

Bowman Lake Association

Membership Meeting

June 5, 2025, 7:00pm, Taborton Fire Department & via Zoom

In attendance: R. Cahill, K. Cobden, L. Ferguson, E. Farrell, J. Ingham, M. Ingham, J. Losee, B. Mark, C. Masters, J. Schmitt, T. Simons (Underlined are Board Members.)

Call to Order: J. Losee, 7:10pm

Secretary's Report: Minutes from July 25, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes. Lorraine Ferguson made a motion to accept the minutes; Barb Mark seconded. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Colleen Masters reported \$5,918.75 in savings, \$11,265.23 in checking. Expenses include Winterfest, Clam Steam, Zoom account, Water Quality expenses. CSLAP will be free this year, saving \$370. Colleen and Lorraine will investigate options for high interest savings accounts, money market or CDs. Ed Farrell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Tip Simons seconded it. Passed unanimously.

Committee Group Reports

Water Quality Oversight Committee: Lorraine reported that the Oversight Committee met and prepared a to-do list of activities for the year.

John Losee reported that on Friday, August 8, 2025, Will Lenahan, Gardner and Curator for the Native Flora Garden at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, will visit Big Bowman Pond to look for an apparently historic species of bladder wort. John will row him around BBP. Anyone interested in joining the field trip is welcome.

Book Club: John will resend the Club's bullet points from the book, Diet for a Small Lake. The next Club reading will be a fourteen-page document, "Dissolved Oxygen Levels in Lakes." Anyone interested in participating should contact Elaine Merguerian.

Chemicals of Emerging Concern: Michael Ingham indicated that he will contact several sources to determine lake testing options and testing costs for the contaminants PFAS, PFOA, 1,4 - Dioxane and coliform. Several members will speak with contacts at other lakes to learn more about what they do for testing, if anything.

CSLAP: Joanne Ingham shared a summary report of the 2024 Big Bowman Pond CSLAP Report. Overall, the lake data are well in line with data from other NY State lakes. In the few instances where the data have changed over a ten-year period, the changes have been positive.

2025 CSLAP sampling will take place June 8, July 11, and August 31.

Dam Report: John Losee reported that the board has been adjusted since October due to drought and the heavy spring rains. There was continued discussion about the permanent placement of markers, which will indicate high water and low levels. The markers will serve to guide either placing the board in or taking it out. Changes to the current practice will require a change to section 7 of the by-laws.

A beaver is under the bridge and damming the creek. John volunteered to pull the beaver materials out from under the bridge.

EPA – O2MC: Lorraine Ferguson shared the results of the first Dissolved Oxygen Data Report. Data have been collected over the 2024-2025 year. The level of dissolved oxygen in the lake impacts plant life and animal life in BBP. Overall, the data indicate that there are good oxygen levels in the lake. Certain areas, in the North end and Outlet, are inconsistent. The oxygen levels are not as good in those areas. Low water depth, weather conditions and wind impact the levels.

LOCSS: the Lake Observations by Citizen Scientists & Satellites project. Lakes with dams are not applicable to participate in LOCSS.

LJS: Lake Level Study: Metal yard sticks will be placed on John Losee's dock and Lorraine Ferguson's dock. Lake level will be measured periodically.

PRISMs: Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management: Janice Ann Kullman is following this listserv. Questions about invasive species in and around the lake (plants and/or animals) can be posted on the listserv to get information.

Weed Pulling: Lorraine Ferguson will set up weed pulling parties at the end of July and August.

History Group: John Losee will collect historical information about Big Bowman Pond. He will contact Bill LaFleur to see if his dad would be able to contribute to the group.

Old Business

Liability Insurance: There is a concern that BLA Officers might need liability insurance. Apparently, from an insurance perspective, the dam is an insurance problem and will make it difficult to be insured. A dam engineer (Rick Woldt) was contacted and would make a site visit to BBP to take pictures and assess liability due to the dam for a \$1,000 one-time cost, in hopes that a positive report would make insurance more feasible and cheaper to obtain. This idea was tabled for now. Ed Farrel indicated that the dam should be considered a water-control device and not a dam in the traditional sense, as DEC only considers a water control device of 6 feet or greater a dam. Members will contact other Lake Association Boards and see what they do with

regard to insurance and legal advice. Colleen Masters will look into the feasibility of using signed waiver forms as a way of limiting liability for Board Members and at BLA sponsored activities.

501 (c) 3: BLA is not a 501 (c) 3. The discussion was tabled. Members will contact other lakes to see if they have this status.

New Business:

2025 Calendar of Events:

Notice of 2025 Elections: Karen Cobden is heading this committee. Elections will be held at the July 30, 2025 BLA meeting.

Change to BLA Constitution/By Laws: A motion was made by Lorraine Ferguson to eliminate the need to hand deliver hard copies of proposed changes to the BLA Constitution/By-Laws prior to a vote. Barb Mark seconded the motions. Passed unanimously.

BLA Cookbook: John Losee will ask the History Group to look into creating a BLA Cookbook.

TFD Pizza Night support: Pat Betterly had proposed having the BLA support a TFD Pizza Night covering their cost of \$200. Barb Mark moved to support the TFD activity, Joanne Ingham seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Clean Up Along Lawson Road and Water Front Areas: Lorraine Ferguson will reach out to BLA to ask for volunteers to help with clean-up.

Speeding on Lawson Road: Members discussed options available to get drivers to slow down on Lawson Road. FedEx, UPS, Amazon, and Twin Bridges have been contacted to ask drivers to follow the speed limit. County Waste will also be contacted. Other ideas were discussed. As Lawson Road is a public road, local authorities need to be contacted. John Losee e-mailed the Town Supervisor, but to date has not received a response.

Cleaning Up After Dogs: Members discussed a problem with owners who fail to clean up after their dogs. Signage, and placement of poop baggies for people to use are possibilities.

Motion to Adjourn: Barb Mark moved to adjourn the meeting. Tip Simons seconded. Passed unanimously. Approximately 8:45pm.