

**BOWMAN LAKE ASSOCIATION**  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
June 18, 2011

**Sharon Dawes, President**, called the meeting to order at 5:19 pm. A minimum of 10 owner Members were present constituting a quorum for voting.

**Welcome, Recognition, and News:** Sharon welcomed everyone to the meeting and then announced most recent news concerning Bowman Pond residents. She also acknowledged Ian Horne for his work on the BLA website while also giving some description of what is on the website and how members can submit items for inclusion on the website. She also acknowledged Terri Dunworth and Eric Berman for their establishment of a Bowman Pond Facebook page and indicated that this is linked in with the Website. Other acknowledgements went to Susan Faulkner for the Newsletter and the hosts of the Winter Festival for their work and success in creating a great winter event.

**Secretary Report:** **Dana Lerch moved to have the minutes of the last Membership meeting be waived and the minutes approved; Bob Dawes seconded; and the motion was carried unanimously. Susan Faulkner, Secretary**, then made announcements sent to her by Members including information from the Taborton Volunteer Fire Department, the Zion's United Church of Christ, and the Sand Lake Kiwanis group. These will be sent to Sharon for inclusion on the Website.

**Treasurer's Report:** **Al Trivers, Treasurer**, presented BLA Budget vs. Actuals indicating the changes made during the Board Meeting including addition of engraving charges for the Blake Cup and the change of the planned \$100 donation Zion's United Church of Christ to a \$100 venue rental for use of the church pavilion for the August meeting and social event. He then presented the "Treasurer's Report" regarding monies in BLA accounts. He pointed out overages and under budget items and fielded some questions about intake of revenues. **Bob Dawes moved to have the Treasurer's Report approved, Ron Cahill seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.**

**Committee Reports:**

**Bruce Sowalski, Chair of the Social Committee**, presented the enhanced list of activities that the Social Committee has developed for this calendar year (see attached). He also reported on most recent past event successes and reminded members of the Mad Hatter party after today's meeting. He then reported that there have been additional suggestions for events, but unless someone is willing to volunteer to chair the event, it would not be likely to occur. Barb Boughton and Ron Cahill volunteered to discuss co-chairing a new event, the tractor parade.

**Cindy LaFleur, Chair of the Membership Committee**, reported that she is pulling together a complete membership list and requested that anyone who knows about anyone

missing from the list to please let her, Sharon Dawes or Susan Faulkner know. She indicated that a new directory would be out in e-form in the next few weeks.

**Rovie Simons, Chair of the Environmental Oversight Committee**, reported that cutting off the food supply is the best solution for dealing with the beaver presence on the pond since there is the constant possibility of beavers re-invading the lake from the nearby swamp if removal strategies were to be employed. He referenced the NYS EnCon Nuisance Beaver Control Techniques Manual. He indicated that chicken wire around trees and bushes is the best way to eliminate the food source and suggested that this be done to vegetation even further in from the lake than just the edge since there has been damage done across Lawson Road as well.

Some concerns were raised by members regarding Giardiasis infection from beaver feces in the lake. Rovie addressed that Giardiasis can come from dog and other animal feces as well and requires that someone swallow the contaminated water. Destructiveness of beaver habits including dam building were discussed with references being made to the dam by the McGuire house and that it is up to the McGuires, if they so desire, to get permission from the Department of Environmental Conservation to be able to remove the dam.

Trapping and shooting were discussed as other possible options in controlling the beaver population. Ron Cahill indicated that he will get an EnCon permit to shoot, which requires no shooting within 500 feet of any dwelling. Someone will look into contacting the trapper to again come during trapping season.

Finally, there was general discussion of other animal seen recently around the lake including bear, fox, and turkeys. Rovie suggested if anyone has more questions about the recommendations he's made about beaver control to access the NYS EnCon Nuisance Beaver Control Techniques Manual which will be put on the BLA website.

**Discussion Items:** Sharon raised **the location of the BLA meetings** for discussion. She indicated that no venue could be found for today's meeting without cost. General discussion included members who found home meetings friendlier, that it puts a strain on the budget, we could lose attendance if it's too far from the lake, and that at least one meeting a year could be at the Zion's United Church of Christ meeting hall with the change in the budget category. General consensus was to stop looking for a new place to meet for the June meetings.

Eileen Cahill raised her concerns about **the increase of weeds in the lake** and wanted to open discussion regarding how to best deal with this problem. General discussion included a general consensus that there are more weeds in and around the lake with reminders to residents to remove invasive weeds such as reed grass and purple loosestrife from their grounds around the lake. Different in-lake weed removal options were discussed including chemical removal using Sonar like recently done up at Spring Lake, weed removal using non-chemical means and looking into college environmental programs or the ecologist who studied the lake that Barb Boughton knows. Rovie agreed

to put together an environmental plan looking into the different options, perhaps inviting experts of different options to come, and setting up a special meeting over the summer for members to hear what is available.

Sharon then raised **the dam and water level** for discussion. The dam water level policy was referenced as calling for the boards to have been inserted by mid-May and that this has not yet occurred. Sharon indicated that she will request John Walsh to do so as soon as possible and will ask John if he wants to continue in this role or would rather hand it off to a new person.

Sharon then asked if there were any other matters for discussion. Barbara Mark suggested that a **donation be made to the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance** since Bowman Pond is part of the Rensselaer Plateau. She suggested they might be a good group to contact as well regarding weed control and that it would be a good link to have on our website. Sharon indicated the proposal for inclusion in donations would have to be put on the August meeting agenda for a vote to be made then and that she would put it on the agenda. Barb and Eileen indicated that they would organize another weed removal day and let members know by email.

Asked about a **nominating committee**, Sharon said that she would contact people in the next week to set up a nominating committee for August's elections.

Having concluded all business, **Fred Newdom moved to end the meeting; Midge Trivers seconded; the motion was carried unanimously**, and the meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Faulkner, Secretary  
July 15, 2011