

BOWMAN LAKE ASSOCIATION
Annual Meeting Minutes, August 18, 2012

Sharon Dawes, President, called the meeting to order at 5:09pm. In attendance were: Susan Faulkner, Secretary; Fred Newdom, Treasurer; Board Members, Rob Dawes, Bruce Sowalski, Cindy LaFleur, and Barb Mark; Members, Charlie and Joan Benson, Eric Berman, Eileen and Ron Cahill, Scott Cahill, Karen Cobden, Dan Coiteux, Bob Dawes, Lorraine Ferguson, Vicki Fowler and Mark Nasuti, Ian Horne, Chris and Rick Keeler, Erna Kooba, Wes Krahl, Bill LaFleur, Marilyn LaFleur, Matt LaFleur, Dana and Gretchen Lerch, John Losee, Rose Marie Losee, Gerry and Buzz Piche, Gert Schmitt, Rovie Simons, Tip Simons, Carl and Maureen Singer, and Al and Midge Trivers; and Tim and Diane Smead.

WELCOME AND THANKS: Sharon Dawes welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave thanks to those who had been instrumental in various BLA activities over the summer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: After one correction (see notation on the Membership Meeting Minutes) was made to the June, 2012, minutes, Midge Trivers made a motion to forego the reading of the minutes and accept them as the official record. Fred Newdom seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Fred Newdom presented the BLA Proposed 2013 Budget and the 7/1/11-8/18/12 Income/Expense Report (see attached). Corrections were made to the Proposed Budget as noted. Rob Dawes moved to accept the Budget and the Report; Ron Cahill seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT: Bruce Sowalski reminded everyone of the Pot Luck at the Boughton's on September 2, followed by the Talent Show, as well as the Chili Cook-Off on Columbus Day weekend. He indicated that the BLA events that occurred were very successful and that there had been no Ladies of the Lake Tea or Men of the Mountain events. He then invited Rob Dawes to give the Regatta report in which Rob indicated that with the 50/50 raffle and other donations, the Regatta made \$275 so that a total of \$264.00 was spent.

WATER QUALITY/ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT: Rovie Simons reviewed with the members the options (no intervention, mechanical, grass carp, and chemical/herbicide) that have been discussed over past recent meetings about how to approach the weed, primarily Bladderwort, problem. He indicated that with continued exploration of grass carp as an option, more people have become aware of the downside of that option regarding possible toxic algae blooms and the inexact calculation of how many carp to use for best results. He introduced another possibility having been used in Spring Lake on Taborton with good results, Sonar, a herbicide. To talk about this option, Dr. Phil Catalano, an Averill Park chiropractor and resident of Spring Lake, was invited to share their experience with Sonar.

In summary, Dr. Catalano indicated that Spring Lake had a problem from their point of view with lilies and bladderwort. At one point in 2009 they hired someone to mechanically harvest the lilies and bladderwort at a cost of \$5500. In 2010, with the weed problem still an issue, the Spring Lake Assoc. looked into Sonar as an option since Crystal Lake and Burden Lake had both had success with it. He indicated that the members of the Association voted to go with whatever the majority vote was, and in 2010 they had Frank Maier of Burden Aquatics apply the Sonar to their lake at a cost of \$13,000 for an approximately 30 acre lake. After the first application, the lake required two “bump” application to keep the level of herbicide constant over the summer. He indicated that after 24 hours it is safe to swim and that Sonar is used in reservoirs used for water consumption. According to Dr. Catalano, Sonar blocks the plants from creating chlorophyll. Most of the bladderwort and lilies were eradicated from Spring Lake with no algae bloom, which is a possible side effect. He reports that there is some lily and bladderwort growth as of 2012, but the levels are not like 2009. He also indicated that the weeds will come back naturally and that there will need to be additional applications over time.

Sharon Dawes then updated the BLA membership on the status of the DEC Carp permit and answers to the questions that had come out of the June BLA meeting (see June Membership Meeting notes). She indicated that the DEC Regional Fisheries office had not yet been able to answer our “threshold questions” regarding the legal requirements and process for decision making and had referred our questions to the state central office of DEC.

Sharon indicated the aim of this meeting was twofold: to get a sense of people’s opinions about the four options and to determine our process for going forward in choosing one of those options. She indicated that the Spring Lake Association is a different legal entity from the BLA as the Spring Lake Association owns the shoreline of Spring Lake and that their money situation is considerably different with a large annual income and cash reserve many times the size of the BLA’s. She indicated one proposal made to her was that everyone could put up \$500 this year and \$50 each coming year to make affording options possible.

There was much discussion about the various options. Some people indicated that they felt the members had had enough time to consider options while other members indicated that the introduction of Sonar as an option was relatively new and not well explored. There were concerns about property values declining if the “do nothing” option was chosen. Others felt that Dr. Phil Catalano had made it clear that Sonar was safe per Spring Lake’s experience. There were questions regarding: do all grass carp grow large as Dr. Catalano had indicated they can come in different sizes; what studies have been done over time regarding the safety of Sonar; do we need to focus on one option only or consider using different options, for example, Sonar first, then mechanical; would homeowners be deciding the vote or BLA members; how much time is enough time for everyone to consider the different options?

A proposal that became a motion was made that a threefold process would be taken as the BLA's next step. First, a letter would be sent to all landowners and BLA members asking them to respond by Columbus Day, as to whether they would be willing to abide by a majority vote on any particular option with that majority meeting the State threshold requirements; second, a list of links to information about the options would be sent out to membership including information about health studies regarding Sonar; accompanying the third segment, the voting packet for landowners and BLA members asking them to chose an option and to return their vote by Thanksgiving so that the BLA would be able to begin a process for the following Spring. Cindy LaFleur put forth the motion; John Losee seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

THE BLAKE CUP: Susan Faulkner asked about this year's decision to award the Blake Cup to all entries in regard to how that would change the cost of engraving that is budgeted each year. This lead to discussion about how the accident during the parade of floats that led to the decision and that the same situation was unlikely to occur again, but that there was also a need to ensure the longevity of the Blake Cup itself and how best to do that. Ron Cahill offered to see that a 10" base be put on the cup and this was enthusiastically accepted. Ron moved that the Blake Cup would get a new 10" base; Rob Dawes seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS: The ballot for next year's Officers and Board Members were circulated. There were three absentee ballots included in the vote. All proposed Officers and Board Members were elected unanimously. The 2013-2014 Officers are: Cindy LaFleur, President; Janice Anne Kullman, Vice President; Fred Newdom, Treasurer; and Erin Robilotta, Secretary. The new Officers for the 2013-2015 term are: Dean Choudri; Wes Krahl; and Ian Horne (filling the unexpired term of Cindy LaFleur).

After a show of appreciation for the outgoing Officers by the incoming President, Sharon called the meeting to adjourn at 7:00. Bob Dawes moved for adjournment; Rob Dawes seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Faulkner, Secretary
October 08, 2012