

# BOWMAN LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

## MEETING HELD ON JULY 25, 2024 – Final Approved Notes

Meeting conducted via Zoom & in person @ Taborton Fire House

Call to order: by John Losee, President

Total Attendance for January 25, 2024, Meeting was \_\_\_\_.

Please Note: Kiley Adamo was via Zoom for the meeting and it was very difficult at times to hear what was being discussed.

Current Board Members:

Board Member Name	Board Member Position	Present	Absent
John Losee	President	X	
Ed Farrell	Vice President	X	
Colleen Masters	Treasurer	X	
Kiley Adamo	Secretary	X	
Elaine Merguerian	Board Member	X	
Kathy Hale	Board Member	X	
Barb Mark	Board Member	X	
Bill Schulman	Board Member		X
Jack Betterly	Board Member	X	
Janice Kullman	Immediate Past President	X	

### Meeting Agenda

- 1.) Approval of minutes of meeting from June 2024
  - Vote was unanimous to approve minutes
  - Minutes approved.
- 2.) Treasurer Report-Colleen please provide a copy of the report to attach to minutes, as those attending via Zoom could not see the report.

Discussion took place:

  - Have to pay dues to be in association
  - Discussion on open membership for the social aspect only.
  - The vote was unanimous on **Yes** to pass the 2025 budget.
- 3.) Committee Reports
  - **Water Quality Oversight**-Lorraine gave a brief overview of what we can do to continue to further educate ourselves and do various testing on water quality .
  - **Book Club**- Elaine stated the club had completed Diet for a Small Lake and the club was looking for another book on water sheds. Members of the Association have been sent via email bulleted points on all the chapters of Diet for a Small Lake.

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- **CSLAP**- completed 4 out of 8 samplings. We will end in September, and the report will be added to the CSLAP dashboard, that anyone can look at, sometime in early 2025. (Could not hear discussion.)
- **Dam Committee**-Justin let the meeting know board was in and it has been a dry summer.
- **EPS O2MC Committee**-Lorraine & John - the EPA granted the association a loan for oxygen testing equipment
  - Discussed where the samplings take place-Lorraine's dock, colleens, turtle cove, outlet-center mouth, north end, CSLAP sampling buoy, and south-east corner.
  - Was asked if we can get an extension for winter with equipment - we will investigate.
- **Weed Pulling**
  - Lorraine thanks everyone for coming out all summer
- **PRISM**-Janice
  - Cost is \$0.00
  - Janice registered us for their list serve. So far nothing further has been heard.
- **LOCSS**
  - John chairing committee
  - John has not looked into this yet, but will do so soon.
- **CEC**
  - Mike, Joanne, John and Justin will be on the committee
  - We have not started work on this committee yet, but will by next year.

### 4.) Old Business

- Janice asked John to send email to bring cash for 50/50 at Regatta & list of events, calendar drive \$20.00/calendar
- Colleen will be at Regatta to accept dues.
- Fishing Contest-Categories for kids
- Talent Show-hosted by Lorraine-asking Ron if people can sign up @ Regatta.
- Photo Contest-Sept/October-submit photos to John.
- Chili cook off-Columbus Day weekend

### 5.) New Business

- Proposed changes to By Laws and Constitution regarding water quality
- Justin sent a letter to association, the Board of Directors agreed to what Justin stated - that correct voting for water quality voting is not set up correctly according to NYS policy in a way that is fair and appropriate.
  - Janice and Mike resident lawyers suggested inserting a new section in by laws which would address this, it would be Section 8.

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- This section will require the BLA to follow all NYS state and local laws when dealing with water quality issues - specifically when seeking to take any action regarding water quality of the lake
  - Suggested to mark the dam itself with a high water mark, at which time board is pulled. This will be investigated further.
  - Lorraine agreed the new section 8 was straightforward, and John agreed we should be following the local and state laws
  - Everyone that has land that water borders or passes through should be included in the voting. Our current voting does not include some of those that have land on or around the water. (Could not hear discussion on matter.)
  - Non-member landowners should have a vote regarding water issues.
  - Our association does not have the power to ask for permits to raise water or put chemicals in, it is a social association (couldn't hear discussion when members of association were speaking)
- Change to Constitution – Article 7 – changing name of Water Committee to Dam Committee. Vote was unanimous.
- Adding Section 8 to the By-Laws, and renumbering sections 8 and 9 to 9 and 10 respectively (see attached).
  - Ed motioned to accept, Janice 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, vote was unanimous
- Review proposed changes to Section 7 of the By-Laws regarding dam policy (see attached).
  - Change name to “Big Bowman Pond” instead of “Bowman Lake” to differentiate between Big and Little Bowman – discussion ensued over Lake vs. Pond, to the point we decided to say simply “Big Bowman” – change was approved.
  - Change the bylaws back to what the dam board insertion and removal was originally stated goes in mid-May and removed in mid-October. Allowing for emergency removal or insertion throughout the year (couldn't hear discussion)
  - Discussion of various options took place.
    - keep board in year-round and to mark the dam, but this was not part of the changes being voted on.
    - Removing the ability of the 5 people to decide when the board goes in and is removed and give it back to the entire group. This was addressed in the changes being voted on by restructuring the Dam Committee's make-up (see attached).
    - Use data for further research to make further changes if needed
    - Mark the dam – have not gotten to a discussion of where to place the mark on the dam yet – needs further investigation.
    - Take the power of determination of water level out of 5 people's hand and back to what it was prior.

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- Currently the policy is there are 5 members on the dam committee-3 are permanent 2 appointed members – all get a vote.
  - Justin, Mark and Bruce (permanent members) most impacted of lake community.
  - 2 appointed have 5-year terms.
- The proposal is to change to 4 members - 3 (representing the deep, shallow, and mid-level depth areas of the lake) are appointed by the Board, and have 3 year terms, and 1, the owner of the land the dam is located on at 53 Windmill Way, will be a permanent, but non-voting member, who need not be a BLA member.
  - The Dam committee will be appointed by the board and will include 3 active BLA members representing shallow, deep and mid-level water on big bowman. These will be “voting” members on the committee.
  - The fourth Dam committee member will be a permanent member of the committee – this will be the owner of the property the dam is on (53 Windmill Way). They will not be a “Voting” member, but will also not be required to be a BLA member.
  - The only thing for the committee to vote on is if there is a flood to take the board out, or re-insert during droughts.
  - Kiley suggested anyone that is on dam committee should sign a waiver that landowners are not liable if someone is coming to remove or insert the board. Something should be drafted, whoever is on committee that the liability is not on the landowner (can't be voted on because it was not part of the meeting schedule) Putting into the next meeting agenda to be voted on.
  - How are we coming up with the new committee? The Board of Directors will appoint the committee, need to discuss who will be appointed as it is now a 3-year term.
  - Anja's dock has sunk and shifted - measure is no longer correct and serves no purpose in the policy. Motion to remove the sentence from the policy – vote unanimous to remove
  - Moving to remove name of land owner, and to use property address in the by-laws - vote was unanimous
  - Look into putting a mark on dam.
  - Look into waivers for those on dam committee.

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- Look into liability insurance - does the lake association have an insurance policy and liability insurance for when dam is regulated.
  - Motion-Ed and Janice motioned, vote was approved - had a ¾ approval (2 opposed and 1 absentee) for making the changes in Section 7 of the By-Laws.
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- We are not a 501 c (3) corporation. We are not tax exempt. Officers and directors are held liable should something happens if someone was to get sued. (Couldn't hear discussion).
  - Need to review if we are nonprofit, check if we need insurance for officers.
  - Beaver situation-aggressive beaver at the lake, beaver has cut down several trees, should wrap trees. Ron talked to trapper and had trap under his dock. Justin and Kiley do not trap. Ron is in discussion with Boundless Woods to put trap on their property.
  - Plan 2025 calendar of events.
  - Nominating committee report and election of 2025 slate of Officers - All officers are running again, Bill and Elaine will both run again for a new 3 year term, and Tip will run to finish Rovie's last 2 years. Below members were all voted in:

Board Member Name	Board Member Position	Term expires
John Losee	President	July 2025
Ed Farrell	Vice President	July 2025
Colleen Masters	Treasurer	July 2025
Kiley Adamo	Secretary	July 2025
Elaine Merguerian	Board Member	July 2027
Bill Schulman	Board Member	July 2027
Barb Mark	Board Member	July 2026
Tip Simons	Board Member	July 2026
Jack Betterly	Board Member	July 2025
Kathy Hale	Board Member	July 2025
Janice Kullman	Immediate Past President	Upon election of new President

Meeting was adjourned