

**BLPA Annual Meeting
July 25, 2015
10:00 AM
Camp Wabasso**

Attending: 35 Voting Members as well as many others. Meeting called to order at 10:05 AM.

- **Welcome**- President Vicki Willard welcomed everyone and introduced the Executive Committee, Board and Committee members to all BLPA members. Vicki thanked the Board and Committee members for all their efforts on behalf of BLPA over the past year.
- **Clerks' Report: Betsy Fowler**
 - Betsy presented the minutes from the July 26, 2014 Annual Meeting. The Draft Minutes had been provided to all members by e-mail prior to this meeting.
 - **MOTION - Bethany Bourcier moved that the minutes be accepted. Seconded by Justin Shumway . VOTE- APPROVED- Unanimous**
 - Peg DeMone reported on **MEMBERSHIP**. To date 79 paid Members. We also have sent 3 complimentary and 2 Lifetime Memberships . (84 Total)
 - Peg also reported that we have had 7 donations totaling \$352.00 and 1 dockage fee of \$100.00, 1 dock rental fee of \$200.00 and 1 Memorial donation of \$130.00 and one Non-Member donation of \$70.00
 - Peg noted that our dues have remained the same – at \$70.00- since 2011.
- **Nominating Committee Report – Steve Domber**
 - Leaving the Board this year (terms ended)
 - Kristine Mozes
 - Cynde Robbins
 - Jeff Ellsworth
 - Stepping down as Treasurer
 - Bob Wright
 - Steve and Vicki thanked all for their service, Bob was thanked for his many years as Treasurer
 - **SLATE RECOMMENDED TO THE MEMBERSHIP BY THE BOARD**
 - New Board Members
 - Bob Wright
 - Deb Lang
 - Paul Ezen
 - Executive Committee
 - President – Vicki Willard
 - Vice-President- Bruce Ellsworth
 - Treasurer – Kristine Mozes
 - Clerk- Betsy Fowler
 - Steve called for nominations from the floor- there were none
 - **MOTION: Doug Southard moved to accept the Slate of Officers as recommended by the Board. Seconded by Chris Kelley. Vote- APPROVED- UNANIMOUS**
- **65th Celebration – Cynde Robbins**
 - 87 RSVPs to date- down from 150 at our 60th Celebration
 - The Committee has everything all set for next week
 - Rain Date is August 8th- Committee will make the decision on cancelling (or not) by Friday mid-day. E-mail will be sent to inform members if Rain Date is needed

- **Committee Reports**
 - **Adopt- A-Highway –Betsy reported for Tim Beale**
 - All good—6- 8 bags of trash at each pick-up
 - Good number of volunteers
 - Pick-up times are scheduled to avoid the poison ivy
 - **Dam Committee – Bruce Ellsworth**
 - State has inspected the Dam- it is in good condition
 - Report for State indicates a need to clear brush (trees) within 15ft of the dam on all sides.
 - BLPA had until Oct of 2018 to complete that process
 - BLPA does not own that land- property owners (abutters to dam) will be contacted to see what can be worked out
 - Bruce hopes to have any clearing agreed upon completed by October of 2015
 - Bruce reports that they are trying to maintain a standard level of the water, depending on weather, etc.
 - **Beach Committee – Kristine Mozes and Carrie Godkin**
 - Kristine thanked all who participated in the Beach Usage Survey conducted this past Spring. Results will be provided in the upcoming Fall Newsletter
 - Kristine noted that they have been investigating what we might be able to do to address the growing Sand Island at Sheep Dip.
 - Per DES regulations we are not allowed to remove the gravel that is collecting
 - Leon Malan has a Colby Sawyer College student who is using our location as a project to analyze this location. And this location is added to our Water Quality testing sites.
 - Student will provide us with an in-depth analysis of site and where the gravel comes from (i.e. Rte 114 or Andrews Ave or both) , how the gravel and run-off is impacting the lake, etc.
 - Report will be ready for BLPA to review by next Spring, and maybe sooner.
 - Carrie reported that we have 7 Seasonal passes thus far. (\$50.00 each- \$350.00 Total)
 - Carrie thanks Jimmy Luca for helping her rake leaves and other debris from the lake
 - Beach has been used fairly regularly this year
 - **DISCUSSION:**
 - We were reminded that we all need to be able to answer questions in the Community as to why we maintain the beach privately. (Access, Water Quality, Insurance, Liability)
 - Question as to why we restrict Membership to residents residing within the Water Shed area. Is it By-Law driven?
 - Member noted that the By-Laws do not specify “water shed”
 - Can we open it to all Town Residents – charge a Beach Membership fee
 - Cynde reminded us that when we had our insurance reviewed we were required to answer many questions about the beach usage, number of users, etc. Opening can impact our insurance costs
 - We are reminded that there continues to be some resentment in the community that we restrict access and continued misinformation about WHO can become a Member.
 - VICKI noted that all of this will come up again later in the meeting- as we have related issues to discuss
 - **TASK: Board to review this concern and discuss ways to increase membership and how we manage the beach and beach access.**

- **Flares –Bill Hallahan**
 - Bill reported that all Flares were sold – again this year
 - We may need to buy more for sale (currently buying 4 boxes {How many in a box?}- could sell more. Will buy a 5th box next year.
 - Bill thanked those who sell each year
 - Is it time to increase price for Flares?
 - Bruce wanted to also thank all for the great Fireworks display this year
- **TASK: Board to consider Flare prices for next year**
- **Newsletter**
 - Vicki acknowledged and thanked Julie Mundy for efforts in producing the Newsletter each time.
 - Suggested items for the Newsletter should be sent to the Clerk: Betsy Fowler @ tinkerf@mcttelecom.com
- **Water Quality – Steve Domber and Chris Kelley**
 - Steve and Chris have taken on this duty as of last fall
 - Steve reported out the results of DES review from Sept of 2014
 - Overall our water is good, and in some instances improving. We still have a concern with total Phosphorous and Chlorophyll a
 - So far no reports of invasive weeds—GOOD WORK
 - People are still noticing a significant number of Chinese Mystery Snails, though there do seem to be fewer this year
 - Continued caution be careful about products used on lawns and properties
 - Obeying approved boat speeds and boating laws will also protect our shoreline
- **Weed Watch –Sharon Kenrick**
 - Website sign up is easy
 - Still need people every week-end
 - June is hard to fill
 - Watch boats coming from Sunapee, not clear if Sunapee has milfoil
 - Massesecum now has milfoil throughout the lake
 - Inquiry re improved signage at gate with visual info re invasives
- **TASK: Board to consider new sign**
- **Website- Justin Shumway**
 - Justin informed us of the new website design that supports most portable devices
 - Cleaner look
 - He is looking photos from around the lake, and from all seasons to put up
 - Inquiry if Weed Watch reminders could go out as an 'sms' message . Justin will look into that
 - Vicki and all thanked Justin for his hard work on this project
- **Water Safety – Vicki Willard**
 - Siren testing from Wabasso – we are now informed and can give notice to members
 - Inquiry—“What do we do if the siren is going off and we have not been notified it’s a test?” Are we under any obligation to do anything?
- **TASK: Vicki to check with Wabasso on what they expect of Blaisdell owners if they hear an alarm. Will be reported out**
- **Discussion re Boating Safety and Rules**
 - Several members discussed concerns about how Personal Watercraft (Jet Skis) have been operating dangerously on the lake. Several examples were provided.

- Boats and Jet Skis also coming too close to shore
 - Inquiry to the Board—what is the Board’s responsibility to address these issues?
 - Bruce provided a history of the Water Safety Officer and BLPA- at this point we do not have an official water safety officer. The State provides less and less support to the lakes around the state.
 - We must continue to inform the owners around the lake about boating rules and regulations and their importance.
 - Please inform a member of the Board if you have a concern
 - For immediate or serious concerns everyone may call the Marine Patrol at any time
- **Financial Report – Bob Wright/Vicki Willard**
 - Bob reminded us all that one of the primary roles of any Board is a Fiduciary obligation to ensure funds are in place to cover the approved operating budget. There has been a lot of hard work done this year to review our budget.
 - Bruce explained the purpose of the Association when it first started was to accumulate the funds necessary to manage the dam. Then when we acquired the beach from the Wrights, we added that to our purpose as well. Currently we are not collecting enough funds to pay the bills associated with managing the beach and the dam – including: Insurance, taxes, registration fees, etc.
 - Bob reviewed the final 14-15 budget which ended April of 2015 with a deficit of 842.02.
 - Our current budget for the 15-16 year is tracking for a deficit of \$1,157.00, if we achieve the anticipated membership of 90 paid members (It will be greater- if not),
 - Vicki then provided us with a presentation detailing a close review of income and expenses for the past 4 years.
 - We are not meeting targeted membership numbers
 - Beach costs continue to increase
 - We do have a small reserve fund that will probably allow us to cover our deficit for last year and this year, but then it will be fairly depleted.
 - She reminded us that we are not allowed to use our Capital (Endowment) Fund to cover operational costs.
 - Vicki noted that this year’s proposed budget includes a Dues Increase from \$70.00 to \$85.00 to allow for us to balance the proposed budget for the 16-17
 - **DISCUSSION**
 - **MOTION- Wayne Robbins moved that BLPA increase dues to \$100.00. Seconded by Carl Olson.**
 - Wayne notes that we will need to get to \$100.00 soon to cover increasing costs and meet our obligations.
 - Can an increase in Boat Launch fees and Seasonal Membership be considered to help defray costs?
 - Our Membership is trending down- what are we doing about that? What do we need to do?
 - How do we increase membership?
 - Why have we restricted our membership to the Water Shed area? Does that need reconsideration?
 - What Blaisdell Lake property owners ART NOT BLPA Members?
 - Should we stay at proposed increase of \$85.00 and build in an annual increase every year – and look at other places to increase income?
 - We have LOTS of unanswered questions
 - **MOTION TO AMMEND: Chris Kelley moved to amend the current motion (increase to \$100.00 now) to increase current dues to \$85.00 as proposed by the Board. Seconded by Sharon Kenrick.**

- We need to increase enough to be sure we are also rebuilding our reserve account
 - If we don't raise the dues enough, don't we run the risk of having a significant issue arise that requires us to ask all members for a Special Assessment- we should avoid that
 - Some are concerned that going to \$85.00 is steep enough increase in one year- going to \$100.00 would scare people off and we would lose members, wouldn't that be a net loss
 - Consider \$85.00 but take serious look at where we can make increases in other sources of income
- **Doug Southard "Called the Question" from the floor**
- **Motion to Vote on Doug's request- moved by Paul Ezen. Seconded by Sharon Kenrick**
- **VOTE on AMENDMENT TO ORIGINAL MOTION. "To increase the current dues to \$85.00 as proposed by the BLPA Board. Show of hands- YES- 24 NO- 7 MOTION PASSES**
- ???called a vote on the Original Motion **"To increase the dues to \$100.00 (OH NO, I am messed up here—may need help here)**
- Vicki asked to approve the dues at \$85.00 for the 16-17 budget year. Motion on amendment approved
- Vote YES 24 No 6
- **Paul Ezen moved that after the 16-17 budget we automatically increase the dues by \$5.00 a year until we reach dues at \$100.00. Seconded by Sharon Kenrick**
- **DISCUSSION**
 - Suggestion that we are not really losing membership over dues, but that we need to do some work building our relationship with some disgruntled previous members and/or neighbors
 - We need carefully review all the factors – Membership, Boat Launch, etc before we jump to more increases
 - Should we be projecting our budget out more than one year ahead ?
- **VOTE: (Re annual increase of \$5.00 until we reach \$100.00) YES- 6 NO – 23. Motion Failed.**
- **MOTION: Sharon Kenrick moved that we accept the budget for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year as proposed by the Board. Seconded by Marilou Steblai. VOTE: Approved- Unanimous**
- **TASK: Board is to review this entire issue carefully- including all parts of discussions noted above to bring proposed membership and other income increases to the Membership next year.**
- **NEW LOGO – Vicki Willard and Cynde Robbins**
 - Vicki and Cynde presented the new LOGO design the Board has approved.
 - THANK YOU JUSTIN SHUMWAY
 - Contemporary digital graphic
 - For now only T-shirts and sweatshirts. We hope to expand available products. Hats need embroidery, we need a digitized format
 - Items on sale today, tomorrow at Beach and next week at 65th Celebration.
 - Then we will do something annually
- **MOTION TO ADJOURN. Bob Wright moved to adjourn. Seconded by Carl Olson. Vote- Unanimous**
- **Meeting adjourned at 12:12 PM**

Respectfully submitted:
Betsy Fowler—BLPA Clerk - July 25, 2015