

Bowman Lake Association (BLA)
Membership Meeting Minutes June 20, 2020

The meeting was held via ZOOM Pro video conferencing due to the Coronavirus pandemic which prevents people from gathering in person. The BLA purchased a Zoom Pro account curtesy of member donations for the purpose of holding meetings.

Attendees: Mark Nasuti

(President), Janice Anne Kullman (Vice President and note taker), Laura D'Agostino (Treasurer), Jack Betterly (Director), Rovie Simons (Director), Matt Robilotta (Director), Rachel Cahill (Director), Bill Kullman (Director), Matt LaFleur, Pam and Mark VanHoesen, Susan Faulkner and Fred Newdom, Vicki Fowler, Colleen Masters, Dawn Vink, Anja Carr.

Meeting called to order at 5:07

1) Review of the Draft Meeting Minutes from the August, 2019 Membership Meeting.

Mark told the membership that we do not have draft minutes from the August, 2019 meeting yet. The Board had met to figure out a process for approving minutes going forward. All the Board members unanimously decided that after a meeting the Secretary would have three weeks to provide the draft minutes to the Board to review and the Board would have one week to review them. In the case of minutes of Membership Meetings, the minutes would then go to the members for approval at the next Membership Meeting. In the case of Board minutes they would be approved at the next Board meeting.

There was a discussion among the members about why there would be any change and why the Board would get to edit the minutes. Board members explained the delay was a problem and the Board wanted to make sure the minutes were accurate. The assumption was there would not be a lot of editing and in fact, the draft minutes the Board has currently have much fewer changes than the ones circulated by the Secretary a few days ago. There was agreement, timeliness would help, but what if there is a discrepancy in the minutes. Mark said, then the process is, it goes to a vote.

2) Secretary's report.

The Secretary, Karen Doustiel was not present, so there was no Secretary's Report.

3) Treasurer's Report.

Laura reported that since June, the BLA has received \$670.57. Donations were made from Rovie and Janice Anne for the Zoom account of \$180 each. Mark noted Zoom Pro was on sale so we got it for \$150 this year. The checking account has \$4,136.96 and the Water Quality Savings Account (Savings Account) has \$5,907.49.

Colleen moved to accept the report. Anja seconded and it was approved unanimously.

4) Dam Committee Report

Anja reported that the Dam Committee voted unanimously to put in the dam board in the middle of May. It is the smaller of the boards and the water is approximately an inch below the board and the water stagnant by the dam. Anja said she has a policy on how to use the dam from 2007 that she would include in the BLA Newsletter. She also explained we do not use the larger board because we do not want the water rising quickly as it did during Hurricane Irene. Anja reminded the Members that they have 10 days to get her any stories they want in the BLA Newsletter.

Janice Anne moved to accept the report. Laura seconded and it was approved unanimously.

5) CSLAP Report

Rovie reported that we have kept water quality records for 7 years and mentioned the recent water quality report that had been sent out. All indicators are good. No spikes in any of the measurements, no algae blooms, no invasive species and no vulnerability to invasive species because of the water chemistry. This year the committee will be doing "CSLAP Light" due to restrictions from Coronavirus and not collecting as many samples. Matt LaFleur noted that they have not taken any samples this year and that he does not have the sampling containers, which may have been mailed to Bruce Sowalski. Matt said he would check with Lorraine to see if they were at her house. Rovie told the Members that if they see anything suspicious, to notify Rovie, Matt or Jack Betterly. Rovie also noted that two of the former members of the CSLAP committee, John Walsh and Bruce Sowalski had died in the last year. Bruce had spear-headed the CSLAP in particular so if anyone wanted to join the committee and help, it involved taking two samples a week for eight weeks. Free training was available. Susan moved to accept the report. Pam seconded and it was approved unanimously.

6) Regatta Report.

Rachel reported that the Board met in April, 2020 to come up with a tentative plan to let people know whether there was going to be a Regatta in July, 2020 given the restrictions on gatherings of people due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Board met again on June 1, 2020 and decided to postpone the Regatta, tentatively to the Saturday of Labor Day weekend- if it was possible to hold it at all. One issue was to confirm if the Kullmans were willing to host it. Rachel said, we may decide we can't have it or we may decide to have it in some alternative form. If we cannot hold it there is a proposal that we donate the \$400 we would normally spend to the Northeast Foodbank in the name of BLA members we had lost this year. Rachel said that if we do not have it this year, she will still Chair it next year and plans to delegate different tasks, including to Mark and Vicki to make the food. Anja asked, and Rachel agreed to write a blurb for the BLA Newsletter about it.

Jack Betterly made a motion to table the decision about whether to make a donation until there was a decision about the Regatta. Laura seconded and it passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about whether the Board or the Members should make the decision about holding the Regatta. Janice Anne tearfully explained that it pained her to say it because it was an honor to host the Regatta all these years but that she and Bill would not host it this year because it was too dangerous with the pandemic and that unless there was a vaccine, they would not host it. One Board member raised the issue of liability of the Board and that it was the Board's decision. Others noted that the members would likely agree with the thinking of the Board but they needed to have a chance to vote on it. Rachel agreed she would inform the members of the issue in her blurb for the newsletter. Mark noted that he would have to step down as BLA President if the BLA held a regatta because he and Vicki agree with the Kullmans that it is too dangerous with the pandemic. Mark will place the issue of whether to have the regatta on the Agenda for the July Membership meeting.

Jack moved to approve the Regatta report. Bill seconded and it was approved unanimously.

7) President's Report.

Mark said, similar to the regatta, The Board has decided that the BLA cannot host or sponsor any in-person gathering. He found out that a P.O. Box for the BLA would cost \$64 per year. He and Laura decided it was not convenient and not worth it and Laura was happy to receive financial information at her home address. Mark said someone had raised the idea of whether it was a good idea to register as a 501(c)(3) organization. We do not have any information on that yet but will discuss at the next board meeting.

We will have elections at the next Membership Meeting. All current Board members and Officers have agreed to stand for election again, for the sake of ease and stability. Rovie and Dave Douthiel's terms as Directors expire this year. Mark emphasized several times that that was not in any way meant to discourage anyone who wanted to run for any position. There was a discussion of whether the By-Laws allowed that, and consultation with the updated By-Laws confirmed that it was allowed.

Janice Anne moved to accept the President's Report. Anja seconded and it was approved unanimously.

- 8) Proposed Amendment to By-Laws: Add a statement to the by-laws that the requirement for a secret ballot when voting in BLA elections does not apply if the meeting is held via videoconferencing. Mark pointed out that the polling feature of zoom still did not allow for everyone to vote so we would need to amend the by-laws to allow for an election via videoconferencing. Noting that there was a quorum of Members present, the Members voted, including two votes by proxy. 17 members voted to amend the By-Laws and 3 voted not to. Thus the matter was decided with well over a 3/4s majority vote.

- 9) Proposed Amendment to By-Laws regarding whether agendas for every Board and Committee meeting need to be sent to the Membership 10 days in advance of the meeting.

Mark explained that one Officer believes the agendas for all meetings needs to be sent to all the members 10 days before the meeting. Mark does not believe that was the intent of the By-laws and doesn't make sense for several reasons: 1) the BLA has never done it that way; 2) doing so would take away the flexibility we need; 3) not every meeting needs an agenda e.g. the dam board committee meeting and not everyone needs to see an agenda when there is one; 4) the By-laws intent was for membership meetings only; and 5) there is no advantage gained from sharing every agenda with every member.

Susan, holding the proxy for Dave and Karen Douthielle read what Karen asked her to convey to the members, that the Constitution, Section 3 clarifies that the Board may call a special meeting with due notice to the Board.

Discussion of the issue included the point that the agenda publication was meant for members to know the issues coming up at the Membership meetings and to avoid controversy. All who spoke agreed that a clarification was warranted. However, since there was no specific language proposed in the agenda to the By-laws the members agreed we should put off any vote until there was specific language. Bill and Anja agreed to get together and draft the clarifying language we need and get it to Mark no later than July 14, 2020 to put on the August Membership meeting agenda.

- 10) Raising Membership contribution level.

Mark said that last summer an issue had been raised about whether to raise the contributions each member should make to the BLA. The current amount is \$20 per adult. The discussion concluded that while it might be a good idea, doing so during a pandemic was not a good idea.

Anja moved to table the discussion of raising the contribution level till June, 2021. Laura seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- 11) General Discussion

Anja raised the issue of lots of strangers on the road who are speeding, as well as concern that new people or renters might not be scrubbing their boats to prevent invasive species entering our lake. She

said she would write about it in the BLA Newsletter. She also thanks Kat and Matt LaFleur for picking up litter and garbage along our roads.

Mark moved the close the meeting. Colleen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.