



## **NH LAKES' Lake Advocates Network**

*Mobilizing Local Voice for Statewide Impact*

### **Overview**

The Lake Advocates Network is a grassroots coalition of lake associations and communities across New Hampshire, each represented by a designated advocate. Created by NH LAKES, the network strengthens lake-friendly policy efforts at the state and local levels by amplifying local voices.

### **Purpose**

The Lake Advocates Network strengthens NH LAKES' mission to protect and restore New Hampshire's lakes by:

- Empowering local communities with the tools and support needed to advocate for lake-friendly policies.
- Training local leaders to take effective action and influence decisions that impact lake health.
- Informing statewide advocacy by connecting NH LAKES with local concerns and on-the-ground challenges.

### **Goals & Activities**

The network facilitates fast, effective communication between NH LAKES and local leaders to:

- Support lake-friendly legislation.
- Oppose proposals that threaten lake health.

Advocates may be asked to:

- Provide local insights or technical feedback on policy issues.
- Contact legislators or submit public testimony.
- Organize community members to participate in advocacy efforts.
- Travel to Concord to testify (optional, at own expense).

Communication is primarily through email, online platforms, and virtual meetings—monthly during the legislative session and as needed year-round.

### **Training & Support**

NH LAKES equips Advocates with tools and knowledge through:

- Advocacy and leadership training.
- Issue briefings and talking points.
- Guest speakers, including legislators and agency officials.

- Opportunities for peer learning and collaboration.

### **Advocate Expectations**

Advocates are elected or appointed representatives from local lake groups who:

- Serve as a liaison between NH LAKES and their community.
- Communicate regularly and share legislative updates.
- Attend monthly meetings and optional training sessions.
- Act respectfully and align with NH LAKES' advocacy goals.

*Note: Individuals not affiliated with a group may be included at NH LAKES' discretion.*

### **Local Group Expectations**

Participating lake associations or community groups should:

- Nominate a representative to serve as their Advocate.
- Provide space (in meetings, newsletters, or social media) for the Advocate to share updates and time-sensitive calls to action.
- Support the Advocate in fostering a culture of advocacy within their community.