

BOWMAN LAKE ASSOCIATION
Board Meeting Minutes, August 19, 2011

In attendance: Sharon Dawes, President; Al Trivers, Treasurer; Susan Faulkner, Secretary; Board Directors Colleen Masters, Dave Douttiel, Bruce Sowalski, and Cindy La Fleur; and Rovie Simons, Chair of the Environmental Oversight Committee.

Introduction: Sharon called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm. She introduced the main topics for discussion being the weed control issue and membership, in addition to usual business.

Secretary's Report: Reading of the minutes was waived by unanimous vote, and minutes from the June 18th Board meeting were unanimously approved.

Budget Review and Treasurer's Report: (See attached reports.) Al Trivers began with an update of membership numbers being down from previous years, 63 out of a potential 100 last year. He indicated this is a result of the new definition of member per person rather than the previous definition by family with a higher fee structure.

Al indicated that with the change in member definition and the change in budget year occurring at the same time, the actual money available for the 7/2011-12/2011 budget will be approximately \$300.00 short of balancing. However, with the Regatta being under budget and small donations received and other potential changes, the short fall may not be that much.

There was also discussion that for voting purposes it is necessary to know who has paid dues and is therefore eligible to vote, and who has not. Sharon indicated that she would once again remind members at the Annual meeting that in order to vote, they must be paid members. There was also discussion regarding whether a non-member of the BLA but member of the community can host a BLA event. No overall consensus was reached although most of the Board had no objection to someone outside of the BLA volunteering to help with a BLA event. It was suggested that the Board take a more personal approach regarding non-members, making visits to those people to ask about their reluctance to join and see if solutions can be found. Dave Douttiel volunteered to be part of this process. Additionally, there was brief discussion regarding still needing to define a "friends" or "social" level of membership and possibly consider a reduced family membership. Finally, Sharon indicated that she has spoken to Ian Horne about creating a PayPal account and he is working on it.

Cindy moved that the proposed budget be approved with the decision to waive putting half the dues collected into the water quality account for the years 2011 and 2012. Al seconded. The budget was approved unanimously.

Weed Report: Rovie Simons gave an overview of the report from the August 5, 2011, inspection of Big Bowman Lake by the Adirondack Ecologists, LLC (see report). Briefly, there are three approaches to weed control: chemical, mechanical, and biological.

Adirondack Ecologists favor for BBP a biological approach, using tri-ploid (sterile) carp. 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 follow this course of action. He and Sharon indicated that they would be informing the membership of the process and of any recommendations that arise from the process, but at this point since no actions to the lake itself are to be taken, there will be no vote. In the meantime, it is recommended that members do as much manual clean-up as possible of the bladderwort especially to prevent re-fertilization and increased vegetative decay in the lake. Discussion included other ideas for weed control including cloth cover and mechanical devices previously used on the pond. Also, chemical solutions are expensive, temporary, and require 100% agreement by lake property owners. Overall, it was recommended that we all take time to educate ourselves as much as possible about all possibilities for continued discussion next June.

There was some discussion of lake levels having an effect of weed growth leading in turn to discussion of maintenance of water levels. Sharon indicated that she has spoken to John Walsh and directed him to follow the 2007 Dam Regulation Policy, contacting her if there are any problems that arise.

Sharon also proposed becoming a member of the Federation of Lake Associations, indicating that in the past the BLA had been a member. Advantages include training members regarding how to monitor the lake for clarity, nitrogen and phosphorus levels, etc. and lake management plans and tips for implementation. She said she will bring this up for a vote with the membership.

All proposed adjournment of the meeting; Bruce seconded; it was unanimously approved, and the meeting closed at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Faulkner, Secretary
September 18, 2011