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## LAKE ARMINGTON ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER 2016 NOVEMBER

The summer of 2016 has passed, but while my memory is still somewhat sharp, here's an update on what did/didn't happen with The Lake Armington Association during those months. As you probably know, Alice Wellington resigned as President in early June for personal reasons. Since I was the Vice President, that role fell into my lap. Alice left us all with some big shoes to fill, but with the board's willingness to remain in their positions for another year and share these responsibilities, everything worked well.

One of our first decisions was to have one general meeting during the summer, rather than two. Sam Rounds invited everyone to her house for the annual meeting/picnic on July 24th. She, as the recording secretary, thoroughly covered that meeting in the minutes, so I'm not going to repeat that information here. Read them on our website: [www.lakearmington.org](http://www.lakearmington.org). Kate Merritt assures us that after all the summer bills are paid, (porta-potty, NH Lake dues, Lake Hosts, etc.) we have a healthy treasury, but this doesn't mean we can be complacent. I hate to be the doomsayer, but when/if invasive weeds are found in our lake, it's a costly process to eradicate them and could deplete our treasury quickly. Shirley Nicol, as Vice President, sent out gentle dues reminders in September to those who may have forgotten, followed by notes to those who, while they haven't joined in a few years, we don't want to lose. This year's directory will be sent to everyone on our distribution list shortly. Our plan is to have a printed copy every other year--look for one next spring. Thank you, Lynn Dennison, for taking over the directory until now, when Alice can resume that duty.

Armington Road, (that's what the sign reads), which we know as the Lake Access Road or The Boat Landing was graded by the town. They did a nice job. Did we get more traffic because of this? The consensus is it's too soon to tell as it wasn't finished until August.

A medical emergency at the lake prompted Carlos Manrique to follow through on our previous attempts to reduce response time by switching the ambulance dispatch from Upper Valley in Fairlee, (it took 40 minutes for them to get to the lake), to the ambulance service in Warren-Wentworth. At a Selectboard meeting, Randy Subjeck appointed Bernie Marvin, Emergency Management Director, to explore this. Both Bernie and Tim Cole of the Piermont Fire Department, spent weeks meeting with anyone and everyone involved with both ambulance services. They were pleased to report this switch could be done at no additional cost. The Selectmen accepted it on August 22nd awaiting the formality of signed letters of agreement.

Those of us involved were ecstatic. It was too good to be true. You received an e-mail on October 30th explaining this and asking you to contact the Piermont Selectboard urging them to accept this proposal in spite of the cost--\$2,017 based on property assessments. The town is working on a plan to get this ambulance service into action and pay the dispatch fee.

Most owners of lake property were outraged when they received the new assessments from Avitar with increases in the 35 plus % range. Most of us met with them to protest; it did no good. We won't know how much this equates to in dollar and cents until late November when the state implements the new tax rate, but it's assumed the increase will be significant. Roger Wellington is spearheading a protest group along with realtor Stan Davis. Please contact Roger at [rwellington22@gmail.com](mailto:rwellington22@gmail.com) if you'd like to join.

Next summer will see an expansion of our Lake Host program. Barbara Fitzpatrick and Roberta Donelon have volunteered to help Evie Conroy implement the program, and search for Lake Hosts with the goal of attracting enough people to have a substitute list. The board voted to raise the pay from \$10-\$12/hour in the hopes of attracting more people. Seldom have members of LAA volunteered at the boat landing. This summer Shirley Nicol changed that. She volunteered for Saturday and Sunday shifts when our regular Lake Host was unavailable. Anyone willing to follow in her footsteps, even if just for an afternoon or morning, please notify a Lake Host. And thank you, Shirley!

Concerns were raised at the meeting in July about renters. An increasing number of people are letting other people use their places either as renters or friends. Most of them bring kayaks, canoes and/or stand-up paddle boards and slip them into the lake from where they're staying. If these happen to have been any waters around us that have invasive weeds like Lake Morey, Halls Pond, Post Pond and The Connecticut River and leave with just one attached invasive weed fragment, our lake could be in danger. Linda Kline offered to create a poster showing and explaining the threat of invasive weeds, (thank you Linda!), and Jed Dorfman offered to have copies made and laminated, (thank you, Jed!). One poster will personally be delivered to every camp, cottage and house on our lake in early spring. Lynn Dennison has offered to head this committee, and when the time comes she'll need help with distribution.

Because the LAA board has been so helpful with the transition this year, I've circulated a draft of this newsletter before posting it to the membership, so as to include their input. If you have concerns, questions or comments, please contact any of us:

Polly Tafrate, President

Shirley Nicol, Vice President and Dues Notices

Kate Merritt, Treasurer and e-mail transmission

Lynn Dennison, Corresponding Secretary and Poster Distribution

Sam Rounds, Recording Secretary and banker

Carlos Manrique—Ambulance and Ice Out

Ann Soloway—Camp Walt Whitman Liaison

Evie Conroy—Lake Host and Weed Watcher

Alice Wellington—Website and Directory

Lynn Demerchant and Ken Settel—Active board members.

I couldn't have taken over as President without each one of them.

Hope you have a pleasant holiday season and lovely winter, wherever you are, ~Polly~