

Bowman Lake Association

Annual Meeting

July 31, 2025, 7:00pm, Taborton Fire Department & via Zoom

In attendance: L. Ferguson, J. Ingham, M. Ingham, J. Kullman, J. Losee, B. Mark, C. Mark, C. Masters, E. Merguerian, B. Schulman, T. Simons, P. Van Hoesen

Call to Order: J. Losee, 7:09pm

Secretary's Report: Annual Meeting Minutes from June 5, 2025 Pam Van Hoesen made a motion to accept the minutes; Bill Schulman seconded. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Colleen Masters reported \$918.75 in savings, \$3,303.74 in checking, and \$10,000.00 in a CD which matures September 30, 2025. To date, expenses include \$100 donations to the Church, Fire Department, and Ambulance, \$123.28 for the Regatta, \$102.00 for the Pot Luck, \$159.90 for the Zoom license, Water Quality expenses of \$314.73, and Fire Department Pizza Night sponsorship of \$200. Tip Simons made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Janice Kullman seconded it. Passed unanimously.

Discussion of the 2026 BLA Budget: Colleen Master's indicated that the 2026 budget of approximately \$4,000.00 will essentially be the same as last year. There will likely be carry over monies from the Water Quality Committee of funds budgeted, but not yet used. The Poker Run and the Scavenger Hunt will be held on alternating years. There was agreement that, should new activities be proposed, funds can be shifted without additional bookkeeping effort.

It was noted we should ask Ian Horne if he wishes to continue paying for the BLA's website, in lieu of paying dues, and if he chooses not to, we will have to pay that expense going forward.

Upon conclusion of the Members' input on next year's budget, a motion for approval was made by Bill Shulman, seconded by Tip Simons. The Board of Directors voted, and the motion carried. It was recommended email addresses be (voluntarily) provided when members pay the annual dues next year to provide an electronic way to communicate.

Committee Group Reports

Water Quality Oversight Committee: Lorraine reported that based on the water quality data collected this year, the lake is very good shape.

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.

Book Club: Elaine Merguerian suggested reading first the 24 page document on Dissolved Oxygen, then “The Secret Life of a Lake” sometime in the fall 2025. Janice Kullman will co-chair the club activity with Elaine.

Chemicals of Emerging Concern: Michael Ingham reported that the results of the coliform testing procedure were very good. The number of colonies in seven different locations ranged from 13 to 33, against a benchmark of 1,000. These results are significantly lower than the benchmark. The researcher at the Capital Environmental Lab indicated that we might consider testing annually. The BLA can discuss this option at the next meeting in June 2026.

CSLAP: John Losee reported that CSLAP testing was conducted June 8 and July 11. The final two collections will be taken August 3 and 31. Longitudinal results can be found on the CSLAP website: <https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/IF/CSLAP/1301BOW0444/> The link will be added to the BLA website.

Dam Report: John Losee reported that the dam board is in. A level fluctuation of 3 to 4 inches has been observed. John noticed a small trickle of water running around the north side of the dam. This area should be filled in to prevent water running around the dam.

The plan going forward is to place permanent markers on the dam. This will indicate a high-water mark indicating when the dam board should be removed. This will also include a low water mark indicating when the dam board should be put in. Modifications to the Dam Policy regarding placement of markers on the dam will require a change to section 7 of the By-Laws.

EPA – O2MC: Lorraine Ferguson reported that dissolved oxygen has been tested every few weeks. A dissolved oxygen level of 4 is a minimum value. A reading of 6 indicates a healthy environment for plants and animals. Most readings around the lake have been around 6. The last test on July 21st indicated lower than ideal levels on the north end and at the deeper sampling level near the CSLAP buoy.

LLS: Lake Level Study: Metal yard sticks were placed on John Losee’s dock and Lorraine Ferguson’s dock. Lake level will be monitored by John Losee and Lorraine.

Invasive Species – (formerly PRISMs): Janice Anne 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. The bubbling slime found in some sections of the lake are not an invasive species as per the head of NYSFOLA. NYSFOLA informed us of an interactive website - <https://www.imapinvasives.org/> - that literally maps out where invasive species have been found in New York, and some other states. Janice will work with this on our behalf, should we encounter suspected invasive Species. Lorraine will be sending pictures of several invasive ground plants, such as Knotweed, the community should be aware of.

Weed Pulling: Lorraine Ferguson reported that, to date, there have been 3 weed pulling parties. Additional parties will be scheduled based on hosts volunteering. Janice Kullman reported a case of swimmers' itch. This will be reported to CSLAP, as it is an issue they track.

History Group: John Losee reported that the group's activities will begin in late fall 2025. He noted though that Barb Kivlen spoke with her father, Bob LaFleur, and he is willing to respond to specific questions anyone has about the lake history. Questions can be sent to Barb.

Old Business

John Losee reported that, according to an attorney he was consulting with, given that the BLA is a Not-for-Profit Corporation, BLA is governed by the State of New York Not-for-Profit laws. John was advised that BLA should neither obtain liability insurance nor apply for 501(c) 3 status. The Board agreed to no longer consider these issues.

There was further discussion about efforts to slow down speeders on Lawson Road and to encourage people to clean up after dogs. It was agreed that these issues fall outside the scope of the BLA activities and will no longer be discussed at the meetings. Bill Schulman will however, draft a letter to be sent to the lake residents regarding the speeding issue.

New Business:

Discussion of 2026 Calendar of Events:

The Board will propose a calendar of events for the 2026 year that would, at a minimum, list the routinely offered events. Members are welcome to offer suggestions and additions. It was agreed that the Poker Run and Scavenger Hunt would be scheduled on alternating years. Janice indicated she may move the Sing to a different weekend than 4th of July.

[Two items about the regatta that were not discussed, but that should have been – 1) Nobody should be jumping/diving off the diving board, except during the “Jump with the Biggest Splash” – going forward we should have someone at the diving board at all times to make sure nobody is using it. And 2) The issue of nut allergies was brought up. There are a couple of members, whose children have nut allergies, and their children cannot go in the water after we've dumped peanuts into the lake. To remedy this, so they can participate in all the other swim events, going forward, we will hold the peanut races as the LAST water events to be held, after all the others.]

Election of Officers:

The Board offered their sincere thanks to the Nominating Committee Karen Cobden, Janice Kullman, and Barb Mark.

The following slate of officers were voted upon:

President	-expires 2026 - John Losee
Vice President	-expires 2026 - vacant
Treasurer	-expires 2026 - Colleen Masters
Secretary	-expires 2026 - Joanne Ingham
Director	-expires 2028 - Kiley Adamo
Director	-expires 2028- Jen Schmitt

Michael Ingham made a motion to approve the proposed slate of officers. Barb Mark seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Please note that those who would like to run for the Vice President position should contact John Losee. A special meeting and vote would have to take place to fill this position.

The following Directors will remain in place and a vote was not needed:

Barb Mark	-expires 2026
Tip Simons	-expires 2026
Elaine Merguerian	-expires 2027
Bill Schulman	-expires 2027

The Board wished the outgoing Vice President, Ed Farrell, and outgoing Directors, Jack Betterly and Kathy Hale for their service over the past years. Their efforts were greatly appreciated.

Motion to Adjourn: Tip Simons moved to adjourn the meeting. Michael Ingham seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:42pm.