

Big Alum Lake Association
Annual Meeting
August 18, 2018
St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish Center Hall

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by President Joel Casaubon.

The minutes of the July 7, 2018 meeting were accepted.

Treasurer Janet Garon gave the Treasurer's Report. The checkbook register balance at the July meeting had been \$444.56. Income from dues (\$625.00), the Gala (\$4870.00), Interest (\$110.47), and a transfer from a CD (\$5000.00) totaled \$10605.47. Expenses from the Recreation Committee (\$5256.25), the Membership Committee (\$324.76), office expenses (\$113.99), and the use of the facility for the July meeting (\$100.00) totaled \$5795.00. The checkbook register ending balance was \$5255.03. There are nine outstanding checks totaling \$1379.77. Anticipated income and expenses between this meeting and the end of August include activities associated with the Rec. Committee, the betterment check from the Town of Sturbridge, and the invoice for the 2018-2019 D&O policy. By year end there should be a final invoice for the 2018 weed treatments. Janet had transferred \$7000.00 to a CD in April, because the rate at Cornerstone Bank had been 2.25.

The Savings Account has a balance of \$2243.13, the Checking Account \$5255.03, the CDs total \$63707.91, giving a grand total of \$71211.07. **The Treasurer's Report was accepted.**

Joel asked if there were any new members, and Laura Bradley and Keith Mahan introduced themselves as new owners of 97 Paradise Lane.

Committee Reports:

Boating – Matt Kibbe said that there had been no boating problems. The island is clean. He will take the rock buoys out just before Thanksgiving and put them back in the third week of April. He presented the Boating Committee's 2019 budget: yellow rock hazard buoys - \$90.86, orange slalom buoys - \$90.86, bungee cord - \$54.00 totaling \$235.72. **The budget passed.**

Dam – Ken Gajewski said that he will open the dam on Nov. 1 and close it when the water is down 30" from the top of the spillway.

Environmental – Bruce Gran is waiting for a post treatment report from Solitude Lake Management. Curly pond weed has been treated by the Hutchinson property – this is an invasive weed. Tape grass is not invasive and may be pulled out and thrown away. Bruce proposed a budget of \$5000.00 for weed treatment. **The budget passed.** The lake monitoring on August 1st showed a clarity depth of 21' at the dam. Rain and run-off into the lake had caused the clarity to be a bit less than in the past. The brownish-white foam on the surface of the lake is due to the alum in the lake and excessive rainfall causes it to appear.

Fishing – Rob Scoble said that the fish were doing “swimmingly.” The number of crayfish in the lake is increasing.

History – John Puffer thanked those who have contributed to the history pages and said that in the next week or so a lot of pictures from the 1950’s will be posted.

Membership – Jill Roy said that membership is about the same as last year. She noted that the names of deceased members had been posted on the website.

Recreation – Mari Roy thanked her committee, Liz Detarando, Kathy Harrington, Marion Reilly, Lisa Sanderson, Taylor Lane Nelson, and Barbara Hitchcock for their “talent and creativity”. She listed the activities of the year including the upcoming golf tournament and bocce tournament. Attendance at the Gala had been down. She requested a budget of \$1550.00 for next year. **The budget was accepted.** The committee has been borrowing linens from the Festival of Giving Trees but need to buy some of their own now. Barbara Hitchcock said that they need new people to join the Committee.

SLAC – Chuck Roy said that although the clarity tests of each of the Sturbridge lakes is not a competition nevertheless Big Alum “won.” Big Alum’s depth clarity was 21.3, Leadmine 20.5, South Pond 16.5, Walker Pond 13 and Cedar 3.74. SLAC offers the boating course each year and each lake association contributes \$60.00. Chuck suggested maybe upping our donation a little next year.

Our reimbursement from the Town’s Betterment Fund this year is \$1390.00.

Bruce Gran said that weeds come into the lake from off-water boats. He wanted to post signs with pictures of invasive weeds at the boat ramp asking boaters to clean their boats. The State’s position at Quabbin is that boats going there cannot go anywhere else. Bruce also said that there may be a fee for having a dock. He thought it would be \$30.00 for a 15 year permit.

Nominating – Tracy Murphy read the list of nominations for officers: President – Chuck Roy, Vice President – Mark Minnucci, Treasurer – Debbie Gran, Corresponding Secretary – Lisa Sanderson, and Recording Secretary – Jennifer Bailey. Chuck said that the lake community has been fractured by painful events and he will try to bring the community back together. Mark sees his primary role as supporting the committees. Debbie said that she had retired and wanted to get involved in the Association. Jennifer Bailey and Lisa Sanderson were not present but Barbara Hitchcock (for Jennifer) and Laura Eliason (for Lisa) read speeches for them. Because there were no contests, the President cast one vote for the slate. **The vote passed.**

Old Business – There was no old business.

New Business :

A vote was taken to keep the dues at \$25.00 for this coming year. Because the Association is operating at a \$2000.00 deficit, Chuck suggested returning the dues next year to \$50.00. Janet Garon recommended that if the new Board wants to raise the dues it do so by electronic voting of members who have paid their 2019 dues. **Her recommendation was approved.**

A vote was taken to give \$200.00 to St. Anne’s for the use of the Parish Center Room.

Robin Richey spoke about two problems with run-off on Mt. Dan Road, a broken pipe by Ken Gajewski's house, and a crushed catch basin by John Fearing's. Their Pookookapog Association had been able to get only one quote to repair the problems - \$11,800.00. She asked the Big Alum Lake Association to pay for it. Tom Clark asked if the group had hired an engineering firm to study the problem. She said that they had not. Bill Sanderson said that when a similar problem had occurred on Paradise Lane, the neighbors had chipped in to pay for repairs. They had not come to BALA for money. Joe Veneziano noted that in the area of Roy Road the water table rises and causes run-off as well. He and the Lamoscolas have tried unsuccessfully to work with the Town to correct the issue. Bruce Gran has had a problem with run-off at the north end for years. Jeff Buchanan suggested forming a committee to study the run-off problems all around the lake. He added that BALA needs to keep their savings intact and cannot run a deficit. It was suggested that if the Mt. Dan group cannot wait to fix their problems, they should pay their own bill and may be reimbursed after the study is completed if the Association votes to do so. **A vote was taken to establish a committee to study the run-off into the lake from roads all around the lake. The vote passed. A second vote was taken and passed to spend up to \$2000.00 for professional engineering to study the problems found and recommend corrective action.**

The 2019 meetings will be held July 6 and August 17.

Mark Minnucci presented Joel Casaubon, Janet Garon, and Barbara LaRochelle with engraved plaques to thank them for their long term service and dedication to the Association. He noted that they have done an excellent job and have never allowed personal feelings to affect the business of the Association.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara LaRochelle

Recording Secretary/Clerk