

BOWMAN LAKE ASSOCIATION
Special Membership Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2011

Sharon Dawes, President, called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. In attendance were: Al and Midge Trivers, Eileen and Ron Cahill, Bob Dawes, Robbie and Melissa Dawes, Susan Faulkner, Fred Newdom, Karen and Dave Douthiel, Karen Cobden, Ginsy Frost, Barb Mark, Tim Russell, Ian Horne, Colleen Masters, and, by phone, Rovie Simons.

Sharon introduced the meeting as a follow-up to concerns expressed at the June Membership meeting about the perceived increase of weeds in the lake. At that meeting, Rovie agreed to look into options and this meeting was to introduce an option to the membership of how to best decide what to do for the health of the lake.

Rovie Simons, Chair of the Environmental Oversight Committee, indicated that he had spoken with the person that the BLA had hired to do the last water quality study. He suggested that we again hire this person to do a survey of the lake vegetation and then make a presentation to the membership. The advantages he stated were that this is an expert in the field of water quality and its environs, that this person is already familiar with Bowman Lake and would have a basis for comparison. The study that the BLA would ask him to do would be to identify the vegetation in the lake, indicate whether or not there is a problem with the type or amount of vegetation in the lake, the best ways to address any problems, and any other questions that the membership would like to have addressed, such as impact on fish or beavers if vegetation is reduced, concerns about septic systems, impact of introduction of sand to the lake, etc. This would cost the BLA \$750 for the survey and a presentation to the membership the same day after the survey has been completed.

A number of questions and concerns were raised once Rovie finished his proposal. These included: that the results be given in a form that all can understand and with recommendations, not only in verbal but also in written form; that we look into what process needs to occur once a consensus has been reached to formally pursue the best course of action; what were the results of the last water quality study, which no one was sure about although Rovie felt there were no specific areas of concern raised; when was the last study done (2004 or 2005); whether there are more weeds or different weeds in the lake; does the good water quality actually lead to a proliferation of weed growth; if the presentation is made the same day, does that give enough time for the expert to pull together his information to which Rovie indicated that as an expert in the field he will know what he is looking at, what is problematic and what isn't, and options for dealing with the problems; and that the expert show us the weeds so we know which is which.

Rovie indicated that this is an opportunity for BLA members to get information about the vegetation and what problems, if any, they pose, and the options to address the problems. The expert will be able to discuss the pros and cons of all possible actions so we can get a sense of what is involved with any option.

Sharon summarized what she was hearing as the main points the membership would like this study to cover:

- a recap of the last water quality study in understandable terms
- a list of types of plants in the lake with samples for us to see
- what are the problems from an expert point of view, if any
- what are the recommendations for addressing the problems and effect of each approach
- that we have both a verbal report with time to ask questions after the survey is done and a written summary for our records, again in understandable terms.

Sharon also recommended that at this presentation that more than the Secretary be charged with taking notes given the amount of information that will probably be processed.

Ron Cahill moved that Rovie's suggestion to have the expert do a survey and make a presentation and report to the BLA membership at a cost of \$750 to be taken from the water quality fund be approved; Ginsy Frost seconded; the motion carried by majority, both present and by proxy (10), with two in opposition.

Further discussion followed indicating that the survey would be done in early August with the intent that the membership will be able to address the weed issue this summer. Dave Douthiel introduced an option he had not heard mentioned as yet, that is, triploid grass carp, which are controlled by the NYS DEC, and are one option for weed control. These are sterilized carp that feed off of lake vegetation. He indicated that one can get more information from the DEC web site. Sharon indicated she would ask that this option be included in the expert's assessment. There was mention that a previously mentioned possible option, Sonar, a chemical solution, is extremely expensive.

Karen Cobden moved for the meeting to be adjourned; Al Trivers seconded; the motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 4:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Faulkner, Secretary
July 24, 2011