

**Bowman Lake Association Annual Meeting
August 20, 2011**

Introduction: Sharon Dawes convened the meeting at 5:15 pm at Bruce Sowalski and Lorraine Ferguson's home. There were over 30 BLA members present. After welcoming everyone, Sharon explained that there had been a change of venue for the meeting due to the church hall where the meeting was scheduled being unexpectedly not available. She then thanked a number of people for their hard work for the many BLA events that have taken place this summer, including Matt and Kat LaFleur, Gretchen and Dana Lerch, Bruce Sowalski, Ron Cahill, Barb and Doug Boughton, and Rob Dawes. She also thanked Al Trivers for his work as Treasurer, and Colleen Masters and Dave Douthiel for their efforts during their term as Directors.

Sharon also told members that they were invited by the Zion United Church of Christ to participate in the pot luck on August 24th to with an invitation from Rev. Bob Loesch to share lake history with those in attendance.

Secretary's Report: The reading of the previous minutes was waived by consensus, and **Midge Trivers moved to approve the minutes, Ron Cahill seconded, and they were unanimously approved.**

Budget Review and Treasurer's Report: (See proposed budget and report attached.) Al Trivers informed the members present that the Board of Directors had voted to continue for two years a moratorium of putting monies into the Water Quality account. He explained that this year's dues were not enough revenue to cover the budgeted amount for BLA events and activities. He indicated that while dues have not increased, event expenses have.

A discussion followed with Sharon sharing that a proposal is still being formulated for a possible "Friends" or "Social" level of membership which would offer inclusion at all BLA events and receipt of the Newsletter. She indicated that Janice Anne Kullman was asking that anyone with ideas about a new level of membership contact her. In the meantime, Sharon indicated that a donation jar would be put out at events for those people who are not members to contribute something toward the expense. She invited other ideas for how to address the revenue/budget discrepancies. Someone suggested making a separate category in the dues for water quality versus social aspects of the BLA. Another suggestion was for there to be a fundraiser with note cards or Christmas cards depicting Bowman Pond in some way. There was also a question and clarification that anyone over 80 is not required to pay dues as long as they are willing to declare their age to the treasurer. A request was made for a bill to be sent for dues as a reminder to mail in dues.

Ron Cahill moved to approve the budget and accept the Treasurer's Report; Fred Newdom seconded; and it carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Bruce Sowalski, Chair of Social Committee, thanked the LaFleur family for having taken on many events this year. He indicated that many events were very successful which met with much agreement. He indicated that he is looking for people to host next year's events, and is open to ideas for events as long as you are willing to work on them.

Cindy LaFleur, Chair of the Membership Committee, indicated that membership is down from last year. She indicated this could change once a new membership category is created. In the meantime, she requested that if anyone knows of anyone who might be interested in becoming a member to let her know. She also indicated that a Membership Listing is in progress pending the new possible category.

Rovie Simons, Chair of Environmental Oversight Committee, reviewed with the BLA membership the report from the August 5, 2011, inspection of Big Bowman Lake by the Adirondack Ecologists, LLC (see report). He also passed around a book about lake life spans call Diet for a Small Lake, to help people understand better the issues facing Big Bowman Pond.

Briefly, based on the report, there are three approaches to weed control: chemical, mechanical, and biological. Adirondack Ecologists favor for BBP a biological approach, using tri-ploid (sterile) carp. The carp feed off of the weeds in the lake with a hierarchy of bladderwort first, but as weeds decline, the carp would go to other species of weed, insects, crayfish, etc. Two main issues to this approach exist for BBP: the DEC needs to see that there is in place something that would prevent the carp from escaping the pond and it is important to determine the correct or slightly lower number of carp with which to stock the pond. Rovie indicated that there is a lengthy process that needs to occur before DEC will give permission to pursue this course of action. He and Sharon indicated that they would continue to inform the membership of the process and of the any recommendations as they go through the process, but at this point since no actions to the lake itself are to be taken, there will be no vote. He also said that since the lake is clean but shallower due to increased vegetative decay, it allows the weeds to proliferate. In the meantime, he recommended that there were two steps that could be taken immediately by the members: do as much manual clean-up as possible of the bladderwort especially to prevent re-fertilization and increased vegetative decay in the lake, and keep the water level higher in the Spring/Summer and lower in the winter months.

Discussion followed with many questions and concerns regarding the grass carp, including: how much to stock; how big the fish can get; costs of the carp, application, and review processes (approximately \$8-12/carp, no cost, and unknown currently, respectively); how extensive is the monitoring process, who does it, the BLA or does someone else need to be hired, and that cost; cost of other methods (harvesting and Sonar, approximately \$10,000/yr. and \$20,000/single application, respectively) and permits required for these; permit process with the DEC and once invited, how involved in the process do they remain; how to keep other nutrients out of the lake water to slow

weed growth; planting vegetative barriers to help absorb other nutrients; checking septic systems for leakage; whether changing the ph level of the water was a viable option; how to access the web-site of Adirondack Ecologists regarding shoreline plants; and the current Dam Regulation Policy affecting where water levels can be maintained currently.

A straw poll was requested to see if there was any interest in having Sharon and Rovie pursue the carp option. A majority (three opposed out of 30+ members) agreed to pursue the process. A second question was posed regarding in favor or against the carp solution: 5 approved; 8 disagreed; and the majority were undecided. More questions arose regarding who can actually vote on the issue, potential liability, informing the public, etc. Sharon indicated that she and Rovie will get as much information about the process as they continue through the process. She again clarified that pursuing the process is not a decision for or against the process, just information gathering about this possible option. She indicated that by August, 2012, there should be enough information on which to take a vote, and if passed, stocking would take place in the Spring of 2013.

Also introduced for a vote was the question of whether to join the Federation of Lake Associations, of which the BLA had been a member years before. Sharon indicated the benefits of membership including the opportunity to learn how to monitor lake health. **Fred Newdom moved to join the Federation of Lake Associations; John Losee seconded: the motion was carried unanimously.**

Another motion was made. **Mark Nasuti moved that all the boards be taken out of dam for the winter according to the stated dates of the current Dam Regulation Policy to allow water levels to drop as far as possible, with the proviso that if this would cause a significant problem for someone regarding drawing water or another problem of that nature, that this policy would be negated. Barb Mark seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Election of Officers for 2011-2012: Sharon thanked the Nominating Committee for their efforts in establishing the list of candidates for election. She indicated that votes would be done on paper ballots provided, and counted before the end of the meeting. Ballots were handed out and counted by Susan Faulkner. **The following slate of officers were unanimously voted in: Sharon Dawes, President; Janice Anne Kullman, Vice President; Susan Faulkner, Secretary; Fred Newdom, Treasurer; and Directors for 2011-2014, Tim Russell and Barbara Mark.**

Dana Lerch moved to close the meeting; Tim Russell seconded; and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Susan J. Faulkner, Secretary