

# Lake Chaffee Annual General Summer Meeting

## July 19, 2026 Meeting Agenda - DRAFT

**Date of Meeting:** July 19, 2026 @ 11:00 a.m. This meeting was held at Pirzi Hall.

**Board Members:**

|                      |                   |                   |                  |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Mike Panek (P)       | Tom Martin (VP)   | Erin Szela (S)    | Chris Fyler (T)  |
| Gerald Dufresne (R)  | Mary Griffin (R)  | Carol Natitus (R) | Seth Kaufman (R) |
| Phil Silverstein (R) | Lynn Fontaine (R) |                   |                  |
| Kay Warren (Alt)     |                   |                   |                  |

**Public in Attendance:** Michael Paine, Andy Scouhan, Bob Guerin, Martin Bier, Alma Miranda, Keith Latulippe, Irwin Krieger, Sharon Apostol, Elizabeth Small, Dirk Kidwell, Joan Thompson, Mark Fontaine, Caesar Barrios, Joseph Hall, David Almonte, Rich Prior, Linda Roy

- 1. Call to Order:** Mike called the second annual meeting in July to order at 11:08am. Reminder to sign in when you arrive; if your Lake Chaffee taxes are not up to date, you are not allowed to vote. If there are multiple people up for election, we will hand out papers to vote. Otherwise, if someone is unopposed, the Secretary will place one vote to confirm seating.
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes for June 2026 General Meeting:** Kay made a motion to accept, seconded by Tom. Carol abstained. Motion passed.

**3. Chairmen's Reports:**

- Boat Launch (Jerry Dufresne) – Boat launch has been mowed, the dock still needs to get put up on a block, geese have been staying away from the boat launch.
- Constable (Jerry Dufresne) – Only issue recently is someone hit the playscape with an ATV. Mike also added, that he did see a State trooper driving around the neighborhood. It seems that the First Selectwoman's calls for more patrols are occurring. Tom added that over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, there were fireworks being set off in the parking lot and actually burned some of the fire station (fireworks on the roof, set a fire on the porch).
- Beaches (Mary Griffin) – Mary noted the beaches are going great and she has been getting a lot of community help which she really appreciates. She put a bench at Mother's Beach to store the toys for kids to play with, they are stored under the bench seat. Thanked Martin Bier for helping get the carpet on the raft. David Almonte was a big help cleaning up the weeds and making sure they were taken away. **Mother's Beach Fence Repair** There was a large tree that fell and damaged two sections of the fence, Mike noted the entire fence is in rough shape. Mike suggested to take the last two sections closer to the beach and move them to repair the fence. Mary mentioned that if there are anyone in the community who have the skills to do this, please volunteer. Mike also mentioned that there is still a need for a plumber for the Hall as well.
- Dam (Vacant) Mike brought up that the weeds need to be removed from the dam before the 5-year annual review of the dam. It will definitely be something that is listed as a problem which would lead to a notification to the State. Previous president had a solution to spray on it. Lynn asked if there is a date yet. Mike signed a contract, but asked them to hold off. Mary noted that the solution mentioned is safe for the lake.
- Environmental (Ralph Sherman) Samples from July were taken from the lake, waiting for results.

- f. Roads (Phil Silverstein) No updates from last meeting.
- g. Fundraising (Mary Griffin) \$80 for the Poker run this past weekend. The 50/50 brought in \$40, Jerry D. won and donated back (total profit of \$120). Clearance sale on the Lake Chaffee shirts in the back. It was brought to Mary's attention by a lot of people about a potential game night. Kay brought up a potential Bingo night. More paint parties to occur in the future.
- h. Tax Collection (Mike Panek & Tom Martin) - **Posting Tax List Discussion/Vote**
- i. Hall (Lynn Fontaine) Lynn is going to be hanging up the photos donated by Lynn Paine, waiting on items to come in for hanging to ensure no damage to the walls.

- 4. Old Business: 1. Lake lowering schedule vs. Vote** Last meeting there was discussion about potentially getting on a schedule as well as doing this potentially earlier so people can be more prepared for any work on their lakefront properties. Anything voted on today, would not change the vote for this year at the next meeting. Mike opened to the Public for discussion. John Mayer feels that if people want to do work on a dock or a wall need additional time to get a contractor there in time before the lake begins to fill up again. They would vote for a schedule rather than a yearly vote. Linda Roy mentioned that someone said before that if we do the vote, to do it earlier in the summer so people will have more time. Mike Paine part of it is it takes longer to get the permit than it does the contractor. It can be a lengthy process. Only additional comment is that it should be done in relation to the health of the lake. If lowering it in general is bad, then we should not continue to do so. But we should get a concrete answer on if this is damaging. Mike noted he has a great contact now at DEEP, so he will be able to get additional information and be able to ensure all of these items are weighed. This will likely lead to a new protocol for next year, whether it is a schedule or an earlier vote. Kay noted that the UConn study done in the past, said to do it every other year. Tom noted you can get your permits and work done even if the lake isn't lowered. Carmen Hall stated personally they feel it should be a vote on the lake lowering. Especially since there have been many changes over the time, such as the changes in what motors are allowed. Mark Fontaine noted if we can put it on a schedule and then have a vote about whether or not to do it that year. That would be able to help assess the health of the lake each time this is brought up. Mary Griffin asked about potentially having Mike's DEEP contact come and discuss at a meeting, Mike noted unfortunately DEEP likely will not be able to attend but he will share all information they provide via email and share it at the meeting. Martin Bier asked how long it takes to lower the lake and how long is it lowered. Mike noted it takes a couple of weeks and starts in October, typically right before Halloween. It fills up as it rains, snow melting, etc.. Tom and Jerry noted there has never been an issue of it filling back up. Mike Paine noted that a lower lake is a time that would allow people to really pull the weeds out from the root.
- 2. Geese Removal Update – 47 removed – 9 remain** Mike counted 19 this morning. Money is being put away in the budget for geese removal. Kay asked if the company can return, but Mike noted they cannot come back this year. It may be done next year as well if 19 turns into a more.
- 3. Vessel ID Stickers Available** Mike added a reminder that Chris was able to get these from DEEP, this is a regulation from the State. If your boat is lost or found without you near it, people would be able to check on you. **4. New Ordinances are in effect after 10-day posting period** Noted that this is or will be on the website. Erin to confirm wording to ensure it is clear that these Ordinances are not "new" but "updated".

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97 **5. Public Comments:** Linda Roy noted the fence repair at Mother's Beach. Jerry has a wax seal for  
98 the bathroom that he can donate. Joan Thompson wondered about the geese on the beach  
99 because it is a nice area, so has it ever been thought about clearing off some of the area on the  
100 island and see if they will congregate on the island and not the properties. Tom noted that the  
101 point is to keep the geese away from the lake in general because it causes additional issues  
102 (bacteria in the lake, contributes to weed growth, etc.).  
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104 **6. Election of Officers:** Mike noted there is a large easel behind him with the officers listed for  
105 reelection or anyone who wants to be nominated.  
106 a. President (One year term) Jerry nominated Mike Panek, Erin cast one vote for Mike.  
107 b. Vice President (One year term) Mike nominated Tom Martin for VP, Erin cast one vote for  
108 Tom.  
109 c. Secretary (One year term) Phil nominated Lynn F, Erin seconded. Erin cast one vote for  
110 Lynn.  
111 d. Treasurer (One year term) Tom nominated Erin as Treasurer, Lynn seconds. Erin cast one  
112 vote for herself.  
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**Board Member Positions:**

114 e. Two positions at three-year terms, existing expiring 2027. **Lynn nominated Phil for his**  
115 **position, Mary seconded. Erin cast one vote for Phil. Tom nominated Kay, seconded by**  
116 **Seth. Erin cast one vote for Kay.**  
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**Alternate Board Positions**

118 f. Three at one-year terms **Mike explained that as an alternate you would need to come**  
119 **to the Wednesday meetings, but if you cannot make it, that is okay. But you would**  
120 **need to be there in case someone as a regular board member cannot attend to ensure**  
121 **we have the quorum otherwise meetings will need to be cancelled. If we cannot fill**  
122 **these seats, the work that the board does will stop running as efficiently. The board**  
123 **can only vote once a month, there are no additional meetings that can be scheduled.**  
124 **Mike Paine asked if needed can someone could do so by phone would that be**  
125 **allowed? That concept would have to be looked into. Mike Panek nominated Mike**  
126 **Paine, Kay seconded. Erin cast one vote. Mike nominated Alma Miranda, Lynn**  
127 **seconded. Erin cast one vote for Alma. Mike nominated Mark Fontaine, Lynn**  
128 **seconded. Erin cast one vote for Mark. Mike welcomed all the new board members.**  
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130 **7. Adjournment** Mike thanked the group for coming today and participating. Asked that people put  
131 out the word. Jerry made a motion to adjourn, Lynn seconded. Mike called the meeting to a  
132 close at 11:54am