

Bowman Lake Association (BLA) Board of Directors Meeting

July 19, 2022, 7 pm Meeting conducted via ZOOM.

Participants:

Mark Nasuti, President
Jack Betterly, Board member
Colleen Masters, Board member
Matt Robillata, Board member

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

- 1. Review of 6-26-2022 draft Membership Meeting Minutes:** No comments or corrections, minutes approved by Board.
- 2. July 31 BLA Annual Membership meeting:** The Board discussed several items on the meeting agenda for the meeting. Agenda items are below in **Bold** followed by summaries of discussions/decisions:
 - a. Annual Budget:**
 - i. Per the By-laws, the Board will vote on the budget @ the July 31 meeting. Because Laura is on vacation the budget isn't done yet. Mark will forward to the Board as soon as he gets it; he said that may be very close to the Annual Meeting.
 - ii. Mark would like \$ for consultant listed as a budget item. It will be a significant expenditure, so it should be a budget item. Plus, if an amount is listed as a budget item, the Board can, by a simple vote, spend that \$ to hire a consultant. We have \$5911 in savings account, \$4607 in checking. While we have not formally designated an amount of \$ for "water quality" traditionally the \$ in the savings account has been considered as the water quality \$. Mark proposed we allocate \$3000 for the consultant. After some discussion, it was decided that Mark will contact Lorraine Ferguson to see what the Consultant Committee recommends.
 - b. Vote at 7-31 meeting: Proposal to Raise the Regatta budget from \$400 to \$500.** Proposed by Janice Kullman. No comments
 - c. Vote at 7-31 meeting: Proposal to create an anonymous donation fund to help restore the windmill.** Proposed by Mark Van Hoesen. No comments
 - d. 2021 BLA Elections:** Mark proposed that, per past practice, since we do not have multiple candidates running for the same position, the voting shall be done as one vote for the entire slate of candidates. No opposition to this.
 - e. Board of Directors' Vote on Including Justin Adamo's Proposal in the 7-31-22 Meeting Agenda.** Justin's proposal is as follows: *"I would like to propose a vote on the July 31st meeting to keep the dam board in on a trial basis for the winter. A*

trial meaning the board can be pulled at any time if there is a problem such as heavy rains.”

i. Mark called for this vote by the Board. Mark discussed his reasons for this; highlights are listed below:

1. On Dec 4, 2021, less than eight months ago, the BLA membership voted down a proposal by Justin and others to leave the dam board in all winter. This was voted down decisively, by greater than a two-to-one margin. The membership spoke, loud and clear.
2. However, it is also true that 16 other people voted on Dec 4th in agreement with Justin. Some were quite passionate, as were many of the people who voted no. Worded differently, the proposal created a great deal of conflict, hard feelings, hurt feelings, and stress among the members of the BLA, even before the Dec 4th meeting took place. That was not any one person's fault, and Mark is not assigning blame here; simply stating that this occurred. Mark thinks it is a very bad idea to have the July 31st meeting resurrect that conflict, especially since the membership vote had been so decisive-----and because:
3. Justin presented no new arguments to justify holding another vote. In his email of July 13th he expressed many reasons for leaving the dam board in; however these reasons are the all same ones he raised last fall. Justin's emails and documents were communicated to the BLA last fall, and the BLA had all of that information well before it voted on Dec 4th.
4. Justin's proposal is in direct contradiction to his previous proposal: that we take the dam board out even earlier than we have been. BTW, Mark fully supported that proposal, and at the May 22 BLA meeting he recommended to the BLA that we approve that proposal (which was approved).
5. The lake has not changed, in any significant way, since Dec 4th, 2021. Nor have we received any new or updated expert opinions, assessments, studies, surveys etc. on our lake. Sadly, we have no new info because we have not yet found a consultant; but absent new information or expert recommendations, rehashing last winter's conflict was something Mark could not support.

ii. One Board member strongly stated that neither the President nor the Board has the right to decide that a members' proposal not be put on the agenda; all members' requests automatically go on the agenda. Mark replied as follows:

1. Agree or not, the BLA by-laws are clear: BLA members may request an item be added to the agenda. The key word is request. It is not a right. The dictionary definition of "request" is unambiguous.
2. Mark's default is to grant all requests, even if he does not personally agree with them, even if he thinks they are a very bad idea. His agreeing to hold the Dec 4th BLA Emergency Meeting is a perfect example of this.

3. However, this request was more than merely a bad idea. It would have involved a re-arguing of, and repeat of, last fall's conflict, with nothing having changed to justify such a conflict.
- iii. This Board member then said that denying a request by a member to put something on the agenda was "unprecedented"; that the BLA had never done this before. Mark disagreed that it had never been done before. This Board member then said Mark was being a "Dictator". Mark replied that he had come to the Board with this issue because he thought it best that the Board made the decision vs. him making it unilaterally. Mark also said that when he was running for President, many people said something to him in very strong terms: They wanted the fighting to stop. They did not want the BLA to run that way. In response, Mark said he has put a lot of effort and energy into not having BLA meetings be places where the main event is an argument. Or a re-argument of a previously argued issue. Mark concluded by saying that when we have new expert information/advice/recommendations, or if something significant changes with the lake we will revisit this entire issue; but not until then.
- iv. The vote was 2 votes in favor of Justin's proposal being placed on the agenda, 5 votes opposed.
3. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Minutes taken by Mark Nasuti