

Lake Chaffee Annual GENERAL Meeting August 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes-Draft

Date of Meeting: August 17, 2025 @ 11:00 a.m. This meeting was held at Pirzi Hall.

Board Members:

Mike Panek (P)	Tom Martin (VP)	Chris Fyler (T)
Gerald Dufresne (R)	Carol Natitus (R)	
Seth Kaufman (R)	Lynn Fontaine (R)	Liz Provencher (Alt)
Kay Warren (Alt)	Joseph Hall (Alt)	

Board Members Absent: Phil Silverstein (R) Mary Griffin (R) Erin Szela (S)

Public in Attendance: Sharon Apostol, Lauren Layton, Kay Warren, Mike Panek, Caesar Barrios, Michael Paine, Keith Latulippe, Carol Natitus, Carmen Hall, Chris Fyler, Rich Prior, Priscilla Prouty, Linda Parent, David Almonte, Tom Coville, Irwin Krieger, John Mayer, Bob Guerin, Charles Bean, Gerald Dufresne, Seth Kaufman, Lynn Fontaine, Liz Provencher, Kari Olson, Kidder Brook Farm, Kirk & Kathi Kidwell, Elizabeth Small, Jim Gorel, Tom Martin, Teresa H.

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Mike Panek. No alternates needed.
- 2. Approval of July 20, 2025 Election Meeting Minutes:** Members were given a brief period to read the minutes. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Kay, seconded by Gerry. Unanimous voice vote.
- 3. Remarks by President:** Mike spoke regarding protocols for meetings, 1. Please raise your hand to be acknowledged and to speak, 2. No public conversations or chatter amongst board members or audience when others are speaking. This will help stay on track and keep our meetings shortened.
There is also a "willing helpers list" sign-up sheet at the door, if you are interested in helping on random projects, planting flowers, cleaning the beach, etc., please provide your contact information on the sign-up sheet.

- 43 **4. Correspondence:** Mike spoke on 2 pieces of correspondence he received. 1. Email
44 received by a resident regarding a raft out in the lake that may belong to 37
45 Lakeview stating it's an eye soar and possibly a liability to the Association for it's
46 safety. This will be investigated further. 2. Mike was copied on correspondence
47 from a resident who sent a letter to Jim Larkin at the Inland Wetland's commission
48 about today's meeting and possibility of lowering the lake. Resident asked Jim
49 Larkin what effect lowering the lake has and if a permit was needed. Resident also
50 questioned anyone who is working on their lakefront. Mike stated that there were
51 2 individuals who did do work on their lakefront and had waited two years for the
52 lake to be lowered to get the work done. It is understood that the wall projects
53 were done with permits from the Inland Wetlands and was not aware of any illegal
54 work done that did not go through Inland Wetland as nothing was brought to the
55 Boards attention. Going forward, residents who wish to do shorefront work, wall
56 work, digging, adding sand, please inquire with the Board and Inland Wetlands.
57 Mike will follow up with Mr Larkin this week should the vote be to lower the lake.
58
- 59 **5. Public Comments:** Tom Coville expressed concern as there has been a lot of cars
60 by his house on Lakeview driving to fast. There are new families in our community
61 now with young children. Jim Gorel inquired about the geese removal for this
62 year. Mike informed everyone that we did a round up 2 years ago when we had
63 60 geese. The company used for this has very specific guidelines and rules and
64 regulations, laws to follow, in order to do the geese removal. One of the items is
65 to prove the nuisance of the geese and the number of geese for the size of the
66 lake. Early in the spring this year, there were only about 20 geese. Now through
67 July we are back up to 60 geese. One of our accounts previously used for the
68 Septic fund is now for Geese Fund. The Board will inquire in spring of 2026 about
69 the round up. Another resident asked if we have ever looked into grants from
70 DEEP to help with removal of the weeds. Further investigating needed.
71
- 72 **6. Old Business:** 1. Swing Island Update: Swing Island is open and the tree has been
73 cleaned up for safety. 2. Weed consultation: Mike spoke with Matt who works at
74 New England Aquatic, the weeds in our lake are called ELODEA. There are 2
75 options to get rid of them: 1, they bring in a harvesting machine, for 1 acre per day
76 it is \$2750.00. The weeds are brought to shore where they would need to be
77 moved. Anyone who is interested in having NE Aquatic's for their shorefront
78 should bring it to the Boards attention as well as Inland Wetlands for approval. 2,
79 a herbicide chemical which would harm the fish.
80 John M spoke and indicated they pull out the weeds onto a small section of their
81 shorefront and use for composting. Mike P was concerned about what next
82 year's weeds will look like. Mike will be in contact with NE Aquatic's with further
83 questions from this meeting. Jim G asked if lowering the lake last year had any
84 impact on the weeds this year. Tom spoke to say this was the first time for this
85 type of weed, likely brought in by geese or a boat that was not cleaned. When the
86 lake is lowered, it is normally better the following year. The entire state of CT has

had the same issue with this type of weed. Thank you to the community who have spent hours raking and removing the weeds. The Association will look for a designated area to place these weeds as individuals remove them. Carmen H talked to someone from the Fishery dept and that lowering the lake did help spread the weeds. Gerry used his brush hog at the damn area where some weeds were left and dried up.

7. New Business: **1.** Removal of Porta-Potty's after Labor Day: Tom will call to have the Porta-Potty's removed the first available day after Labor Day. **2.** Possible thoughts about new ordinances & strengthening current ordinances: In a recent meeting there was questions about strengthening our current ordinances for rafts, fishing-catch n release at the lake, fines that we have or don't have, talks about STR. On September 10th, we will start to discuss ideas for new, changed and/or altered ordinances. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend for any reason, you may email Mike with your suggestion(s). Mikepanek@aol.com

8. Discussion on Lowering the Lake: Two year's ago we voted to lower the lake, however we could not since we were getting a lot of rain and it became unsafe to do so. Last year we voted to lower the lake as there were a couple individuals near the dam that had to get some wall repair done that also effected the spillway and dam wall. Tom mentioned we are required to notify Willimantic Water Works, should the vote be to lower the lake. Notification should be done a week prior. Some residents would like to set a schedule for lowering the lake, whether every year or every other year. This would allow residents to get proper approvals and permits if work needs to be done on there shorefront. One resident stated lowering the lake always helps with the weed control. In the past there was talk about lowering the lake every other year. Kari suggested hiring individuals to assemble the siphon should we lower the lake every other year. This could be part of the budget and there wouldn't be a need for volunteers. The pipe in the water used by the fire department (Kari's property) has never been completely exposed when the lake has been lowered. Jim suggested the cast iron part of the pipe could be replaced with plastic. Lynn suggested we vote on lowering the lake earlier, maybe June meeting. Last year the lake was lowered 3 feet, in the future consider possibly 2 feet instead.

9. Vote on Lowering the Lake: Tom made the motion to lower the lake, Kay seconded. Showing of hands for yes, 17, showing of hands for no, 17. President to cast final vote. President's final vote is not to lower the lake this year.

10. Adjournment: Lynn motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m., Tom seconded.