLA flyers in the new members’ packet. This group has been active in helping new residents meet each other and learn about other groups & services available to them. This group and Antrim’s Community Board are sponsoring a free Community Fair on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 12 -3 PM at the Town Hall. GLA will have an informational table at this event. The cost of printing new flyers will be taken from GLA dues.

**New GLA members** include Diana and Jeff Merrifield with property on S. Holt Hill Rd.

**Antrim Wind.** Denise related that residents close to the turbines notified the NH Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) that they believed turbines exceeded allowed decibels, particularly at night, violating terms of the contract. The SEC formed a sub-committee to address complaints filed up to the end of 2021. The sub-committee hired a new firm to do a sound study. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, the sub-committee met in Concord, accepted the sound report and concluded that the contract was not violated. That recommendation to be taken to the full SEC will be that no enforcement actions are needed. Note: this report dealt with turbine noise, not lights.

**Annual Meeting.** This year’s GLA Annual Meeting will be held August 26, 2023, at noon at the Town Beach Pavilion at Gregg Lake. This is a potluck: bring a chair & drinks (no glass or alcohol).

**Next year’s Spring Meeting** will be held at 10 AM May 25, 2024, at Patrick Pezzati’s cottage at 120 Gregg Lake Road (Emerson / Palmer)

## **Member's Forum**

**Gregg Lake paddle.** Denise conveyed the news that the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) and Appalachian Mt Club (AMC) are co-sponsoring a free educational paddle on Gregg Lake Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> 11 AM - 4 PM. Participation is limited to 10 people and is open to the public. If interested, you must register with AMC online. On the LPC website >news & events >events > June it is listed on June 24<sup>th</sup>. There are links there to register via AMC. Energetic participants can continue the paddle on Willard Pond.

“During the event, we'll be paddling the lake, watching the loons, and talking about loon biology and behavior. We started doing these paddles on lakes throughout the state last year, and they were a huge success and a lot of fun. Our goals are to teach people who care about loons more about them, and also to teach best practices for ethically watching loons (maintaining a safe distance, how to interpret loon behaviors to know when you need to give them more space, etc.) to those who may not know that human proximity can disturb loons. “

**Ben Pratt dedication.** Steve Ullman reminded us that there will be ceremony at Gregg Lake dam at 11 AM June 17<sup>th</sup> to dedicate the dam in honor of longtime Antrim resident and friend of Gregg Lake Ben Pratt.

**Steve Sawyer memorial.** On July 29<sup>th</sup> a memorial program for Steve is planned at the Town Beach, including dedication of a bench honoring Steve and his achievements at Greenpeace and elsewhere. Steve grew up in Antrim and his family has a cabin on the cove. Steve's widow Kelly Rigg-Sawyer plans to be present.

President Denise Scott adjourned the meeting at 11:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Caughey  
Recording Secretary