

3Q 2025 ALA Director's Meeting 9-18-2025

The Zoom meeting was called to order by President Bernie Gracy at approximately 7:30 pm. Present were: Gennette Carr, Treasurer; Connie Jackson, Secretary; Zach Chapman; Kim Hubbard; and Don Tase. Bernie called a quorum. Susan Gresser, VP, joined a little later.

The first order of business was to approve the Q2-25 meeting minutes - motion was made and seconded; all were in favor. Gennette mentioned one typo that needed correction.

The second item was to accept the treasurer's report: as of 8/31/25 the account balance was \$8,312.85. On 6/30/25 the balance was \$12,643.70. The annual meeting expenses totaled \$524.68. The cost of the greeter trailer was \$1,000, WIX fees were \$1.17; total July expenses = \$1,525.85. Income from dues was \$150.00; income from meals and raffle/t-shirt sales was \$1,055; total July income = \$1,295. August expenses were \$4,000 to fund the Lake Greeter's payroll and our annual donation to the VT Center for Ecostudies of \$100, total \$4,100. Motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report - all were in favor. (In September we received \$2,694 greeter payroll reimbursement from VT DEC)

The first item of old business that was discussed was this summer's LWAP Project Prioritization Meeting that took place on 8/24/25. Bernie gathered feedback from those who attended the presentation, and provided the rest of the board with the link to Zoom recording and related materials he received from the Memphremagog Watershed Association. The next phase of the project is for the MWA to complete initial project designs for the 8-10 priority projects, as identified at that meeting. They plan another remote meeting mid-winter to go over their designs and share funding resources that they have identified to complete the projects. MWA are already working with VT Fish & Wildlife to design and implement projects to correct drainage problems at the Great Averill boat launch, and coordinating with the UTG for projects identified on Cottage Road.

Kim Hubbard reported that he has talked to the owners at the Norton Store about locating a boat washing station there in their parking area, part of which is shared with the local snowmobile club. In order to utilize that location, we would have to somehow get water and store it on site in some type of container. The store owners are open to the idea, and it could serve boats from Norton Pond, Lake Wallace and Big and Little Averill Lakes. This would entail hiring employees to man the washer station. More investigation is required to explore the viability, infrastructure, and cost to support this concept but all were encouraged by the potential.

The second item of old business was an update from Susan Gresser about the Lake Greeter program(s) for Great and Little Averill. Susan reported that there were times Little Averill launch was busier than Great Averill, and she did not yet have the stats for the number of boats inspected from DEC. She will share those as soon as they are available, but she did know that no inspections yielded evidence of AIS in either lake. In a review of the 2025 inspection season, Susan identified a potential vector of AIS infestation - VT Fish & Wildlife on their routine fishing patrols. The ALA will follow up with VT Fish and Wildlife leadership to ensure best practices are adopted as they hop from lake to lake with their boating equipment after inspections in known lakes with AIS. Susan purchased and licensed (with ALA funds) a 5'X8' utility trailer, upon which her husband Stan Baker and board member Larry Steeneck built (from their donated materials & labor) a Greeter station to house all of the Great Averill Greeter equipment/supplies. It was put into use shortly after Matt Laferrier started his Lake Greeter duties in

mid-June. Susan and Stan moved the new trailer to their place after the end of the 2025 greeter season on Labor Day weekend. Thank you Susan, Stan and Larry!

The next item of old business was an update from Susan about the status of the wake boat rule-making progress. All petitions were denied and VT DEC went back to rewrite their proposed rules. The public comment letters in response to changing the new guidelines were recently published on VT DEC's website, and so far that is all that has happened. Our legal counsel, Jim Clemons, had sent in a recommendation to DEC that wake boats be banned from any lakes that have no known AIS and no resident wake boat owners. Susan is working with the state to have a statement published on their website that specifically says wake boats may not launch from ARCO's Little Averill launch, even though Little Averill is one of 18 inland VT lakes that would still "qualify" for wake boats, per the DEC's newly proposed guidelines. She said that one lake has filed another petition, but ALA has not. Any new petitions have to contain new information.

Under New Business: Bernie asked for responses to his pre-read question: what role(s) does each board member feel they are best suited for. Bernie started the conversation by stating that he would like to continue to serve the board after his term as President is completed next summer by becoming the ALA's water scientist, studying and interpreting trends and tests. Susan volunteered that she is a good fundraiser, and Don Tase would like to be a part of that activity. He feels that we should begin our fundraising in-house, talking to Association and non-Association property owners. Once we get our LWAP projects and budgets identified, Don feels that should direct our fundraising efforts. Zach Chapman feels that he has strengths in building community relationships area, and would like to pursue that, in addition to keeping the website updated. Gennette Carr offered that she likes to organize events like our annual meeting. To the "who should we be recruiting" and "what committees should we form" questions, Susan feels a board member should act as chair for any committee. Kim suggested we cast a wider net, and maybe approach anglers for financial and/or volunteer support. Because there is no public access to any beach on Big Averill, there is not much local support or goodwill in the area for the Averills. Local folks used to frequent the sandy beach that is co-owned by ARCO and Quimby's, but trash and bad behavior has led to a crackdown on that, which has caused hard feelings.

Bernie had sent out three options for a logo for our organization that he created with the assistance of AI. He asked for preferences, and discussion followed. All agreed that the logo needed to be simpler, cleaner and look more like Vermont. Bernie plans to make some tweaks and come back with updated proposals.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:00 pm; all were in favor. The fourth quarter meeting will take place on Thursday December 11, 2025, at 7:30 pm

Action Items: Bernie will meet with Zach Chapman to tutor Zach on updating the ALA website. Susan will provide her list of email addresses so a category of non-member property owners can be created.