

BOWMAN LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MTG.

MINUTES

MEETING HELD ON JUNE 6, 2024

Meeting conducted at Taborton Fire House and via Zoom

Call to order: Time 6:10 pm by John Losee, President

Attendance of Current Board Members:

Board Member Name	Board Member Position	Present	Absent
John Losee	Acting President	X	
Ed Farrell	Vice President	X	
Kiley Adamo	Secretary		X
Colleen Masters	Treasurer	X	
Elaine Merguerian	Board Member	X *	
Bill Schulman	Board Member		X
Kathy Hale	Board Member	X	
Jack Betterly	Board Member	X	
Barb Mark	Board Member	X	
Janice Kullman	Immediate Past Pres.		X *

* Elaine joined late. Janice arrived early for the Membership Meeting and joined the last few minutes of the Board Meeting.

Meeting Minutes:

1.) Approval of minutes of January 25, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.

- Ed Farrell requested we add a "Fishing Contest" to the proposed Calendar of Events noted in the minutes.
- Jack moved to accept the minutes with Ed's addition. Colleen seconded.
- Vote was unanimous to approve the minutes. Minutes approved.

2.) Treasurer's Report

- Colleen went over the Checking Account – balance is \$9,145.96.
- Colleen went over the Savings Account – balance is \$5,916.09.
- Colleen discussed the 2024 budget, mentioning that she just used the projected amount of dues expected to be received that Laura Dagostino (our previous Treasurer) provided. To date we're short of that goal. More dues were collected prior to the meeting though,

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and others may still come in. Colleen also mentioned that we spent less on the Winterfest than anticipated, but a few dollars more on the Zoom renewal fee.

- Jack moved to accept the report. Barb seconded.
- Vote was unanimous to approve the report. Report approved.

3.) Committee Reports:

- Book Club – In Elaine’s absence, John told the group that we have been reading “Diet for a Small Lake” and were learning a lot. We have been sending the lake community an e-mail after each meeting with what we feel were the main points made in the chapters we read. We will be finishing reading the book, and will have our final meeting, in person, at the Betterly’s camp (and via Zoom) on Sunday June 30 at 2 p.m.
- CSLAP – John told the group that the committee consists of himself, Jack, and Joanne Ingham. He said that this year, as in the past, we will be performing 8 samplings, beginning this coming Sunday (June 9), and continuing every other week into September. He said the 2023 report was recently added to the CSLAP website. Anyone can view it at the following link: [Big Bowman Pond \(ny.gov\)](https://www.bigbowmanpond.ny.gov/)
- Dam Committee – the Dam committee is comprised of Anja Carr, chairwoman (term expires end of this year), Robbie Dawe (term expires end of 2026) and three permanent members: Mark Nasuti, Bruce Mereness, and Justin Adamo. In Anja’s absence John told the group that around May 10 he sent the committee a reminder that according to current BLA policy the larger (11-1/2”) board was to be placed in the dam in mid-May. A “spirited” discussion ensued between the members, during which came out that Anja has been using her old concrete dock (under her new dock) to gauge when the water is high or low (as is referred to in the dam policy). Justin pointed out that the old concrete Buckner/Choudhri dock mentioned in the policy has broke apart, shifted and parts lean and have sunk. The dock is no longer a feasible means for gauging the optimal water level. In the end, the board was placed into the dam around May 16, and remains there with just a tiny bit of water flowing over the top. John mentioned that when the dam was built the board was made the width necessary to maintain the water at the level the membership agreed was optimal, and there is no need to measure the water depth anywhere else. Jack said that it would be valuable to maintain a gauge of the proper level at other points on the lake as well. After a discussion, the board agreed that at the next membership meeting on July 25, 2024, we will propose a change to the Dam Board Policy, simply removing the sentence “The water level with the 11 ½ inch board is

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between 3-4 inches below the concrete surface of the Buckner/Choudhri docks.”, as it adds no “direction” for the Dam committee to follow when regulating the dam, and is outdated both in the fact the dock has shifted, and the Buckners haven’t been on the lake in 20 years or so. Also discussed was the fact that Justin is not a member of the Association, as he hasn’t paid his dues, and according to the Constitution & By-Laws, a person cannot serve on any BLA committees unless they are a member. John said he’d let Justin know this. Finally, Colleen said that should a position on the Dam Board open up, her daughter Shea White is interested in joining the committee.

4.) Old Business

- Implementation of the remaining Water Quality Activities in the First proposal made at the February 19, 2023 Membership Meeting, that were approved by the Membership:

John outlined the structure he was implementing to deal with all the various water quality committees. He has created a Water Quality Oversight committee, chaired by Lorraine Ferguson. Other members are Janice Kullman and Pat Betterly. They will coordinate the various already existing and new water quality committees. The CSLAP Dam, and Weed Pulling committees will fall under this committee, as will some new committees, which will be discussed in more detail during the membership meeting. The new committees are: The PRISMS committee, the EPA O2MC committee, the LOCSS (Lake Depth Measurement) committee, and the CEC (Chemicals of Emerging Concern) committee. John briefly told the group that Janice Kullman would describe the PRISMS group she was proposing we join during the membership meeting. He also said that Lorraine found the opportunity for us to work with the Federal EPA, and apply for a grant for the loan of equipment to test the dissolved oxygen levels in the lake – and we were awarded the grant. We are currently working with Rachael Leta-Graham of the Federal EPA. John and Lorraine are meeting her on June 30 for training and to get the equipment. We’ll test every 2 weeks while we have the equipment at various locations (at least the SW and SE corners, north end, the outlet, the cove, & the CSLAP buoy) to check the dissolved oxygen levels. John mentioned further that we will be forming the other committees mentioned as well, and all would report to the oversight committee.

5.) New Business

- John noted we need a Nominating Committee. Nobody has yet volunteered. John noted that no active board members should be on it, for ethical reasons. Members who

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would not be on the board in the next term could be though. Barb said she'd speak with Cathy Berman about it. John said he'd ask for volunteers during the next meeting too.

- John mentioned that we would run the Regatta the same way as the last year or two with sign-up sheets, and that he would discuss that at the next meeting.
- We discussed the other activities on the Calendar of Events for the remainder of the year. Ed told everyone that Eddie would chair the Fishing Contest. He proposed it be a one-day event, and only for kids. That we have certificates and prizes. The kids could catch their fish and bring them to the Farrell's dock to be measure and weighed. He wondered about dedicating it to Rovie. We felt he would need to discuss that with Vicki. It was also noted that we'd already dedicated the Clam Steam in his honor. No further decision on the dedication was discussed. John then noted that most other remaining events have a coordinator/chair. The only ones missing one are the Chili Cookoff/Octoberfest, and Christmas Caroling. Colleen wasn't sure of her schedule. It was wondered if the LaFleurs might do the Chili Cookoff/Octoberfest as they'd hosted them in the past. John said he would investigate possibly doing it in his area with Giolitos, Frosts, and Adamos. No set plan was come up with for that. It was agreed that Christmas Caroling could be put together later in the year, when people knew their schedules, and we could throw something together quickly.
- The final piece of new business was a letter John was sent by Justin Adamo. Justin reached out to John the night before the meeting, asking if, as a non-BLA member, he could still address the members at our Membership meeting. John told him he could attend and listen, but not speak or vote, unless he was a paid up member. After discussing it, John told Justin he could send him a letter and he'd read it at the meeting, as this was something that was done in the past. So Justin sent John a letter to read. John read it to the board. The gyst of the letter is that Justin feels the rules for voting for water quality issues that the BLA has in place in the Constitution and By-Laws do not align with NYS law, and therefore should be modified to do so. The group discussed this, and Janice joined part way through this conversation, and she said that NYS law would always trump any decisions the BLA made. After discussing further, all the board members assembled agreed, we could skip reading the letter to the membership at this time, and send Justin a letter in response, telling him that, in light of his bringing this to our attention, after discussing it further, we all agreed, we need to review the NYS laws and revisit our voting rules, and will bring this up at the annual meeting on July 25.

Running late, we adjourned at 7:05. Respectfully submitted by John Losee, for Kiley Adamo.