

**Newfound Lake Region Association  
Annual Meeting  
June 28, 2025  
Union Congregational Church, Hebron**

President Ed McNierney opened the meeting at 9:15 am and welcomed the members, thanking them for their support. He introduced the trustees and spoke of the efforts of the Steering Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and Executive Director Rebecca Hanson.

Executive Director's Report: Rebecca reported that the staff will be moving into the Conservation Center next week and that she is very excited for how the Center will increase the NLRA's capacity to carry out our mission. She introduced the staff and took the opportunity to highlight the important work the NLRA has been doing.

- Water quality monitoring
  - Lake
  - Tributaries
  - Near-shore
- Storm water management projects, both small and large-scale
- Watershed Management Plan
- Working with the towns of Hebron and Bristol to develop plans for projects that will protect the lake and watershed.
- Watershed Workshop with town leaders and members of the public
- Education, including after-school and summer programs with local schools to develop the watershed stewards of the future
- The Newfound Nature Series, which will replace the Red Barn series, will be held at the Conservation Center this summer in partnership with Newfound Audubon.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Fitts began by saying that the NLRA can do all that Rebecca summarized because of our members' support. He reported that the Association continues to be in a strong financial position.

- Our assets now exceed \$5 million and we have just \$9 thousand in liabilities.
- The endowment and operating funds are just over \$3 million, with Grey Rocks making up most of the balance.
- The annual budget has grown from \$350 thousand 5 years ago to \$650 thousand today because of all the work we do.
- We raised \$2.9 million for the Grey Rocks Conservation Center.
- There is a \$500 thousand endowment for building maintenance.
- Detailed financial statements are available on request.

- The building itself is an example of how to build, hardscape, and landscape in the watershed.
- The lab still needs to be outfitted, and that will require continued support from our members.

Jim also spoke about the Strategic Planning Committee (which he chairs), saying that they are looking at a 5-to-10-year vision. The board and staff are involved, and members will also have input.

Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting minutes: Secretary Val Scarborough called for a motion to approve the minutes of the 2024 annual meeting. The motion was made by Walter Hatfield, seconded by Dick Beyer, and carried unanimously.

Confirmation of 2025-2026 slate of officers and slate of trustees:

- Val presented the trustee-approved slate of officers to begin a 1-year term, who are Ed McNierney, president, Jim Fitts, treasurer, and Val Scarborough, secretary. Carole Tremonti made the motion that the members approve the slate, and Camille Bharucha seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Val then presented the trustee-approved slate of trustees, with Greg Wagner beginning a new 3-year term and Ken Weidman beginning a new 1-year term. All were approved unanimously after a motion by Parker Griffin, seconded by Ellen Rawlings.

LakeSmart Awards: Conservation Program Manager Paul Pellissier explained that the LakeSmart program involves a partnership with NH LAKES. It supports our mission by providing assistance to property owners, including property evaluations, assessments, and making recommendations concerning work they can do to better protect and preserve that lake and watershed.

LakeSmart Awards are given to property owners who have completed all the recommended projects, and this year's recipients are:

- Chris Laux and Tracy Tilson of Hebron
- Ken Weidman and the Smith family of Bridgewater
- Heidi and Gregg Jeffrey of Bristol

Paul mentioned additional ways to involve the NLRA in erosion control projects, including help in completing them.

Paul responded to a member's question about the spiny water flea, saying that we are looking for it in lake water samples and in environmental DNA and other methods, and have detected not identified it in Newfound.

Ed invited members to ask additional questions. These concerned invasive species, water quality, and stormwater/erosion control and were answered by Ed, Rebecca, and Paul.

- Prevention is key to preserving the resilience of the lake, though our endowment is set up to deal with emergencies involving invasives.
- We have the advantage of a large watershed relative to the size of the lake, which enables us to do more to protect the lake.
- Lake Hosts assist with education, not enforcement, when they do their courtesy boat inspections.
- The NLRA is not a land trust, but we are part of the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership, which also includes the Lakes Region Conservation Trust and other organizations and individuals. The Gemmill Fund and Forever Newfound Fund are available to provide financial assistance to property owners in conserving their land.

Ed thanked everyone for attending and let the members know that trustees and staff would stay after the meeting to answer additional questions. Rebecca added that the staff would be available at the Grey Rocks Conservation Center for the next 2 hours.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

*Val Scarborough*

Secretary