

Minutes of the 79th Lake Groton Association Annual Meeting Saturday, August 30st, 2025

Preamble: A meeting of the membership is required at this time by the bylaws of the association for the purpose of electing the trustees. This meeting is also qualified to act on such business that may be brought before it. A quorum of 20 active members are required.

1. Call to Order and Quorum Confirmation

Richard Guy, President, presided over the meeting.

At approximately 10:00 a.m. Dick asked for confirmation that there were at least 20 members in attendance to meet the by-law requirement. Since attendance was estimated to be 120, Dick called the meeting to order.

2. Update from 2024 Meeting

Boat (\$1500) & Pump(\$100) sold and \$1,600 was put into the new Aquatic Nuisance fund.

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Introduce Mike Gaiss and Katie Moritz – NEK Broadband

(As of this LGA meeting) the NEK broadband initiative was established 5 years ago and is now in 71 Vermont towns. If you have electrical service you can sign up for NEK broadband. Cost is \$79/mo for the lower tier (100mbps up/down), \$103/mo for 500mbps up/down. There is a \$99 one-time installation charge. Residential phone service is available for \$30/mo. There is a seasonal policy available as well.

Mike points out that NEK broadband is a non-profit employing Vermonters.

Main website page: <https://nekbroadband.org/>

Service offerings page: <https://nekbroadband.org/pricing-service-offerings/>

Sign up to receive information (this is not signing up for Broadband):

<https://get.nekbroadband.org/>

The grant that is bringing broadband into our area is also providing us with a unique opportunity to create a free, digitally-enabled community space for Groton and our neighbors through year-end 2027 (with no cost to local taxpayers. **The Hub** will be 440 square feet of space offering digital services such as private conferencing areas and workspaces. Mike and Katie encourage us to fill out the survey, the more attention the survey gets the better the attention our Community will receive.

Take the [Groton HUB Community Space Survey](#)

4. Thank you Jim Soutar

Rusty Reader and John LaRosa thanked Jim Soutar for his many many years of faithful duty as the entire LGA welcoming committee. Jim is also a 50+ years member of the LGA. His wife Marcia was also thanked. Rusty pointed out that Jim is 84 years old and did the ski course twice this year. Jim and Marcia received a standing ovation.

Introduction of new camp owners and association members

Dwaine and Susan Pelkey Smith are picking up where Jim Soutar left off as the new LGA welcoming committee. Thank you Dwaine and Susan for filling some really big shoes!

- Wayne and Becky Bushey (formerly the Randall property)
- Freddy Barnett, Penny Barnett, Fred Barnett and Shelly Gibbs (formerly the Sprague property)
- Jim and Pam Valenti (formerly the Bird property)
- Butch, Debbie, Chris, and Erica MacRitchie (formerly the Loman property)
- Matthew and Beth Gats (formerly the Ocampo property)

5. Moment of Silence for deceased members

Dick read these names and asked for a moment in their honor:

- Dana Smith Jr.
- Darren Smith
- Tausha Ames
- Madeline Dana
- David Loman
- Marcella Marr

6. Volunteer Thank You

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

LGA Email Address Request

Please provide your email addresses to grotonlga1947@gmail.com

Reminder: email addresses are kept confidential.

7. State Park Update

The Regional Vermont Parks Operations Manager, Chad Ummel provide us with the State Park Update. Some highlights were:

- Park attendance has returned to pre-covid normalcy.
 - Boulder beach - 16,664 visitors
 - Stillwater - 16,164 visitors
- Boulder Beach entrance has been paved due to flood deterioration.
- AEDs are available (seasonally) at Boulder Beach and at Stillwater.
- Black bears have been a state wide problem. They had to euthanize one bear recently, it was even going into occupied campsites.
- Nature center use is skyrocketing.
- Boat launch will remain open through the week of September 1st.
- Milfoil
 - 80 lakes in VT now have milfoil.
 - The best control is prevention.
 - Wash wash wash your boat before launching.
 - Empty the livewell and clean it before launching in another lake.

- Wash and then wait 5 days before launching again.
- Paddle craft needs to be washed as well.
- Wash your trailer too.
- If you see any weed that looks suspicious, call John LaRosa immediately, even if you don't think it could be milfoil.

8. Financial Report

Susan Pelkey Smith, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report.

- As of 8/30/2025, LGA had a total of \$24,869.26.
- The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.
- The vote to designate the \$10K CD and its related interest income to the Aquatic Nuisance fund was unanimously approved..

9. Financial Recommendations from the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees recommend approval of the following:

- \$400 donation to Groton Fast Squad (approved, up from \$300)
- \$400 donation to Groton Fire Department (approved, up from \$300)
- \$200 donation to Loon Recovery Program
- Dues of \$50 for the following year

The attendees approved to increase both the Groton Fast Squad and Groton Fire Department donations to \$400.00. The above recommendations were unanimously approved.

10. Nomination and Election of Two Trustees

Currently: Richard Guy, Lois Bostrom

Continuing: Bob Ricker and Matt Coxon, Susan Pelkey Smith and Janet Page

- Richard Guy got reelected.
- Lois Bostrom nominated Kevin McDonnell who got elected.

11. Committee Reports

- Goose Report
Peter Lyon reported that there has been good control of the geese population with no real increase for the last two years! Peter thanks us all for prompt reporting of nest locations.
- Web Site www.GrotonPond.org
- Lay Monitoring Report
Bob Ricker reported that he took 6 samples this summer, the results will be available in late February/March. Caffeine levels remain low, these levels relate to septic runoff. **Reminder: get your septic tank pumped every 3 years.** Visibility is about 5 meters (16 ½ feet). Bob mentions this is almost "Martini Visibility" which means if you spill your martini overboard, you can see the olive on the bottom. Everyone enjoyed a laugh! Thank you for your time Bob!
Test results will be available on this website: [View the Lay Monitoring Data](#)
- Loon Report

Gail MacDonnell reported on the loons this year. Both she and Barb Zander lead this committee. We all thank Darlene Sprague who retired after 17 years (since 1997) of doing this stewardship work. We had two nesting pairs again this year with both having two chicks. It is unknown what happened to one of the south end chicks. Donations are graciously accepted at any time.

- **Bladderwort**

Allen Goodine reports that the bladderwort boat has been sold and the rake is being used as a fence between the Goodine & Ricker places. We all laughed. Allen thanks Dwaine Smith and Kevin McDonnell for the sale of the boat and also getting rid of the fire pump. The association accepted Allen Goodine's resignation as Bladderwort chairman. Thank you for all your work Allen.

- **Lake Concern Reporting**

Contact a Warden - Game Wardens enforce fish and wildlife, boat, snowmobile, ATV, and general criminal laws. They can be reached by calling their home or the nearest State Police dispatcher.

- **Chicken Pie Supper**

Help needed to peel and cut potatoes and squash on Friday evening, October 3rd at the Groton Community Kitchen (down stairs of the community building) starting at 6pm. All encouraged to help! You can purchase your chicken pie supper tickets on-line from this secure website: [Chicken Pie Supper Tickets](#)

12. New Business

Thank you to Lois Bostrom and pot luck providers for the meal and to Dwaine and Susan Pelkey Smith for sponsoring the GVFD Chicken BBQ in memory of their son, Darren.

13. Adjourn

The 2025 LGA meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Page". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Janet Page, trustee and clerk