

# **BOWMAN LAKE ASSOCIATION**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

### **MEETING HELD ON JULY 25, 2024**

Meeting conducted via Zoom & in person @ Taborton Fire House

Call to order: by John Losee, President

Total Attendance for January 25, 2024, Meeting was 8.

Please Note: Kiley Adamo was via Zoom for the meeting and had technical difficulties connecting to the Zoom, and staying connected, further 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	

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:

- Colleen discussed our Receipts and Expenditures.
- The 2025 budget was created for the membership to approve.

3.) Committee Reports

- John explained the new structure of the Water committees going forward. There will be a Water Quality Oversight committee, that will oversee all the separate water quality related sub-committees. This will help ensure there is no duplication of efforts between the sub-committees, and that any efforts do not fall between the cracks.

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- **Water Quality Oversight** - Lorraine will head up this group. Other members are: Sharon Dawes, Janice Kullman, and Pat Betterly.
- **Book Club** - Elaine Merguerian heads this group. Noted that we completed reading "Diet for a Small Lake" and will look 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".
- **CSLAP – (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program)** - John Losee heads this group, which also includes Jack Betterly and Joanne Ingham. The group has completed 4 out of 8 samplings. Sampling ends in September. The annual report will be added to the CSLAP dashboard, that anyone can look at, sometime in early 2025.
- **Dam Committee** – Justin, who is on the current committee let the board members know, that the dam board was in, and it has been a dry summer thus far. There was further discussion about the Dam Committee under "New Business".
- **EPA O2MC Committee** - Lorraine & John co-chair this committee. Joanne Ingham and Barb Mark are also on the committee. The EPA granted the association a loan for oxygen testing equipment. John described the locations of our samplings: Lorraine's Dock, Colleen Masters' float, the mouth of Turtle Cove in line between Inghams' and Giolitos' docks, the outlet in line between Adamos' and Ron & Eileen's docks, the north end – in the center of the bay in line between Simons' and Marks' docks, at the CSLAP sampling buoy, and in the SE corner, out from the boundary between First/Gorozdos and Carr. We will continue with our sampling until the end of November when we need to return the equipment. John was asked if we could get an extension for winter, and do sampling through the ice. We will investigate doing that.
- **Weed Pulling** – Lorraine heads up the effort for this. We informally send an e-mail out announcing weed pulling parties on evenings during prime weed pulling season, and people come out in their boats and pull weeds together at various locations around the lake (the location changes for each party). Afterward we gather at the "hosts" dock and share refreshments and visit.
- **PRISMs – (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management)** - Janice Kullman heard about this. It's a group that works for the most part via a on-line List Serve on which lakes share their information about invasive species, etc. It costs nothing, so Janice has registered us. So far nothing has been heard.
- **LOCSS – (Lake Observations by Citizen Scientists & Satellites)** – John Losee is chairing this committee. Justin Adamo and Barb Mark have volunteered to assist. At this time they have not started working on anything, but will do so soon.

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- **CEC – (Chemicals of Emerging Concern)** – Mike Ingham will chair this committee, which will include Joanne Ingham, Justin Adamo, and John Losee. At this time they have not started working on anything, but will so starting next year.

#### **4.) Old Business**

- The Regatta was briefly discussed. It will be handled by a group of volunteers again this year, rather than by a chairman/committee. Janice Anne has had Calendars printed with all the photos from last year's photo contest on them, which will be sold as a fund raiser.
- Fishing Contest – Ed discussed plans to hold a fishing contest for the kids on the lake – he and Eddie will host at their dock.
- Talent Show will be hosted by Lorraine. Ron Cahill will chair.
- John Losee will run the Photo Contest-Sept/October.
- We will have a Chili cook off-Columbus Day weekend

#### **5.) New Business**

- Proposed changes to By Laws and Constitution regarding the dam committee and dam regulation - John formally proposed to the board that we re-structure the dam committee, due to dissatisfaction of the Association members with the current structure. The Board had held an e-mail discussion about this, and John had worked on a plan, which he had shared via e-mail and gotten e-mail approvals on. At this time, the Board formally discussed the matter. Currently there are 5 members – 3 permanent (Justin Adamo, Mark Nasuti, and Bruce Mereness – all due to being owners of low lying land). Anja Carr (chair), and Robbie Dawes were appointed members serving 5 year terms. With this structure, there has been a lot of in-fighting amongst members of the committee. The board has been put in, taken out, put in, taken out, over and over through the summer, whenever some members were afraid of rain predictions causing flooding. Association members didn't like that they had no say in things, and owners of land south of the north end were not represented, except by Anja, who was following the stated measuring policy – using her old crumbling and shifting dock, which was no longer giving accurate measures of water depth. To remedy this, John suggested a restructuring, where we dissolve the current committee, and create a new one with 4 members – 3 voting members who are Association members, to serve 3 year terms, and who live in various areas on the lake, representing shallow, moderate and deep water areas. Additionally, 1 permanent member – the owner of 53 Windmill Way (which is the land the dam is on) – this member would be non-voting, but would also not be required to be an Association member. Additionally, the dam policy would be modified to

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remove extraneous and erroneous language (especially the portion using Anja's dock as a measurement device). We would return to the older, originally approved policy of putting the board in in mid-May, and removing it in mid-October, with the provision that it can be removed during times of high water/flooding, or inserted during times of drought. This would require revision of Section 7 of the By-Laws. Much discussion ensued, including the idea of marking the dam with a high water mark, so that when the water hits it, we remove the board. There could be a low water mark too, so that once the water recedes, we replace the dam board. It was generally agreed this makes sense, but that we would have to wait to change the dam policy in the By-laws until another meeting, as this was not proposed early enough to put it on the agenda for tonight's meeting. Further – we need to investigate where to mark the dam for the high and low water marks – i.e., we need to determine what the highest desirable water depth is, as well as the lowest, so we know where to mark the dam. We will work on this in the coming year. The group agreed to move forward with the changes to the Dam Committee re-structuring, and changes to the By-Laws/Dam Policy, as described and discussed, and previously shared with the membership in advance of tonight's annual meeting.

- Additional Proposed Change to the Constitution and By-Laws, regarding water quality issues. Justin sent a letter to the association. The Board of Directors agreed with what Justin stated - that correct voting for water quality issues is not set up correctly according to NYS policy, in a way that is fair and appropriate.
  - Janice, one of our resident lawyers suggested inserting a new section in our By-Laws which would address this, it would be Section 8.
  - 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.
  - Policy is that 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)
  - It was pointed out that nobody could really disagree with the proposed new change, as they would be suggesting we ignore NYS laws and policies.

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- All agree to move forward with this - Adding Section 8 to the By-Laws, and renumbering sections 8 and 9, to 9 and 10 respectively (see attached).
- 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 – there is an aggressive beaver on the lake, it's cut down several trees. Ron had a trap under his dock, but the trapper said it needed to be in the outlet. Justin and Kiley do not want a trap put on their land. Ron will discuss with Boundless Woods to see if they will allow a trap on their land.
- Nominating committee report and election of 2025 slate of offices. All officers are running again. Bill and Elaine will both run again for new 3 year terms, and Tip will run to finish Rovie's last two years as director. Below is the slate that will be presented to the membership for their vote:

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