



SALEM LAKES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION

Tim Votapka

President

Ed Wells

Vice President

Andrea Ogilvie

Treasurer

Sharon Kelley

Secretary

Janet Cartee

Director

Dennis Bond

Director

Jason Brueck

Director

Beckie Eakin

Director

John Guyette

Director

TJ Jackman

Director

Ross Ogilvie

Director

Paul Roy

Director

Jim Sullivan

Director

2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Tim Votapka at 9:00 AM while members were enjoying a continental breakfast.

The minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting were presented by secretary Sharon Kelley for approval. A motion was made by Jason Brueck and seconded by John Guyette to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

The treasurer's report was presented by Andrea Ogilvie who discussed the various funding sources for the association. She had handouts showing expenditures and income which she made available to the membership. A motion was made by Ross Ogilvie and seconded by Paul Roy to approve the reports. The motion passed unanimously.

Tim thanked the volunteers who decorated the Fourth of July float and who participated in the parade.

Sharon presented information on the Coin Drop Fundraiser which will be held on Saturday, July 26, 2025. John Guyette is in charge of volunteers for the event and a sign-up sheet was circulated.

Paul Roy and Josee Fauteux discussed plans for the upcoming Lake Salem picnic scheduled for Saturday, August 2, 2025 at the Derby Beach House. The event will be held from 12 noon to 4:00 pm with a live band and barbeque. Paul asked for volunteers to distribute flyers announcing the event and to work at the picnic. The day will feature grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and attendees are asked to bring a salad, dessert or other dish to share. Paul had a sign-up sheet and was available for questions about the event.

0.55

Sharon presented a slate of directors as the terms of six of the current directors expire this month. The new terms of these directors will be through July 31, 2027. There is a vacancy on the board which Tim asked for nominations from the floor to fill. There were no nominations so the slate was accepted as presented on a motion by Marilyn Miller, seconded by Anne Carballeira.

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Beckie Eakin reported on the Fundraising Committee's work in supporting the milfoil mitigation efforts in the lake. She gave a brief history of milfoil growth and described past efforts at containment. The committee anticipates continuing the Capital Campaign beyond next year which is the last year of the original pledge drive. She encouraged residents to report any sightings of milfoil as they boat or snorkel on the lake.

Beckie also mentioned the lead-tackle disposal tube that is located at the fishing access. Lead tackle is still a hazard for water birds, especially loons so residents are encouraged to use the disposal system if they have old tackle.

Paula Staples and Claire Roberts reported on their work with water quality in the lake. Paula described the process and encouraged anyone interested to contact her to go out on a monitoring trip. The state scorecard, available on the DEC website, shows that the clarity in the lake has been remarkably consistent over the years.

Ed Wells reported on the Vermont Public Access Greeter program. He showed statistics that present Salem as in good shape compared to many other lakes in Vermont. There have been 215 inspections so far this year with no invasives coming or going. Last year, 786 boats were inspected with 81 showing evidence of invasive species. Ed acknowledged the work of the greeters this year and stated that he will be stepping down as director of the program next year—he asked for volunteers to consider taking the job next year.

Diane Nolan asked if there was a way to get information about milfoil and safe boating to short term renters/visitors to the lake. Tim stated that there is a lot of information on the website and at the access where boats would be launched. Frank Drauszewski who is a greeter mentioned that he always asks boaters if they have used the lake before and if not, provides an educational overview of boating and conditions on the lake.

Abraham Ames represented the Lakewise Program. He is contracted by the DEC to do inspections of property for potential Lakewise Award recipients. He stated that the State of Vermont is interested in Salem as a potential "Gold Lake" with at least 15% of property owners earning the award. The inspections provide positive feedback about things that can be done to improve drainage, runoff and habitat on properties. He encouraged property owners to sign up for a free inspection. There were several current Lakewise recipients in attendance who verified how easy and valuable the process had been.

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Tim and Ross presented a report on the current state of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the lakes. Surveys and DASH have been done this year. The surveys in Big Salem showed milfoil from the known patch along the south shore to the outlet with some spreading along the east shore. DASH removed many of those plants late in June and bottom barriers were placed on the known patch by the inlet. A survey by Arrowwood Environmental showed that there is now EWM in Little Salem concentrated around the small access. DASH is not an option due to the density of vegetation in the area. An application of ProCellaCOR is being considered for 2026 as a new permit will need to be obtained. The committee is considering applying for a bottom barrier permit for Little Salem to contain the bigger patches this year. Good news is that the EWM is not coming in from the Clyde River but seems to be concentrated around the small access.

Dana Lemieux asked about signage at the small outlet informing people of the presence of milfoil right near the launch point. Tim will check to see what signage is there and the committee will consider any improvements or additions. The need to continue to monitor and report new sightings of plants was emphasized and Beckie mentioned an organized group of divers that she knows of that works in another lake monitoring EWM. No action was taken on forming such a group for Salem at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted 7.19.25,

Sharon Kelley, Secretary
Salem Lakes Preservation Association

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