

**BLPA Annual Meeting
July 26, 2014
10:00 AM
Camp Wabasso**

**Attending: 41 Voting Members as well as many others.
Meeting called to order at 10:07 AM.**

- **Welcome-** President Steve Domber welcomed everyone and introduced the Board to all members. Steve thanked the Board and Committee members for all their efforts on behalf of BLPA over the past year.
- **Moment of Silence-** A Moment of Silence was held for deceased members- MaryLee O'Brien, Dick Adzima, Norm Forand, Mariam Lovett, Robert O'Brien, Stephen Forster and Russell "Pud" Ellsworth.
- **Clerks' Report: Betsy Fowler**
 - Betsy presented the minutes from the July 27, 2013 Annual Meeting. **Sharon Kenrick moved that the minutes be accepted. Seconded by Justin Shumway . VOTE- APPROVED- Unanimous**
 - Peg DeMone reported on **MEMBERSHIP**. To date 81 paid Members. We also have sent 2 complimentary and 2 Lifetime Memberships . (85 Total)
 - Peg also reported that we have had 7 donations totaling \$272.00 and 1 Boat storage fee of \$100.00
 - Peg also reported that BLPA has received Memorial Donations of \$2,110.00 in memory of Russell "Pud" Ellsworth.
 - Tim Beale notes that the next road-side pick-up will be scheduled in the late Fall – maybe early November.
- **Financial: Bob Wright -Treasurer**
 - Bob reviewed the current (14-15) and closed (13-14) finances. Our fiscal year from May 1st thru April 30th each year.
 - Bob reviewed the proposed 15-16 budget. He noted that there is a gap between anticipated revenue and expenditures or @ \$600.00. The Board has increased the anticipated expenses for both our liability insurance and property taxes. We anticipate being able to cover this gap.
 - Bob reminded us that we had considerable dam expenses this past year, but those expenses are capital expenses and paid from our savings, CDs, etc – NOT from our Operating Funds.
 - Board is recommending that the Annual Dues not change—remain at \$70.00 for 15-16 year.
 - Bob noted that the Board is recommending approval of the 15-16 budget as presented.
 - **MOTION: Bill Hallahan moved that we pass the budget as recommended by the Board and that Annual dues for 15-16 remain the same at \$70.00. Seconded by Sharon Kenrick**
 - **DISCUSSION:**
 - Dave Donovan asked if BLPA should consider working with the Town of Sutton to reconsider our property tax liabilities, especially since we are a 501 (c) (3) organization.
 - Steve explained that the Board has just met and decided we will discuss options and ideas. We will report back to the membership.
 - **TASK: Executive Committee to begin informal discussions on ways we might minimize tax impact to membership. Will provide an outline of the issues and options to address increasing taxes and budget to the Board at next meeting.**
 - **VOTE: APPROVED (15-16 Budget) Unanimous**

- **Property Reports- Bruce Ellsworth-Dam**
 - Bruce reported on the repairs to the dam over this past fall/winter. All repairs are complete. A full report of the dam repairs is available on the BLPA website in our Winter 2014 Newsletter
 - A Dam Inspection by the State is anticipated this fall.
 - The next full lowering of the lake for dam maintenance is scheduled for Fall of 2018.
 - Bruce does not anticipate any expensed this year related to the dam.
 - For the end of year/annual lowering- Bruce plans to take out an extra board each year, at the request/suggestion of the membership

- **Beach Committee – Kristine Mozes/Vicki Willard**
 - The Committee is reviewing some options for updated signage and a review of the Beach Rules. Would like the wording on the signs to be softer/kinder. Need to review the existing rules to ensure they are still relevant and necessary.
 - One new rule has been added—“No personal items may be left on the beach overnight”
 - The beach has adequate sand coverage this summer.
 - The Beach Committee is looking for more members!
 - **Beach Manager Report**- Carrie reported that we have currently have 7 Seasonal passes allowing boating access.
 - Carrie thanked Jim Luca for his efforts raking the beach, especially during the lake lowering.
 - Carrie thanked Cynde Robbins, Getty Strachan and Sharon Kenrick for help with the flowers at the beach.
 - The beach now has a physical (E-911) address – 220 Rte 114- there is a new mailbox for informational material =with the numbers properly posted.
 - The Wright’s Beach sign needs repair.
 - **TASK: Beach Committee to address this need.**
 - **WEED WATCH**- Sharon reports that sign up via website is going well, though we do get nervous with sign-ups coming in late in the week. Please consider signing up earlier in the week/season if possible.

- **Conservation/Water Quality Reports –Steve Domber-)**
 - **Water Quality** - Leon reviewed the report received this week from our two water tests to date. Overall things remain good around the lake. We have had a few big “flushes” into the lake due to heavy rains. It is important for everyone to maintain good buffers around the lake to prevent major run-off and sediment disruption. Maintain vigilance on these matters.
 - Steve and Bob reminded us all that maintaining our water quality is core to the mission of BLPA. We have data on our water tests dating back to the 1980s. We are fortunate to continue to have such positive testing results.
 - **TASK- Water Quality report to be posted to the web-site**
 - **Chinese Mystery Snails**- DES has confirmed that we do indeed have this snail species in our lake and they are considered an invasive species. However, they are relatively benign and do not pose a serious threat to the lake. Information is available on-line.
 - **TASK: We will put info up on the website.**
 - **Town of Sutton Letter re Septic Issues:** As approved at the 5/24/12 Board Meeting- the Executive Committee has drafted a letter to the Town of Sutton Selectmen indicating our concern with the lack of regulation of the Septic System approval process and requesting that the Town consider the Pre-Approval Process.

- **Slate of Nominees: Cynde Robbins**
 - Cynde Robbins has worked with the committee, which includes Fritz Pratt and Stacey Herlitz and they recommend the following:

- **OFFICERS:** President-Vicki Willard, Vice-President – Bruce Ellsworth, Treasurer- Bob Wright and Clerk- Betsy Fowler
- **Board Members:** Steve Domber (Past President) Justin Shumway and Marilou Steblai as Board Members – each to serve until the 2017 Annual Meeting.
- **MOTION: Betsy Fowler (BLPA Clerk) moved that the Slate of Officers and the Slate of Board Members be approved—as recommended by the Board. Seconded by Doug Southard. VOTE: Approved – Unanimous.**
- Steve thanked those coming on for the support and thanked those completing their terms (Stacey Herlitz and Fritz Pratt) for their time serving.
- Steve Domber was thanked by the Membership for his time serving as President of the Board.

- **Water Safety –**
 - Steve checked in to the issue of the Emergency Siren used by Camp Wabasso for training purposes. BLPA was not notified that these drills would be taking place and it was alarming to some around the lake. It was noted that the Camp has assured us in the past that we would be notified.
 - **TASK: Executive Committee to communicate with Camp Wabasso to ensure we receive notification when possible.**
 - Discussion of Water Craft safety—especially re Personal Water Craft. Steve read the rules from the Boating Safety Regulation Guide from the State. Personal Water Craft are differently classified than boats. Require a 300 ft headway speed from shore, swimmers, other water craft
 - There is concern that some Personal Water Craft on the lake are not abiding by rules and are a safety issue, as well as an environmental threat to the shore line.
 - Bill Holmes presented the board with some recent research on the improved design of Personal Water Craft that minimized the impact on the lake bottom.
 - All were encouraged to be sure Personal Water Craft users are aware of the safety and environmental regulations.
 - Steve reminded us all that we don't want to become the Marine Patrol, and our intent is to allow EVERYONE to enjoy the lake – and everyone uses the lake differently. We are all responsible for what we do at the lake.
 - Nancy Isaacson noted that she is finding a lot of construction debris floating in the lake. If you come across debris in the lake—remove it if you can, or notify the Board if you are unable.
 - Carl Olson noted that when the lake was low this winter there was a large boulder apparent off the Rte 114 side of the lake. About 300 feet from shore. Could be a hazard when lake is seasonally low.
 - Carl also noted that new regulations are in effect for Paddle Boarders—re PDFs (Life jackets) everyone is encouraged to review all regulations.

- **OTHER**
 - **65TH Anniversary of BLPA-** Steve noted that next year will be the 65th Anniversary of BLPA. He inquired as to the interest of the membership for an event of some type. YES!
 - **TASK: Board to review this idea at next meeting- send ideas!!**
 - **T-Shirts/Hats-** Vicki asked if there is interest in printing and selling t-shirts and/or hats—and if we need a new logo. Membership would like us to consider this—put some ideas on the web-site our out by e-mail for consideration. Perhaps Gretchen Gudfin has some concepts.
 - **TASK: Board to review idea at next meeting—send ideas!!**

- **ADJOURN- Motion by Justin Shumway - Seconded by Carrie Godkin. VOTE- APPROVED- Unanimous**
 - Meeting adjourned 11:24 AM

Respectfully submitted:

Betsy Fowler—BLPA Clerk - July 26, 2014 {Approved by Unanimous Vote – 2015 Annual Meeting }