

**Seymour Lake Association
Annual Meeting July 26, 2025**

Call to Order 9:01 a.m.: President, Rhonda Shippee, welcomed everyone to the 74th annual meeting. She asked for a moment of silence in honor of Frank Antonelli, a former Board member for 10 years who recently passed away. She asked that anyone who hasn't renewed their membership to do so. She expressed her pride in Board members and Committee members.

Secretary's Report: Bob Steenrod made a Motion to accept the Meeting Minutes from July 27, 2024, seconded by Woody Woods, approved. Secretary, Linda Buzzell, briefly discussed our Conservation Camp scholarships. We sponsor two children to either the Green Mountain Conservation Camps or Northwoods Stewardships Camps. She asked that people let her know if they have someone who might like to attend.

Treasurer's Report: Report is attached to Secretary's files. Bob Steenrod made a Motion to accept the Report, seconded by Candy Moot, accepted. Rhonda brought up the increased dues to \$50 in 2024 in order to cover expenses and that is happening now. FOVLAP has stated that it takes \$300,000 initially to treat milfoil and we hope we won't face that. We are invested in short term CD's at a local bank because of higher interest and FDIC insurance. Meredith Augustini made a Motion for the Board to invest only in FDIC insured banks, seconded by Chris Blais, approved.

Nominating Committee: Tim Buzzell, Mike Tule, Bonnie McWain - This year Bonnie McWain, Denis Fortin and Candy Moot's three year terms are up. They have agreed to stay for re-election. A Motion was made by Bob Steenrod to approve, seconded by Woody Woods, approved. It was noted that Chris Blais was appointed by the Board to fill Tom Adam's term when he resigned late last summer. Bob Steenrod made a Motion to re-elect for one year terms Rhonda Shippee, President; Bruce Remick, Vice-President; Jean McKenny, Treasurer; Linda Buzzell, Secretary. Seconded by Woody Woods, approved. Andy Barter made a Motion to accept Chris Blais for the remaining one year term but it was decided that the Board had the right to make the decision.

Guests: Will Marlier, Orleans County Conservation District, Watershed Program Specialist - He is working with the Lakewise Program at Seymour with Tracey Becken. Contact him with any questions, 200 assessments have been made and 72 Lakewise Awards.

Meg Carter, Northwood Stewardship - she briefly discussed the new ADA hiking trail, new driveway and parking and camps for kids. They are partnering with OCNRCD for environmental projects in the area.

Larry Labor, Selectman and Vermont Representative

COMMITTEES:

Communications: Candy Moot and Denis Fortin with Karen Abada, Wendy Franklin, Rhonda Shippee, Andy Barter, Chuck Nichols and Bruce Barter. They work on our Facebook

page, email blasts and the SLA website regarding the lake and surrounding area. Please send feedback. Check your junk file if you are not getting emails and let Chuck Nichols know. There was some discussion about loons and the 4th of July fireworks.

Newsletter: Denis Fortin - looking for new articles

AIS Boat Inspection: Beth Torpey - 25th anniversary of the boat inspection program in Vermont. Ours was the first in the State. Beth received a letter of congratulations from Governor Scott and a gift from SLA for her part in the program. Beth gave a power point presentation of invasive species to be vigilant against. She has the presentation available if anyone wants to see it. There was much discussion about how the State of Vermont is proposing to change the Wakeboat Rule.

Water Quality: Tracey Becken - Contact Tracey about how Lakewise can help lake owners take care of issues on their shoreline. Our water quality is stable at this time. There will be a seminar August 15th on Facing Floods, 10-11:30. SLA will send an email blast with information. Tracey is always looking for volunteers. Rhonda reminded home owners to maintain their septic systems.

Boating: Tim Buzzell - the boat access has been dredged and is in good shape. Reminder that the State law maintains a 200' boater distance from shore. Denis has put out buoys to remind boaters. Remember sound carries, reminder to boats with loud music! Bonnie McWain said the 15th annual boat parade had 46 boats and 136 camps decorated.

Fishing/Smelt: Denis Fortin for Bill Bilowus - This year we have observed thousands of smelt in Valley Brook and Cranberry and at the beach culverts. The program has been very successful to date. Tim Buzzell thanked Bill Bilowus for his diligence and intense work with the State of Vermont, pressing them to get this project done.

Membership: Chris Blais - 300 memberships to date, 84% of last year's. She discussed sections of the lake with volunteers. Please join SLA to keep Seymour healthy and be part of a community.

VIP - Rhonda for David Wieselmann - they always welcome additional volunteers to cover the lake.

Activities - Bonnie McWain - This year's social is August 2nd hosted by Ron and Janet Kolar at Camp Winape, 6-8 pm - bring an appetizer to share and your drink of choice. The Kids Art Contest, 5-12 years, What they Like About Seymour, good response. Send drawings in by August 24. The Historical Society has an event August 23, History of Morgan.

Loon Report - Woody Woods - has studied loons locally for 25-30 years. This year we have two nesting pairs, maybe because of the returning smelt and the new nesting floats. We have one by Winape and one by Cranberry Brook. Loon Restoration has been successful statewide including Seymour this year, good news. Avian Flu is a big issue and spreading fast, especially affecting big colonies of birds.

Motion to Adjourn made by Bob Steenrod, seconded by Woody Woods at 11:22, approved.