

QUEEN LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY JULY 12, 2025 at 9:00AM

Phillipston Congregational Church on the Common

First draft

INTRODUCTION OF CAMPERS: Those present stood and introduced themselves, gave their camp address and how many years they have been on the lake. A warm welcome was given to all new members. Maps of the lake and Rules and Regulations Governing use of Boats and Watercraft on Queen Lake were offered to members.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR DECEASED MEMBERS: A moment of silence was observed for Barbara Hastings, Bob Lafortune and all deceased members.

TOWN OFFICIALS: Tim Haley spoke for the Conservation Commission. He explained how the WATERSHED PROTECTION ACT applies to us as property owners on the lake. It is imperative that we follow the required steps for permits whenever improving or repairing the waterfront, shoreline or property within the primary 200 ft. buffer zone and 400 ft. extended secondary zone. Please contact the DCR and the Conservation Commission prior to doing any work within the lake buffer zones. Several members of the association shared how easy it was to go through the process if done prior to starting your project. Tim shared how several properties on the lake neglected to do so and now have to go through litigation with DCR and DEP. Much easier to follow proper procedure from the start.

Members requested the contact information for DCR. Sally will send out an email to members. (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/watershed-protection-act-and-lake-front-property>) Allan Rantila 413-784-1068. Email: Allan.Rantila@mass.gov.

No other Town Officials were present. However Captain John Seamon and Chief Chapman sent an apology for not making it on time. They arrived after the meeting was adjourned.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES FROM LAST YEAR'S MEETING: A motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from June 29, 2024 as written.

TREASURERS REPORT: Rusty Newcomb reported the QLA account activity :

Beginning Balance: \$37,563.91

Deposits and Interest: \$10,183.02

Expenses: \$922.18 (\$200 – Church; \$47.18 -Sally for printing & Postage; \$675 Water & Wetlands). Ending Balance: \$45, 901.37

Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Treasurers report as given.

MOTION TO DONATE TO CHURCH FOR USE OF BUILDING: A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to increase the donation to \$250 to the church, and Reimbursement to Sally for costs of printing and postage; and to pay Athol Daily News \$238.95 for cost of printing Weed Treatment announcement.

OLD BUSINESS: Weed Control/Water Maintenance

Water & Wetlands will be spot treating for identified invasive weeds on Monday July 14, 2025 early morning. Boat Ramp will be closed and remain closed for 24 hours after treatment. No boating; swimming; bathing; watering of lawns, gardens, plants; no water use for bathing or cooking for 24 hours.

The cost of treatment will be paid first from money earmarked for water treatments by Town of Phillipston for past 2 years and any further costs by the QLA.

It was suggested that we request Water & Wetlands complete their survey and treat earlier in the Spring. We asked to be put on this years schedule back in January but according to Water & Wetlands, due to number of requests and much rain the survey was not done til June.

JET SKIS: There have been several reports of what appears to be “unsafe” operation of jet skis over the Fourth of July weekend. Reports and videos have been submitted to the Jet Ski Committee. Two of the jet skis were launched from the boat ramp for the day. One is a new property owner with a new jet ski. Leon will contact them and make them aware of our agreed-upon guidelines for safe operation and self-policing policy for Jet Ski s on Queen Lake.

HANSON MILONE ACT OF 2024: This is a new law passed in Massachusetts requiring motor boat operators to pass a safe boating course in order to drive a boat or Personal Watercraft.

Starting April 1, 2026 all motorboat operators born after January 1, 1989, must complete a boating safety course to operate motorized vessels or personal watercraft.

Anyone born before January 1, 1989 will have until April 1, 2028 to obtain their boater safety certificate.

The course can be taken online or in person and covers essential safety rules, boat operation, and how to avoid accidents.

The Board of Directors will be attempting to arrange for an in-person course to be held at a site convenient for QLA Members to attend. Sally will send out an email to let members know when a class is available.

QUEEN LAKE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Tom Royer reported that the Advisory Committee continues to meet with Town Officials on issues affecting the lake. The new billboard sign has been constructed by Andrew Laughlin and has been erected on the public beach area. Self-certification forms are available at the boat launch for boaters to complete stating that their boat and trailer are clean and free of invasive species. Tom has been leaving a notice on vehicles who have launched a boat with either a

“THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN KEEPING QUEEN LAKE FREE OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.” Or

“OOPS! IT LOOKS LIKE YOU FORGOT TO FILL OUT THE SELF CERTIFICATION FORM BEFORE LAUNCHING YOUR BOAT. PLEASE REMEMBER NEXT TIME YOU VISIT QUEEN LAKE.”

Thank you to Tom and the Advisory Committee for their continued efforts in support of Queen Lake.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The Nominating Committee presented a slate of Officers and Board of Directors for a vote.

President – John Colby 508-662-7576 colbyrealty2@gmail.com

Vice President – Tim Haley 978-249-2154 tim@phillipston.com

Treasurer – Rusty Newcomb 978-413-1504

Secretary – Sally Suomala 413-783-9370 home; 978-939-5090 camp

richsally2180@comcast.net

Board of Directors (3 year term) Tom Royer, Larry Hawks, Abigail Roberge Hebert

A motion was made to vote for entire slate as presented, seconded and passed unanimously. Congratulations to those re-elected and to our new BOD member, Abby Roberge Hebert!

A huge **THANK YOU** to George Dakin for his many years of dedicated service to the Queen Lake Association!

MISCELLANEOUS: John Brooks was recognized as a long-time member and past president on his 83rd birthday! All joined in singing Happy Birthday to John.

A motion was made to adjourn at 10:20AM

Respectfully submitted by Sally Suomala