

**Big Alum Lake Association**  
**News Letter in Preparation for**  
**July 11, 2020 Virtual Membership Meeting**

- 1) Greeting & Agenda - Chuck Roy**
- 2) Determination of quorum / roll call (presiding officer and 15 voting members)**
- 3) Approval of minutes from 8/17/2019 (vote)**

<https://bigalumlake.org/meeting-minutes/bala-membership-meeting-minutes-aug-2019/>

- 4) Treasurers report / approve financials – Debbie Gran (vote)**

Link to report: <https://bigalumlake.org/wp-content/uploads/BALA-Mem-Mtg-7.11.20-PL-statement.pdf>

## **Committee Reports**

### **a) Membership Committee – Jill Roy**

Presently there are 121 paid memberships to BALA for the year 2020. These dues support maintaining the water quality of our lake and administration fees of BALA. We hope that all of our BALA members will continue to support our organization and that you mail in your dues, if you haven't already done so, to Deb Gran at Box 355 in Fiskdale, Ma. 01518. By paying your dues, there will be no interruption in your email notices that keep you abreast of the many activities, services and notifications put out by the BALA board.

### **b) Recreation Committee – Marion Reilly**

These are indeed difficult times. We hope everyone is healthy and safe and able to enjoy summer as we work and learn from home. We are fortunate to live or summer in such a beautiful environment. While we would love to have our lives as we had them last year at this time, we need to adapt to the new norm for now, social distancing and thinking about the health of everyone. In that vein, we have made the unfortunate, but correct decision to cancel the BALA Gala for this year. Gathering in large groups would be irresponsible at this time. Please know that the Recreation Committee is still meeting (virtually and socially distant) to do what we can to bring together our community in the safest ways possible.

July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities will be held. The boat parade starting at 3:30 from the Trail beach following the state guidelines for safe boating under COVID-19, followed by light up the lake. Rain date is July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any suggestions, questions or concerns. We look forward to brighter days where we can gather and greet one another once again. Marion Reilly (email: luthin1@yahoo.com; phone: 774-230-1281)

### **c) Dam – Ken Gajewski**

The dam was opened on November 1st and closed on December 14th when the 30 inch drawdown was reached. The drawdown took longer last fall due to the lake being full November 1st and plenty of rain during the drawdown. The wet weather continued during the winter and by the time the ice melted in mid March, the lake had replenished the 30 inch drawdown and has stayed full.

### **d) Environment – Bruce Gran**

MAY 2020

- Water level started to increase in late May.
- Water clarity was quite clear.
- No Bluegill/Sunfish nesting activity.
- Seeing more Crawfish activity including Northern BlueClaws.

JUNE 2020

- Invasive weed growth started growing to visible levels.
- Solitude conducted Pre-Treatment Survey on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Awaiting the report.
- Bluegill/Sunfish nests started showing up around June 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a good indicator that the water is getting warmer. (mid to high 60's)
- Heavy pollen levels started caused a mild fish kill. Primarily Bluegill – Sunfish- small Bullhead – Bass – Yellow Perch.
- Weed treatment occurred June 12<sup>th</sup> to prevent a repeat of last year's late treatment.
  - Biggest issues: Curly Leaf Pondweed (Very Invasive) in old & new locations.
  - Boat Ramp was given special attention due to usage by non-members.
- Mid-June, water temperatures reached the 70's.

### **e) Watershed – Tom Clark**

Monitoring of the lake watershed and drainage in to the lake is continuously being checked and key areas are in the planning stages for modifications to protect the lake. Bertin Engineering has recently completed a drainage plan with a new swale for the north end of Lake Road and the plans are now out to three contractors for review and prepare quotations. We are scheduled to have the plan approved by the Sturbridge Conservation Commission at the July meeting. If all goes well and the plan is approved by the BALA membership in August, construction could be completed this fall.

The work completed late last summer on Mt. Dan road is working well and the drainage into the swales is now functioning correctly. In addition culvert on the end of Paradise Lane has also been cleaned and is now fully functional. The goal of the Watershed team is to improve water quality and maintain it for generations ahead.

#### **f) Nominating / Election / Bylaws – Mark Smith**

Currently, all BALA Board Members have indicated an interest in continuing to serve on the Board for the coming year, with the exception of our outgoing Vice President, Mark Minnucci. Please join us in thanking Mark for his many years of dedicated service on behalf of our lake and community. We have received a nomination for Mark's replacement, and the Board is more than comfortable with the qualifications of this individual. Having said that, the Nominating Committee is happy to accept nominations for any BALA member who is interested in serving in any capacity on the BALA Board.

If you or someone you know is a member of BALA and interested in offering time, energy and expertise to the BALA Board, please reach out to one of the following Nominating Committee members: Mark Smith (Chair), Jennifer Bailey, or Matt Kibbe. In order to be considered for election to the Board, at least three BALA members need to communicate with the Nominating Committee: the nominee his or herself, a nominator, and a member who seconds the nomination. We are kindly requesting that nominations be made prior to the July 11th virtual member meeting. If there is more than one member interested in a particular Board position, a vote will be taken at the August 15th member meeting to determine the new Board member. Again, please contact Mark, Jennifer, or Matt if you would like to nominate someone, or have any questions in this regard.

#### **g) History – John Puffer**

There are no history updates to report. We welcome suggestions from our membership to encourage folks to contribute history about the lake, their property, or the surrounding community.

#### **h) Boating – Matt Kibbe**

All yellow hazard buoys have been in place since April. The orange buoys marking the slalom course were installed mid-June after the weed treatment on 6/12. Please return any loose buoys to Matt. Boating safety information can be found on our website <https://bigalumlake.org/rules-and-safety/>

#### **i) Fishing – Rob Scoble**

Fishing pressure has been moderate to heavy with many families taking the opportunity to spend quality family time fishing during the COVID19 shutdown.

Thus far fishing appears to be very good and the Spring Fish Kill has been very moderate to light as a result of the past winter ice cover being moderate.

MassWildlife stocked approximately 500,000 brook, brown, rainbow, and tiger trout this spring from its five hatcheries located in Sandwich, Palmer, Belchertown, Sunderland, and Montague. These fish, coupled with the more than 60,000 fish stocked last fall, will provide some excellent fishing in the coming months. Big Alum was one of the locations stocked and is scheduled to be stocked again this fall. Spring stocking included both Brown and Rainbow Trout for Big Alum. Below are Mass Wildlife stats about this stocking across all Districts.

2020 spring trout stocking stats

- Most of the trout will be over 12 inches
- More than 45% of the trout will be over 14 inches
- More than 48,000 brook trout will be over 12 inches
- More than 48,000 brown trout will be over 12 inches
- More than 200,000 rainbow trout will be over 14 inches
- More than 600 brown trout and 500 brook trout will be over 18 inches
- 1,000 brook trout will be over 15 inches
- More than 2,500 tiger trout will be over 14 inches

## **5) Sturbridge Lakes Advisory Committee (SLAC) – Bruce Gran**

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, all monthly SLAC Meetings were canceled until further notice.

SLAC and the Town of Sturbridge will still process the Lakes Betterment payout for the expenses that ensure the best Water Quality for all five lakes/ponds within Sturbridge: Big Alum Pond, Cedar Pond, Leadmine Pond, Walker Pond, East Brimfield Reservoir

Big Alum has submitted expenses for CY2019 & CY2020 on weighted basis for reimbursement.

## **6) Old Business**

- a. Review of watershed engineering plan. Review of construction bids.
- b. Review of the use of e-mail for dues notification, informational notification, etc. Members' feedback.

## **7) New Business**

- a) Discuss August Membership Meeting: Can we have it interactively online? See if we can find a large outdoor venue? Will Members come to outdoor gathering?
- b) BALA Gala. Cancelled this year.
- c) Review of 2021 preliminary committee budgets. These budgets will be presented to Membership in July and voted on in August. Questions?

Big Alum Lake Association					
2021 Budget					
2019 Actuals		2020 Approved Budget		2021 Proposed Budget	
<b>Income</b>		<b>Income</b>		<b>Income</b>	
Membership	\$3,775.00	Membership	\$7,824.00	Membership	\$7,902.00
Rec Committee		Rec Committee		Rec Committee	
Gala 50/50	\$285.00	Gala 50/50	\$300.00	Gala 50/50	\$300.00
Gala Auction	\$3,720.00	Gala Auction	\$2,500.00	Gala Auction	\$2,500.00
Gala Ticket Sales	\$3,303.00	Gala Ticket Sales	\$3,500.00	Gala Ticket Sales	\$3,500.00
Rec Committee Total	\$7,308.00	Rec Committee Total	\$6,300.00	Welcome New Res. Raffle	\$200.00
				Welcome New Res. Ticket Sales	\$400.00
				Rec Total Income	\$6,900.00
Total Income	\$11,083.00	Total Income	\$14,124.00	Total Income	\$14,802.00
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>Expenses</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Boating	\$222.94	Boating	\$235.72	Boating	\$395.00
Lake Environment	\$5,410.59	Lake Environment	\$5,500.00	Lake Environment	\$5,740.00
Membership		Membership		Membership	
Ballots	\$0.00	Ballots	\$40.00	Ballots	\$40.00
Decals	\$326.24	Decals	\$0.00	Decals	\$0.00
Spring Mailing	\$609.73	Spring Mailing	\$612.98	Spring Mailing	\$200.00
Total Membership	\$935.97	Total Membership	\$652.98	Total Membership	\$240.00
Rec Committee		Rec Committee		Rec Committee	
Gala Event	\$4,252.14	Gala Event	\$4,000.00	Gala Event	\$4,500.00
Winter Party	\$143.42	Welcome New Res.	\$0.00	Welcome New Member	\$500.00
Total Rec Committee	\$4,395.56	Winter Party	\$150.00	Winter Party	\$150.00
Website Committee	\$550.00	Total Rec Committee	\$4,150.00	Total Rec Committee	\$5,150.00
		Website Committee	\$600.00	Website Committee	\$400.00
		Watershed Committee	\$12,000.00	Watershed Committee	\$25,000.00
Total Expenses	\$11,515.06	Total Expenses	\$23,138.70	Total Expenses	\$36,925.00

d) Making BALA a 501C3. This designation will make contributions deductible, and if we ever want to use Pay Pal to pay dues, this will be necessary. Jeff Buchanan and Lisa Sanderson. **(vote)**

e) Vice Presidents Message – Mark Minnucci  
 It has been a pleasure to be on the BALA board the past five years. The opportunity to serve as vice president has given me the opportunity to meet many of our neighbors on this fabulous lake. The Board continues to serve the core mission of the organization and I thank all of my fellow board members past and present for truly having the interest of the lake and its members first and foremost. I would also thank all of the general members for their support. I'm still planning on staying involved. See you around the lake.

f) Introduction Nominating Committee as per bylaws. Open floor to nominations for President, Vice President, Clerk, Corresponding Secretary. (take nominations and seconds)

**8) Open Discussion**

**9) Next Meeting – August 17, 2020**

**10) Adjournment**