



Queechey Lake Club Annual Meeting

Canaan Congregational Church

Sat, Aug 2, 2025

In attendance:

Craig Warn
Craig Skerkis
Peter Doyle
Bridget Vasquez
Hannah Koymans
Charlie Long

Absent:

Linda Nielson
Sarah Patzwahl
Brian Lossow

Craig Warn opened the meeting by thanking Charlie Long for all of his time and efforts acting as Treasurer of the QLC for the past year. Charlie will be stepping down as of Aug 4th, 2025. Member Ron Koymans stated that he would submit a letter of interest for the soon to be vacant treasurer position.

Ron stated that he will send a formal letter of interest to the board for consideration as the next treasurer.

Overview:

- Charlie steps down as treasurer; Alison Bart also steps aside; both thanked for their service.
- Quorum confirmed; Kevin Vasquez named parliamentarian.
- Treasurer's report: consistent annual deficits of \$1,000–\$3,000; reserves at \$18,000–\$19,000; 81 members, 11 associates.
- Discussion of raising annual dues from \$75 to \$100 to address budget shortfall.
- Lake Health: CSLAP program reports excellent water quality and notes “no new invasive species found”. The lake does have two invasive plant species, Milfoil and Pondweed.... which have been present for a few years.... but no new species were detected. Phosphorus and Nitrogen levels rising slightly.
- Comprehensive aquatic plant survey and weed mapping approved (\$4,000 one-time expense, which we do every 5 years).
- Elections held for board positions; new director and secretary appointed; treasurer position to be filled at next board meeting.
- Fundraising and grant committee to be established; discussion of targeted donations and dues flexibility.

Leadership Transitions and Opening Remarks:

- Charlie Long stepped down as treasurer; significant appreciation expressed for his work.
- Alison Bar also stepped aside; her service in the past year acknowledged.
- Quorum confirmed for the meeting.

Introductions and Community Engagement:

- Introductions of attendees, including names, locations, and years of attendance.
- Attendees shared favorite seasons at Queechy; preferences included fall, winter, summer, and spring.
- Kevin Vasquez designated as parliamentarian to follow Robert's Rules of Order.
- Some attendees mentioned property ownership and long-term residency. A couple of family's have resided at Queechy for 100+ years.
- Personal anecdotes included family traditions, property updates, and experiences with the local environment.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Overview:

- Residents shared introductions, history, and connections to the lake community.
- Most have long-term or multi-generational ties, with some since the late 1800's.
- Favorite seasons varied: summer, fall, spring, and winter activities (e.g., polar plunge, cross-country skiing).
- Noted recent and upcoming property sales (e.g., Berkshire Farm small parce) and community meetings about local plans.
- Emphasis on community engagement, seasonal enjoyment, and transitions to full-time residency.

Membership, Dues, and Financial Questions:

- Annual deficit between **\$1,000–\$3,000**; projected **\$3,000** deficit this year.
- Current reserves: **\$18,000–\$19,000**; reserves last **8–10 years** at current loss rate.
- Membership: **81 members, 11 associates; 85–90%** dues paid.
- Dues remain at **\$75/year** since **2002**; value eroded by inflation.
- Online and automatic payment options discussed; some members prefer checks.

Lake Management: CSLAP, Water Quality, and Invasive Species:

- CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program) monitors lake health in NY State; Queechy Lake has been participating in this program for over 40 years.
- Queechy Lake classified as oligotrophic: high oxygen, low nutrients, excellent clarity; listed among one of the cleanest NY lakes.
- Two invasive aquatic plants present: Eurasian water milfoil and curly pondweed; comprehensive testing and weed surveys recommended. These 2 species have been present for a number of years at this point but no new invasive species found.
- Phosphorus and nitrogen levels slightly increasing at a very minimal amount.
- Testing conducted biweekly at fixed locations; samples require precise handling and shipping; annual cost approx. \$1,400.

Weed Management, Spillway, and Environmental Concerns:

- Weed overgrowth in lake restricts boat access in multiple areas.

- E. coli testing not conducted this year; planned for September 2 after Labor Day weekend.
- Historical E. coli testing found only one concern in several years; issue addressed by homeowner.
- Testing typically covers 75 locations in a day; proposal to reduce to 35-36 sites to save costs.
- Testing costs \$40-\$50 per sample; targeted follow-up testing if issues detected.

Community Events, Fundraising, and Social Media:

- E.coli testing funded by \$2,400 donation by Tom Janes, in memory of his sister, Betsy Janes; full lake testing planned for September 2nd, 9–10am, samples to lab immediately after.
- Spillway ownership/responsibility under review; cracks and rusted siphon pipe identified; possible need for vegetation removal and repairs; grants available if owned.
- Shoreline stabilization requires DEC permit and turbidity curtain; aquatic weeds act as natural turbidity barrier; weed removal may require additional barriers.
- Weed management debated: harvesting vs. chemicals; concerns about fragmentation, phosphorus release, and long-term effectiveness; reference to Cooperstown volunteer efforts.
- Canadian geese and shoreline wildflower planting discussed; past initiatives included informational flyers and volunteer support.

Appropriations, Dues Increase, and Budget Motions:

- New York State Boating License required statewide from January 1, 2025; online course takes ~3 hours.
- Motion passed to reduce non-scholarship organizational donations by 50%.
- Discussion and motion to raise annual dues from \$75 to \$100 for full members; potential for further increases or sliding scale considered.
- Scholarship fund to local schools maintained at \$300; commitment to continue supporting environmental education.
- Best procedure for reporting unsafe boating: call 911 to log incidents; enforcement depends on multiple reports and direct observation.

Elections, Board Appointments, and Closing:

- Requested \$4,000 for weed mapping and plant survey; last survey done over 5 years ago.
- Board discussed one-time appropriation; reserve funds available (\$16,000 in Vanguard).
- Fundraising/grant committee to be formed; seeking more member involvement.
- Board elections held: Mary Stein (director, 2-year term), Peter Doyle (secretary); treasurer position pending letters of interest by any parties interested in the position.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget (McNamee) Vasquez