

BOWMAN LAKE ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MEETING HELD ON MAY 8, 2025

The first Board of Directors' Meeting of 2025 was held on May 8, 2025 at the Taborton Firehouse and via Zoom. John Losee, President, called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

Attendance at the meeting of Current Board Members:

Board Member Name	Board Member Position	Present	Absent
John Losee	President	X	
Ed Farrell	Vice President	X (Zoom)	
Colleen Masters	Treasurer	X	
Kiley Adamo	Secretary		X
Jack Betterly	Board Member (exp. '25)	X	
Kathy Hale	Board Member (exp. '25)		X
Barbara Mark	Board Member (exp. '26)	X	
Tip Simons	Board Member (exp. '26)	X (Zoom)	
Elaine Merguerian	Board Member (exp. '27)	X (Zoom)	
Bill Schulman	Board Member (exp. '27)	X (Zoom)	
Janice Kullman	Immediate Past President		X

In the absence of the Secretary, John and Colleen took minutes together. John typed them up.

1.) **Secretary's Report**

John, in lieu of Kiley. Approval of minutes of BOD meeting from July 2024, which John shared earlier with the board via e-mail.

- Tip moved to approve the minutes as written, Barb seconded.
- Vote was unanimous - Minutes approved.

Review of minutes from Annual meeting from July, 2024, to be approved at June 2025 Membership meeting, which John shared earlier with the board via e-mail.

- John asked if anyone had any questions/comments/corrections for these minutes – nobody did. They will be shared with the Membership for approval at the June Meeting.

2.) **Treasurer's Report**

Colleen shared the current balances in our accounts:

- The balance in the Checking account is \$10,190.02 (no interest earned on this account.)
- The balance in the Savings account is \$ 5,919.32 (interest earned to date \$.82)
- The balance in out PayPal account is \$ 811.25 (This will be transferred to Checking.)

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- Total Cash on hand = \$ 16,920.59

Colleen shared that the only expenditure to date in 2025 was for \$82.97 for Winterfest. This was \$67.03 under the budgeted amount of \$150.00.

- Someone moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, someone seconded.
- Vote was unanimous – Treasurer's report was approved.

(John's additional note: We did pay for our NYSFOLA membership for 2025 in 2024 as well.)

Discussion followed regarding the interest earned on our Savings Account, and lack of it earned on our Checking account. It was noted that if we moved some money to a CD, we could earn more interest. Money is locked into that account though, and inaccessible until the maturity date, otherwise there is a penalty, which is usually nearly all the interest earned. Money Market accounts earn higher interest rates than Savings/Checking Accounts, and money can be deposited/withdrawn (usually via a check), as needed, without penalty.

It was decided that Colleen would check with Trustco (where we have our accounts), to see what the rules and interest rates are for CD's and Money Market accounts, with the idea we might move some money into one of these types of accounts to try and earn more interest. Colleen will check into this prior to the June meeting, and we will discuss with the membership, with the probability of a vote to move some funds into one of these types of accounts.

3.) Committee Reports

Water Quality Oversight Committee

Lorraine Ferguson is the "Water Czarina" of the committee. Other members are Sharon Dawes, Pat Betterly, and Janice Anne Kullman.

John told the Board about a meeting of the Water Quality Oversight Committee that was held on April 30, 2025 at Lorraine's house, and via Zoom. The members of the Water Quality Oversight Committee, and the chair people of the sub-committees were invited. Lorraine, Sharon, Janice, John, Joanne, Barb, Mike, and Elaine attended. The purpose of that meeting was to summarize each sub-committee's progress thus far, and discuss their plans going forward.

In the absence of any committee members, John summarized what was discussed at that meeting for each of the sub-committees, and the Board further discussed:

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CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program)

John Losee is the chair person of this committee. Other members are Jack Betterly and Joanne Ingham.

John told the group that we will be doing CSLAP water sampling again this year through NYSFOLA/DEC, but that rather than doing 8 samplings from June through September, we will be doing only 4, through the same period of time – just spread apart a bit more. This year it will be free, as we are only doing 4. If we opted to do 8, there would've been a fee, and last year the membership decided we should go with 4 vs. 8, as the results of our sampling doesn't fluctuate enough throughout the summer to matter if we do 4 or 8 samplings. John also said there was to be an online meeting of CSLAP volunteers on May 9, that he and Joanne would be attending. Jack didn't remember getting the e-mail about it, so John said he'd share it with him.

EPA – O2MC (Environmental Protection Agency – Oxygen Management Committee)

Lorraine Ferguson and John Losee Co-Chair this committee. Other members are Joanne Ingham and Barbara Mark. This group's purpose is to take samples of the lake's Dissolved Oxygen, PH, Salinity, and Conductivity, using a special device loaned to us by the federal EPA.

John told the group that Rachel Graham, of the EPA had allowed us to keep the testing equipment that the EPA loaned us through the winter, rather than having to return it in December. As a result, he and Lorraine, with help from Justin Adamo, went out and walked on the ice, to all the usual testing spots, and Justin drilled holes in the ice for them to take samples. We were unable to go again while the ice covered the lake, due to scheduling issues, but as soon as the ice was out – in early April, John and Lorraine went around in John's Row Boat and tested again. They've gone one more time since as well, and will continue through the summer, until sometime in September, when Rachel said we needed to return the equipment to the EPA.

Questions arose as to how our oxygen levels are. John told the group that in general, we go to 7-8 spots around the lake to do testing: At Lorraine's boat house, by Colleen's float, at the mouth of turtle cove, near the outlet, between Vicki Simon's and Barb Mark's dock, at the CSLAP buoy, and in the SE corner of the pond out from the First/Gorozdos and Carr property line. At each point we take measurements at 3' depth. At the buoy (the deepest part of the lake – around 30') we take measurements every 3 feet from 3' – 27'. Sometimes we take other measures at the other spots as well. During our winter measurements we chose an extra

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location, at Justin's request – more in the middle of the lake on the western side, where he felt more fish live. John went on to say that Lorraine has a spreadsheet with all the data on it, which can/will be shared. But in short, generally the O2 levels around the lake are OK, and good for fish to live in, even in winter. The only problem area is up at the north end, from the outlet up. This area is shallower, as it was the area that was man-made (dredged) back in the early-mid 1900's to make the lake bigger. The main portion of the lake is natural and deeper, and in general had better O2 readings. Barbara mentioned that Sharon's brother, Don Scavia, who is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Michigan, and renowned limnologist, said that in addition to water depth and weed growth/decomposition, O2 levels are also affected by the weather, and the wind! The plan is to compile the readings we took, with some simple guidelines, and share them with the membership/lake residents. To that end, Tip suggested we come up with a graph that uses colored shading to indicate whether the O2 levels are Good, Fair, or Poor using green, yellow, red to indicate these levels. He thought maybe we could apply this to a map of the lake and put colored dots in the areas where we sampled, showing this. There could be multiple maps, one each for each sampling, or each month, etc. Everyone thought this would be good, and John will discuss with Lorraine, and try to produce this to share prior to the June Membership meeting.

CEC (Chemicals of Emerging Concern)

Mike Ingham chairs this committee. Other members are Justin Adamo, Joanne Ingham, and John Losee.

John told the group that this committee will be responsible for testing for any other chemicals/pollutants in the lake, that are not already being tested for by the CSLAP and EPA O2MC groups. To this end, we know what those two groups are testing for, and Sharon will ask her brother Don Scavia what other things we should be testing for. Additionally, Lorraine will speak with Rachel Graham of the EPA, as she had indicated at one time that we might be able to get more help from the EPA with regard to testing for other things. Further, Mike, in his capacity as an attorney who has worked extensively with the water and sewage departments for various towns on Long Island, has been in contact with companies who have performed water quality testing of sorts down there, and one of them recently opened a branch in Troy. He will speak with them to find out what he can about what we need to test for, and how we might go about doing so. Once we can get a better handle on what we need to test for, we'll figure out how best to do the testing.

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PRISMs (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management)

Janice Anne is the chair and only member of this committee.

John told the group that Janice had reported that this is a group of like-minded people from all over who are tied together via a LIST SERV, which is more or less a large e-mail group, where people can post their questions/problems/concerns about plants/insects/etc. that seem to be invasive species where they are located. On behalf of the BLA, Janice signed us up. Since she did so last year, there have only been 3 posts on the LIST SERV. Janice did use the LIST SERV to query about the Giant Water Bug (Toe Biter) that the Cahills reported seeing. That's where she got the information we disseminated to the lake group. She will continue monitoring the LIST SERV.

Weed Pulling Parties

Lorraine coordinates this effort, and will continue doing so this year, as it seems that last year more people became interested in getting together on the lake to pull some weeds together in designated areas, with a follow-up cocktail party at someone's dock.

Book Club

Elaine chairs this group. Anyone is welcome to be a member of the club.

She told everyone that we'd had a successful run, reading Diet for a Small Lake, and another publication last year. The bullet points for each group of chapters read, was sent out to the lake community. John said at the Water Quality Oversight meeting, the group decided to put together a list of ALL the bullet points for each of the books read, to be sent out, along with the Power Point to Lorraine's class on Lake Barrier Landscaping, to the entire lake community.

Going forward, Elaine said that at our Water Quality Oversight Committee meeting the group felt it was worthwhile to continue this group. She noted that there is a 14 page publication on Dissolved Oxygen that the group was planning to read, as well as another book written by someone local, entitled "The Secret Ecology of a Lake..."

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Jack said we should encourage other lake residents to join our group as not only do we learn something, but we have fun too, seeing each other when we get together to discuss the readings and share some refreshments!

LLS – formerly LOCSS (Lake Level Study Committee – formerly Lake Observations by Citizen Scientists and Satellites)

John Losee chairs this committee. Other members are Justin Adamo and Barb Mark.

John told the group that initially we thought this organization might be useful to join, as we thought it would give us some guidance on measuring lake levels. As it turned out, after some further investigation, John found that the group was dedicated to measuring the fluctuations in the volume of water in lakes and other bodies of water, due to natural causes for water levels to go up and down, such as climate change. They use a measuring device in a body of water, as well as satellites that fly over to help them measure this. Further, they were not interested in lakes with dams joining in, as the water level of those lakes is manually manipulated to maintain certain specified volumes. So we do not qualify to be part of LOCSS.

After some conversations with others, John decided it might still be useful for us to try and measure and keep a record of the fluctuation in the level of our lake over time, so he re-named the committee to be the Lake Level Study Committee. And to that end, using the method prescribed by the LOCSS, to install a measuring device on a fixed object in the lake, which can be used to measure the changes in water depth, we will install a couple such devices and do so.

John said that he will install a couple of permanent Yard sticks (metal probably) on the fixed portion of his dock, and Lorraine's dock, and will use the method described by LOCSS to assure the yard stick remains at a constant level. To do that you install the yard stick, so it sticks down into the water below a depth it never drops below, and sticks up higher than the water ever goes. Then you use a straight board and extend it to a fixed tree or rock or building and when that board is level, you screw a screw into the fixed object. Periodically, especially after the ice goes out, you check that the board between that screw and the top of the yard stick is still level. If it is not, you adjust the yard stick until it is level again, and then you continue your measuring. So, we will do this, and periodically (weekly at least), or during times of flooding, take measures and record them, and we will then know how much the level of the water fluctuates over time.

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Dam Committee

Barb Mark chairs this committee. Other voting members are Bill Schulman and Shea White. Justin Adamo is the permanent non-voting committee, as he is the land owner.

As Barb was laid up at the time, John explained what had happened with the dam board last fall. It was removed in mid-October, per current policy. Then a few weeks later, when the drought occurred, as no water was flowing out of the lake, and the lake level was very low, the committee and BOD in a group e-mail decided to put the board in. It was put back in, and left in until the water level came up, and we had a lengthy period of rain. At that time the board was removed from the outlet, and has remained out since. It is now time – in a week or so – as it's mid-May, that per the current policy, the board should be put back in. Since there is so much rain coming down regularly at the moment, everyone feels we should be cognizant of that, and wait to put the board back in until the rain stops.

John further discussed the idea we had from last year, to try and obtain a more consistent lake water level year-round, by permanently mark the dam with a high water mark and a low water marks, and using them to indicate when to pull/replace the board, rather than arbitrarily pulling it in October and leaving it out until May. The creek doesn't freeze, and even if it did freeze with the board in, the ice could be broken with tools or heat, so the board could be pulled. This is how it would work. The high water mark will indicate, when the board is in, and the water is flowing a certain number of inches (to be determined) over the top of the board (which is the agreed upon optimal level of the lake water), that the board should be pulled out. The low water mark will indicate, when the board is out, and the water is low enough again, that the board should be replaced in the dam. The low water mark can easily be determined by watching the water when the board is in, and the water level is a couple inches below the top of the board, and no water is flowing out of the lake. We simply pull the board, and after a few minutes, once the water has settled out... the level it is hitting the dam at is the low level, and we can put a permanent screw/bolt/whatever on the dam. Then, when the dam is observed while the board is out, and the low level indicator can be seen – it's time to put the board back in. To determine where to install the high level mark – when the board is in, we need to leave it in, and when the water is 1" over the top of the board, talk with the owners of the low lying properties, and if they feel their land is about to flood, that's the new high water mark. If at 1" above the board, they feel it's OK – we wait until it's 2" above the board... and check again... and so forth, until it's agreed upon that the water is getting too deep – then we simply screw the high water indicator on the dam. John said that he had spoken with Bruce Mereness and Dawn Vink, whose land is low lying, and they thought this plan was OK. Once both high and low water

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indicators are in, we simply monitor and as needed, either pull the board when it hits the high water mark, or put it back in when it hits the low water mark. Then we don't remove it in October and replace it in May anymore – we just monitor it year round. At that time, we also change the Dam Policy and Constitution and By-Laws to reflect the new Dam policy. Jack pointed out that while this is OK, we still need to watch for any forecasts of major rains/flooding, and pre-emptively pull the board out in anticipation of such events, rather than waiting for a flood to happen. It was agreed that this made sense, and that if such a rain event was predicted, the board could still be preemptively pulled, rather than waiting for the water to hit the high water level mark. The board was OK with this overall plan, so we'll move forward with it. To that end, we should put the board in for the season, when the lake level drops to a couple inches below the top of the board, so that we can determine the low level mark at that time. Then once in, we'll commence determining the high level mark as described above.

Historic Species in Big Bowman

This isn't a Water Quality Committee, but it is water-related, so we discussed it here.

Recently, John received an e-mail sent by Will Lenihan, who is the Gardener and Curator for the Native Flora Garden at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The e-mail was sent to the Sand Lake Historical Society, who forwarded it to Sharon Dawes, who forwarded it to John. Basically the gentleman was writing to ask about a historic plant that was documented to grow in Bowman Pond in the 19th or early 20th century. It was documented by Sand Lake botanist Charles Horton Peck, who was the former New York State Botanist. The species is an aquatic plant called *Utricularia ochroleuca*, and it is only known in New York State from this one record. So, according to wikipedia, *Utricularia ochroleuca* is:

"The **yellowishwhite bladderwort**,^[1] **pale bladderwort**,^[2] or **cream-flowered bladderwort**, is a small, [perennial carnivorous plant](#) that belongs to the [genus *Utricularia*](#). It is usually found affixed to the [substrate](#). *U. ochroleuca* is a [circumboreal](#) species and is found in [North America](#), [Asia](#), and [Europe](#)."

Bladderwort! LOL

John said that he had written back to Mr. Lenihan, and told him we do have Bladderwort, but he isn't sure if it's that type, and that we are actively trying to get rid of it! He also offered to take Mr. Lenihan around the lake in his rowboat in July or August, when we can see the bladderwort. Mr. Lenihan was most interested, and agreed to come up and go for a ride around the lake with

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John. They're planning to do so on Friday, August 8. Anyone can join them. Mr. Lenihan says he wants to harvest some, if that's OK, to take it for testing to see if it is the historic variety, and to maybe propagate it at his Botanic Garden. John offered him as much as he wants! Incidentally, Mr. Lenihan said it's not a protected species, so it's OK if we're trying to eradicate it! Also, he noted that as it is carnivorous, it eats mosquito larvae!

Bowman Lake History Group

John told the group that he had initiated a new Bowman Lake History Group, which he will Coordinate. He said it's for anyone who's interested in looking into, discussing, or preserving the lake's history, whether they are a BLA member or not. It will just be a loosely organized group of like-minded people who can be as involved as they wish. No activities have taken place as yet, but John said the Douthiels will share some of Marge's historical documents with us, and that he himself has some that are in the old 'Secretary's Box' (now 'President's Box'). He said that he'd get things organized when he could and will announce the group to the membership and lake neighbors soon.

4.) Old Business

Insurance for the BLA – Possibly Becoming 501 (c) 3

John reminded everyone of the initiative we began last year, looking into liability insurance that will cover the BLA and Board Members in the event of a liability at any of our events, or for injuries occurring while manipulating the dam, or from damages caused by the dam being left closed/open. Ed was looking into it with an underwriter.

Ed explained that at the moment, we have no coverage of any kind. He said the Association and any separate board members can be sued and found liable.

He said he spoke with an underwriter, who checked with some insurance companies. He said that as soon as they find out we have a "Dam", many aren't interested at all. They feel the liability for anyone downstream is too high. One company did agree to provide insurance, but it was going to cost us over \$10,000.00 + fees and taxes per year – so over \$11,000.00 per year! Obviously we can't afford that.

To mitigate this amount, the underwriter suggested to Ed that we hire an engineer to inspect the dam and write a report indicating how much risk the dam could be. As it's so small, the thought is the report would say there's little to no risk of any kind of liability, and thus the insurance companies would give a better rate.

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John mentioned that the BLA is a not-for-profit corporation, but that we do not have 501 (c) 3 status with the IRS. It was thought that if we did, that the BLA and it's board members would be exempt from any liability. If that's the case, it would negate any reason to have insurance. John did tell the group that to obtain a 501 (c) 3 status with the IRS, we'd have to modify our Articles of Incorporation to include certain language, and that has to be approved by the NYS AG's office, as well as being filed with the NYS Division of Corporations. Then we have to modify our Constitution and By-Laws to include certain sections/language. Finally, we apply to the IRS, which means providing 5 years of accounting records, and paying a large fee. If we're successful in becoming a 501 (c) 3, then annually there's a filing we have to do with the IRS, in order to maintain our 501 (c) 3 status! This is of course dependent upon whether or not we even qualify for such status. Ed mentioned other 501 statuses as well, which we could look into.

John did not too though, that if we wanted to ever rent the Zion's United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, we would be required to provide proof of liability insurance in order to do so.

John also said we could try to get "Event Insurance", which would not cover the dam, but would cover our events only. Apparently we tried this before, but were told we didn't need it as we are not-for-profit. Of course, whoever told us that may have thought we are 501 (c) 3.

In the end, it was decided that Ed would give Tip the contact information for the underwriter he was speaking with, and Tip would reach out to him and ask how much insurance would be if we leave the dam out of the equation.

John will speak with Mike Ingham and see if he/they can determine if we were to get 501 (c) 3 status, if we would be exempt from liability, as we were told.

(Additional thought from John – John can talk to the lawyer the Fire Company is using to get its 501 (c) 3 status back, to see what his thoughts are on if we are exempted from liability if we get 501 (c) 3 status.)

John will also speak with the engineer, whose contact information Ed provided, to see how much a review/report would cost us.

5.) New Business

Calendar of Events for 2025

John had shared the Calendar of Events with everyone prior to the meeting, and everyone thought it was OK as is. There was some discussion over a couple of events though, as follows. John will send out the Calendar of Events ASAP to the membership.

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Fishing Contest

There was some discussion about this, as Ed told us that a BLA member had told him that if we went ahead with having people bring their fish to Ed's dock to be measured/weighed that we were in violation of certain DEC regulations, whereas fish that are not being kept to eat, and will be released, cannot be transported on stringers in the water, or in buckets. To that end, it would be impossible to have people bring the fish to Ed's dock for measurements. Initially we thought about using two docks, or maybe even having one or more roving judges in boats, but this seemed improbable, as there wouldn't be enough people to help out. In the end, it was suggested that contestants could carry a tape measure, and when they catch a fish, lay it in the boat bottom, next to the tape measure and snap a photo of the fish next to the tape measure. Then after they're done fishing, bring the photo to Ed's dock to be recorded. No thoughts were mentioned about how to prove weighing a fish, as not everyone has a scale to use that they could have with them. It was decided to tentatively schedule the event, and decide before we send out the announcement for it, exactly how we'll go about this.

Annual Rovie Simons Pot Luck - formerly Pot Luck/Clam Steam

As last year's Clam Steam that the Simons family put on, in honor of Rovie, was so popular, it was thought that going forward, we should do something similar each year, on a smaller scale, that's BLA-hosted. Tip offered his front lawn for the event. Over the last couple months or so, discussions took place in-person, and via e-mail, discussing how to handle things, in the event of rain, and in general regarding the clam steam part of the event. Discussion followed at this meeting.

In the end it was decided, we will do just a pot luck – leaving out the clam steam, as nobody has equipment/know-how. There will be a rain date of the next day. People should bring their own tables/chairs, and something to share to eat. The Association will supply paper plates/bowls/utensils/napkins/soft drinks/ice. Anyone wishing to drink alcohol can bring their own. Tip said his Bourbon Bar will be open, and generously, he said he'd supply beer as well. Further details would be in the event's announcement. Holding the event this way will eliminate the need to figure out what to do about the clams, and rain!

2025 Elections

John noted that the elections for next year's officers would be held during the July Annual Meeting. The President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary, and 2 Directors positions will be up for election. He has appointed Karen Cobden chair of the Nominating Committee, and must find a

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couple more people for that committee. He said he'd rather it not be anyone remaining on the board, or running for re-election. Nobody volunteered. He asked Ed and Colleen if they'd like to run again. He said he'd run one more time for President. Colleen will run again for Treasurer. Ed declined to run again for VP. Jack and Kathy are the directors whose terms are ending. John will find two more people to join the Nominating Committee, and will pass along the information to Karen that he, and Colleen will run again if they wish to nominate them. He'll also check with Kiley about running again for Secretary, and pass that info to the committee.

Possible Change to Constitution & By-Laws

John asked the group their opinion on asking the members to vote to change the rule in the Constitution and By-Laws that directs us to deliver any proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws to the Taborton residence of each member 10 days prior to the vote to make such a change. He said it would only need to be e-mailed then, unless a member had no e-mail, and then we could deliver it to them in hard copy. Most thought it already said that, and that it was OK to go ahead with this. John will take care of getting this taken care of.

Should we have a Bowman Lake Cook Book?

John told the group he'd been asked by someone if we might want to do a Bowman Lake Cook Book. John said he'd bring it up to the membership, and see if there was enough interest. He mentioned there were some in the Memory Book, that could be copied into it, including a couple from Moon and Janet Lerch. Colleen recalled one for squirrel stew – which John recalls was from Lottie Manning. The group decided it was worth mentioning to the Membership, and that any recipes in the Memory Book should be included.

(Note: After the meeting, John met Elizabeth Marks and her mother Louise, and mentioned it to them, as they were instrumental in publishing the Memory Book. Louise said there already was a Bowman Lake Cook Book from years ago. She has a copy. She said she'd show it to John some time. We can look it over and possibly copy it, or some of it, and add to it.)

Should the BLA Sponsor Taborton Fire Company's Pizza Night one Month?

John told the group that last year before our July meeting, Pat Betterly had thought we should propose to the membership that the BLA sponsor Taborton Fire Company's monthly Pizza Night one month, in addition to our usual annual donation. Taborton Fire rents the church hall for \$200 per Pizza Night, and seeks sponsors to cover the expense. So, for the BLA to sponsor the Fire Company's Pizza Night, it would cost \$200.00. In return, the BLA would be able to have a flyer passed out with each pizza if they wish, and any advertising done in the Advertiser, or online would include a blurb saying that the BLA sponsored the Pizza Night. Usually the donor

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also gets two free pizzas... although I'm not sure what the BLA would do with two pizzas, unless they had an event that occurred on the third Saturday of any given month (they would receive a gift certificate which could be cashed in at any time), or they could donate the two pizzas to someone. Everyone thought this sounded like a good idea. Tip moved that we bring this up to the membership, Barb seconded, and everyone voted yes. John will add it to the Membership meeting agenda.

Lawson Road and Waterfront Clean-Up

John told the group it had been brought to his attention that some of the waterfront around the lake, and some of the yards along Lawson Road need some attention with regard to cleaning up debris (including dead branches and trees that have fallen down). Discussion followed as to what we could do about this. An idea had been mentioned to John that possibly some residents are either not at the lake, or if they are, are not able to perform the clean-up of their yards, and it was wondered if maybe we, the Association, could have an event where we get together and help clean up those properties. Tip thought maybe we could have a Lawson Road clean up party one day – like our weed pulling parties, where we traverse Lawson Road from one end to the other and pick up any trash, and (with property owners' permission) clean up branches/downed trees that are lying around on peoples' property where the owners can't manage the work themselves. The group agreed to bring this up to the membership at the June meeting.

Speeding on Lawson Road

Bill Schulman brought to our attention that too many people – some lake residents, as well as visitors, contractors, and businesses such as Twin Bridges, Fed Ex, UPS, Amazon, etc. drive way too fast on Lawson Road, and that someday, someone is going to get hit by a car/truck. In particular with so many children on bicycles on the road, and riding down driveways and Howe Way into the road, who may not be seen in time, people need to slow down! There is one white (legal speed limit) sign near Dawes waterfront. (*Note: It was thought during the meeting that it was 20 MPH later John saw it is 25 MPH.*) There are two others – yellow warning signs – at the entrance to Lawson Road, stating 15 MPH. These are not LEGAL SPEED LIMITS, rather suggested speed limits, due to dangerous conditions (which includes pedestrians, etc.). John explained that when he was BLA President the last time, some 20 years ago, that this topic was brought up, and the BLA asked the town and police for assistance, to no avail. They couldn't enforce a speed limit, as there was inadequate signage (speed limit signs). They need to be placed every so many feet or yards from one another. And in order to determine what the speed limit should be to be posted, would require a traffic study. They didn't want to expend

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the time/effort to do a traffic study to determine what the speed limit should be, basically because there had been no accidents/injuries on the road. Someone asked about our asking to have speed bumps put in. We did that back then as well, and were told they couldn't because the plows would rip them up and damage the road and plowing equipment in the winter. We were told we couldn't have speed humps either. John couldn't recall why, but thought liability was the reason, when we asked about temporary speed bumps that could be put down and removed. During the discussion, the following thoughts were presented, and we will try to look into as many as possible:

- A) Ask the town again about speed bumps/humps, as they may have changed their minds.
- B) Ask the town about our purchasing/using our own temporary plastic speed bumps.
- C) Ask again about having the speed limit officially posted.
- D) Maybe we can buy/make our own signs and post them (but not on utility poles). Tip said we should make weird speed limits, like 17 MPH or 23 MPH, as he'd seen it in some places, and it made people look, and read, and consider.
- E) The BLA could invest in some plastic children playing statues and put them out.
- F) Ask the police to put up a trailer with a radar gun on it, and a display that says "Posted Speed Limit – 25 MPH – Your Speed - _____".
- G) Call or write to the companies that regularly come down the road: Amazon, Fed Ex, UPS, Twin Bridges, etc. and ask them to have their drivers slow down.

All of these were thought to be good ideas, and we will bring them up to the Membership, as well as begin to work on some of them ASAP.

Dog Poop

Bill spoke to the group about his observances since being here on the lake more now, where he's observed many people walking dogs, and some clean up if the dog poops, while others do not. He told about how this can spread diseases, when other dogs get into the mess, and contract any disease the dog who pooped has, and that this can be passed along to other animals, as well as people. Not only that, it's a mess if you step in it, and it smells, and is not pleasant to have around. He would like all dog owners to carry bags and clean up after their dogs, but this of course isn't going to happen. What can we do to try and convince people to clean up after their dogs. During our discussion that followed, the following ideas were raised:

- A) John should send everyone a copy of the town ordinances regarding dogs, which it is believed addresses this. John will do so.
- B) The BLA could invest in and install periodically along the road, some dispensers with dog poop bags in them.

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- C) Maybe a group of dog owners on the lake could take a walk up and down Lawson Road weekly, and clean up any dog poop that hasn't been cleaned up. It was stressed only dog owners should be in this group.

All of these were thought to be good ideas, and we will bring them up to the Membership. John will look into the first option and take action on it ASAP.

The meeting adjourned at 21:22

Action Items: *(From this meeting and the Water Quality Oversight Committee Meeting)*

- 1) Before the Membership Meeting in June, **Colleen** will check with Trustco on the rules/regulations/interest rates for their Certificates of Deposit and Money Market accounts.
- 2) Immediately, **John** will send Jack the link to tomorrow's CSLAP online meeting. *(Done.)*
- 3) By the end of May, so it can be shared with the members before the June 5 Membership Meeting, **John** and **Lorraine** will work up a graph of Dissolved Oxygen values for each location around the lake, including variations by water depth. There should be one graph for each testing date. We want it to be a map of the lake indicating Green (for good), Yellow (for fair), and Red (for poor), with a key showing those colors and the range in values of PPM of Dissolved Oxygen observed.
- 4) Once she's back from Italy and/or ASAP, **Sharon** will speak with her brother Don Scavia regarding what we aren't currently testing for in the lake, that we should be.
- 5) ASAP, **Lorraine** will talk with Rachel Graham of the EPA about how the EPA can assist with figuring out what we should be testing for yet, and whether the EPA can assist us in doing so.
- 6) ASAP, **Mike Ingham** will talk with the company he's dealt with and ask the same as in # 5.
- 7) Before the June meeting, **Elaine** will kick off the next Book Club reading. **John** will assist with sending the e-mails to the entire lake neighborhood. He will include the 14 page document (as a link, and in .PDF format) that Lorraine found on Dissolved Oxygen, that the group will be reading/reviewing/discussing next. This will be for those who wish to read it prior to the June 5 meeting, to provide them with some context to DO reporting that will be discussed at the meeting.
- 8) ASAP, **John** will obtain metal measuring sticks and properly affix them (using LOCSS directions) to his own and Lorraine's fixed docks, so we can begin measuring water level fluctuations.
- 9) Once this month's rains are over, and it's time to put the Dam board in, **The Dam Committee**, and **John**, will place the board in for the summer, and commence work on determining the low water and high water levels, so permanent marks can be placed on the dam.

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- 10) As summer progresses, **John** will coordinate with Will Lenihan further on taking him around the lake to look for our historic bladderwort plant, and will keep the membership informed.
- 11) Sometime in the near future, **John** will organize/coordinate getting the Bowman Lake History group up and running.
- 12) ASAP, **Tip** will speak with the Insurance underwriter to find out what kind of premium we would be charged for liability insurance, if we remove coverage for the dam from the equation.
- 13) ASAP, **John** will speak with the engineering firm Ed gave him contact information for, to see find out what's involved in getting an engineering report and recommendation for the dam, and how much it will cost.
- 14) ASAP, **John** will talk with Mike Ingham and/or Malcolm McPherson (The Fire Company's lawyer) regarding the possibility of if getting 501 (c) 3 status for the BLA would negate the need for insurance, as we might then no longer be able to be held liable as 501 (c) 3. John will also ask them if we even qualify for 501 (c) 3 status, or if we would fall under some other section of the IRS code, and if so, would we be liable under that status.
- 15) ASAP, **John** will complete and send out the 2025 Calendar of Events.
- 16) ASAP, **John**, **Tip**, and **anyone else** willing to help will coordinate setting up the May 26 Pot Luck.
- 17) ASAP, **John** will appoint two more members to the Nominating Committee, and give Karen Cobden the information about those Board Members who are willing to run again.
- 18) Before Memorial Day (5/26), **John** will print and deliver hard copy notices to the Taborton residences of the then BLA members, regarding the proposed changes to the Constitution & By-Laws, that we will be voting on at the June 5 Membership meeting. All members will also receive the same via e-mail.
- 19) When drawing up the June 5, Membership Meeting agenda, **John** will add Pat Betterly's suggestion that the Membership vote to sponsor one month of Taborton Fire Company's Pizza Night, for \$200.00, in addition to the BLA's usual annual donation.
- 20) When drawing up the June 5, Membership Meeting agenda, **John** will add an item to the agenda, suggesting that the Membership consider putting out another Bowman Lake Cook Book.
- 21) When drawing up the June 5, Membership Meeting agenda, **John** will add an item for discussion of cleaning up waterfront areas and along Lawson Road, and in particular asking about the possibility of a Lawson Road clean up party day, similar to our weed pulling parties.
- 22) When drawing up the June 5, Membership Meeting agenda, **John** will add an item for discussion of the speeding situation on Lawson Road.
- 23) ASAP, **John** will speak with the Town and/or Police regarding some of our questions noted above about speeding on Lawson Road.

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- 24) ASAP, **John** will locate and share the Town's dog ordinances, along with the BLA's concerns about dog poop, with the lake neighborhood.
- 25) ASAP, **Joanne** will provide a summary report for the membership, based on the results reported over the last few years of our CSLAP testing.

Respectfully submitted by,
John A. Losee, President
Bowman Lake Association, Inc.
May 10, 2025