



# Big Alum Lake Association

## Fiskdale, MA

### **Big Alum Lake Association, BALA All Membership and Full Board Meeting Minutes**

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2021 @ 10:02AM

HELD VIA ZOOM

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<p><b><u>Officers of BALA</u></b>                  Chuck Roy (President)                  Jeff Buchanan (Vice President)                  Debbie Gran (Treasurer)                  Jennifer Bernardo-Bailey (Recording Clerk)                  Lisa Sanderson (Corresponding Secretary)                  Dave Bellrose (BALA Board Member at large)                  Lisa Dalberth (BALA Board Member at large)</p> <p><b><u>Committee Chairs and Member(s) – At-Large</u></b>                  A. Membership Committee – Barbara Hitchcock                  B. Recreational Committee – Marion Reilly                  C. Dam Committee – Ken Gajewski                  D. Environmental Committee – Bruce Gran                  E. Boating Committee – Matt Kibbe                  F. Fishing Committee – Robert Scobel                  G. Nominating Committee – Mark Smith                  H. Watershed Drainage Committee – Tom Clark</p>
	10:07 AM
<b>MATERIALS</b>	Agenda; Meeting Minutes from 8/15/2020 Meeting; Treasurer’s P&L Report; Boating Rules and Updates; Watershed Drainage Update
<b>RECORDING CLERK</b>	Jennifer Bernardo-Bailey

**1. REVIEW OF ZOOM PROTOCOL AND AGENDA** MARK MINNUCCI AND CHUCK ROY

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Zoom Protocol and Agenda Review.	Mark Minnucci and Chuck Roy
Reviewed Protocol on zoom meeting instructions and then review of agenda items		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Review of Zoom meeting protocols and move forward through the Agenda items.	Chuck Roy, President	N/A

**2. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** CHUCK ROY

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Quorum determination. Chuck Roy	
A. Quorum was determined. Chuck Roy reported that minimum of 1 presiding officer and 15 voting members is needed to be present to obtain quorum which quorum was determined to be met for this meeting on July 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 with 13/14 board officers present with 26 BALA members and 2 guests/nonmembers.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
No action needed- All completed; President, Chuck Roy determined there was	Chuck Roy, President	N/A

quorum present to proceed with voting needs for meeting.		
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**3. MEETING MINUTES**

CHUCK ROY & JENNIFER BERNARDO-BAILEY

A. Meeting Minutes were provided by Jennifer Bernardo-Bailey, Recording Clerk, for review from the last all BALA Membership and Board Meeting held, 8/15/2020. 1<sup>st</sup> motion to accept meeting minutes by Tom. Clarke, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Smith and accepted by all members of BALA Membership and Board Present with no abstains.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
No action needed- All completed; Meeting minutes were approved.	Chuck Roy and Jennifer Bernardo-Bailey	N/A

**4. REVIEW OF TREASURY REPORT**

DEBBIE GRAN

DISCUSSION	Review of Treasury Report	Debbie Gran
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- A. Debbie Gran, presented the financials for review. This included 2021 YTD P&L and Balance Sheet as well as the 2020 EOY P&L and Balance Sheet. Deb recapped income and expenses for both years.
- B. Total income for 2020 was \$11,688.64, expenses were \$14,729.96, leaving a difference of \$3,041.11 that was transferred out of our reserves to balance out the year.
- C. The 2020 Balance Sheet showed a balance in our accounts \$67,021.88.
- D. Total income for the first half of 2021 (from Jan 1 to June 30) was \$8,406.87 of which \$7,500.00 of that amount was from membership dues. Expenses through the first half of the year was \$6,285.83, which included the weed pre-survey and the weed treatment of \$5,041.76. Total net income so far for the year was \$2,121.04.
- E. Mark Smith asked when the payment was due for water shed project? Deb said we have the bill but it came in after the report was completed. This will be an expense of \$33,000.00.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Debbie Gran to update P & L and Budget as directed.	Debbie Gran	End of Meeting

**5. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

BARBARA HITCHCOCK

DISCUSSION	Membership Committee Update.	Barbara Hitchcock
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- Chuck Roy introduced Barbara Hitchcock as the new Membership Committee Chair. Barbara said she reviewed the Membership Committee member lists. When Jill Roy took over the committee there were 78% of the lake residents who paid into membership in 2018 which increased to 87% in 2019. This year paper dues notices were first sent followed up by email notices. Currently 92% of Lake residents are paying members. Barbara stated that she will continue to try get 100% participation, and she will visit door to door these other members.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Barbara Hitchcock, new chair of the membership committee will continue to visit residents to try to obtain 100% membership.	Barbara Hitchcock, new chair	Going Forward

**6. RECREATION COMMITTEE**

BARBARA HITCHCOCK FOR MARION REILLY

REIDISCUSSION	Barbara reported on Recreation Committee
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- A. Barbara Hitchcock spoke on behalf of the Recreation Committee. She said that in person meetings have restarted for the rec committee. Lake programs to include: A. Non motorized Kayak/Paddleboard around the lake, with first one tomorrow July 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am, and motorized tie ups of boats, personal watercraft, airplanes whatever available. The tie ups start at 7 pm July 16<sup>th</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup>. All dates on Big Alum Calendar.
- B. Even though some of the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities were rained out the boat parade went on, July 5<sup>th</sup>, with 13 boats participating, which included: Tiki bar, Hootie and bowfishbowing bubbles, group of minions, be happy boat, 60s boat to make love not war, also a yellow submarine.
- C. We are excited to host the BALA Gala again this year, theme is Summer Breeze. To be held at Hylands Pavillion as in past, on Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. We are hosting earlier from 5:50 to 8:30 due to mosquitos. Must register to attend. We will offer the lobster, steak, chicken meals as in past. We are offering hamburgers and hotdogs for kids to be welcomed as well. Register via mail, drop at my house in person or in bag on my bench. Please do not

leave in post office box without a stamp.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Kayak / Paddleboard events on website. BALA Gala on 8/6/21.	Marion Reilly	N/A

## 7. DAM COMMITTEE

KEN GAJEWSKI

DISCUSSION	Ken Gajewski reported from the Dam Committee	
A. Ken Gajewski reported that on Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> the dam was opened and water was drawn down by 36 inches. The dam was closed the first week of December. The Lake has fully recovered from the draw down and we now have water going over the spillway.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Dam closed since first week of December with good recharge.	Ken Gajewski	NONE

## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE/SLAC COMMITTEE UPDATE

BRUCE GRAN

DISCUSSION	Bruce Gran discussed environmental status of Lake.	
A. Bruce Gran spoke for the Environmental Committee. He said that the first treatment was done in June and he is working with Solitude on evaluating the need for a second weed treatment. He was not happy with the boat used this year because it couldn't get in close enough to the shore. Bruce also updated the Membership on the work SLAC is doing with our neighboring lakes. He said that South Pond has been dealing with a lot of algae and other invasive weeds like milfoil. They have hired an outside company to inject the lake with the aluminum oxide at great cost.		
B. SLAC hoping for a meeting in July.		
C. Chuck Roy asked about Big Alum environmental study of lake, July 23 <sup>rd</sup> at 9 am is the sampling. Bruce said it was being done in the next few weeks and that he would report on it when he got the results.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Reevaluation of weeds within the lake is continual. Treatment for weeds occurred on June 24 <sup>th</sup> . Posttreatment eval will take place in July 23 <sup>rd</sup> .	Bruce Gran	Ongoing

## 9. WATERSHED/LAKE DRAINAGE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DISCUSSION	Tom Clark presented the Watershed/Lake Protection Issues and Concerns	
A. Tom Clark said he continues to inspect the drainage areas around the Lake on his daily walks. The various drains are all in good shape and are doing their job of filtering runoff water going into the Lake.		
B. Tom explained his Watershed Maintenance Committee's role of inspecting the various drains. He said he inspects Lake Rd, Tom Faxon inspects Mt. Dan Rd, Dave Bellerose inspects Big Alum Rd, Matt Kibbe inspects the Trail, and Paul Roy inspects Paradise Lane. Wes Sargent is the technical advisor. Wes has experience in road construction and drainage from his many years as a Civil Engineer.		
C. North End Work: Construction has been completed. Original price was to be \$30,000.00 but had a 10% increase in price. The construction company ran into more ledge than they anticipated. Project will now end up costing \$33,000.00.		
D. Separately, the hill of North End was paved to help with drainage. This paving was not a cost to BALA, but funded by the 6 residents along that stretch of Lake Road. Tom mentioned there is still an issue with having water drain from the Sturbridge Woods retention pond. He is speaking with the Town and hopes they will help with remediation from this poorly designed pond.		
E. Chuck asked about any other problem areas: Tom Clark mentioned there is work still needed to be completed over by the Italian American Club; there is a major road drainage issue. This is planned as a future project.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Tom Clark to continue going monitoring lake and quotes for possible work in the cove area near Italian American club.	Tom Clark	Ongoing

## 10. NOMINATING / BYLAW COMMITTEE

DISCUSSION	Mark Smith reported on the nominating committee	
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- A. Mark Smith stated that no officers are up for reelection this year. This year Lisa Sandersen is stepping down from her current role as Secretary and will be replaced by Jennifer Bailey who is currently the Recording Clerk. Jennifer Baileys' role of Recording Clerk will in turn be taken over by Colleen Molta. These roles will switch after the August 2021 Membership meeting. These appointments were made by the Preidentand have been approved by the Executive Board. The terms of these appointees will be until the end of the voted term nex year.
- B. Our next membership meeting will take place per the by-laws on the third Saturday of August, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 AM. Whether it will be via zoom or in person to be determined.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Membership meeting to be held August 21 <sup>st</sup> , 10 am.	Mark Smith	August

**11. BOATING COMMITTEE**

MATT KIBBE

DISCUSSION	Matt Kibbe discussed boating activity.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Matt stated that he has seen quite a few flagrent violations of State boating laws so far this season: bow riding on pontoon boats, underage kids driving jet skis, speeding after dark, and dangerous manuvvers close to shore by PWC. Sturbridge Police has been out monitoring lake activity but if you view any issues please call them directly as they have the authority to take action. Sanitary issues on the island seem to be better since we put signs out asking folks to help us keep the Lake clean.</li> <li>B. Boating certificate classes are available online and we hope to resume inperson andinperson classes soon..</li> <li>C. New sign has been made for the boat ramp. Very colorful and nicely done.</li> <li>D. Matt asked if anyone had any questions. Barbara Hitchcock asked about the stickers provided in past to tag kayaks and such. Matt stated that these stickers were not issued by BALA. Ken mentioned that he got the stickers form the boating classes. Chuck Roy thanked Matt Kibbe for all his work and time putting in al lthe markers. Chuck thanked Jeff Buchanan and Matt for placing the signs up on the island and around various areas to direct people to use the port-a-potty at the ramp.</li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Buoys, island status, and waterways to be maintained / monitored.	Matt Kibbe	Ongoing

**12. FISHING COMMITTEE**

DISCUSSION	Rob Scoble	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Rob Scoble spoke about the fishing conditions of Big Alum Lake. Rob stated that the lake has been stocked with trout in fall and spring and that the fishing has been good. Good size with hold overs. There was some fish kill from the ice in the winter but not bad. Increased family boat traffic with fishing this spring but not as active as last year.</li> </ul>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Rob Scoble surveys the fish and stocking of the lake.	Rob Scoble	Ongoing

DISCUSSION		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

**13. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

DISCUSSION	Chuck Roy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Old Business:</li> <li>B. Chuck Roy asked Jeff Buchanan to discuss the updates on the BALA a 501c3 project. After review and study Jeff Buchanan and Lisa Dalberth have concluded that establishing BALA as a 501c3 is not in the best interest of BALA. They both felt a better alternative would be the establishment of a 501c4. With the 501c4 the disadvantage is that there is no deductible tax benefit for donations, as there is in a 501C3, but this is outweighed by the fact that in a 501C4 the membership can remain private much like an HOA. Alan Peppel asked</li> </ul>	

about clarification on the differences between a 501c3 and 501c4. Jeff explained that a 501C3 tax payers get a tax deduction for any charitable donation but the organization needs to be public, allowing anyone that would like to join to join. 501c4 is a tax exempt organization following the specific rules of the organization, but no tax deduction for contributions. Chuck thank Jeff and Lisa for their time and energy on this. The executive board has voted to go ahead with a 501c4, and will take it to a membership vote in August.

- C. Chuck Roy mentioned that the new boat sign at the public landing was in production, and that he thought it came out quite nicely. The sign was donated anonymously by a member.
- D. Chuck asked Ken about the updates on dam opening and closings. Ken mentioned that draw down changes require paperwork and filings months in advance. We can go forward and request Oct 15<sup>th</sup> dam opening if we really feel it is necessary.
- E. New Business:
- F. August meeting question if the meeting can be in person versus zoom. Chuck would like to use the outdoor pavilion at St. Annes. Chuck asked for input how members feel. Alan Peppel endorsed in person and likes the idea of the outdoor pavilion.
- G. Save the date for BALA Gala and to see everyone.
- H. Chuck mentioned that this board has taken on a lot of projects and work and that he feels there will need to be a dues increase of at least \$25. The drains need to be cleaned out regularly so this will be an increased cost. Rotating program to clean the drains to keep the costs low. The cost is \$250/300 per drain and with 8-10 drains we should rotate every other year. Port-a-potty cost for keeping it there beyond the state time frame for Memorial Day to Labor Day timeframe. BALA would like to keep the port-a-potty for winter months to cut down on people going to the bathroom on properties. We are also looking at a second weed treatment at an increased cost. We are not asking now for increase in dues but something to think about as we are spending more on keeping the lake clean. Alan Peppel asked how many residents around the lake and when is the last time there was a dues increase and should we consider an annual percentage increase in dues. Chuck mentioned that there was a decrease in dues a few years ago and that the reserve fund was being used to make up the difference. He feels we don't want to use the reerve fund for yearly costs but for projects and emergencies as needed. Barbara mentioned there are 175 families around the lake, with 13 from Trail, and Paradise Lane. Deb Gran mentioned that BALA has collected dues from 151 families, and if there was a \$25 increase that would be an additional \$3,775 in dues. Alan agrees and thank the board for being pro-active and has no issue with increase in dues as needed. Michael Gionfriddo mentioned that he agrees that yearly things should come out of the dues and not the reserve fund.
- I. Chuck Roy wanted to thank Lisa Sanderson for all her time and work. And thank Jennifer Bailey for taking Lisa's role and Colleen Molta for taking Jennifer Bailey's role.
- J. Chuck Roy asked if anyone had any questions. No one had questions. Chuck stated next meeting will be July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 10AM. Meeting adjourned at 11:26AM, first motion by Jeff Buchanan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Hitchcock and and all in favor @ 11:26AM
- K. Next All Membership Meeting: August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, 10AM and next July meeting is set for July 9th, 2022, 10AM.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Chuck Roy to send out info about next July meeting date, July 9, 2022 at 10AM. And next August date is August 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2021 @ 10AM.	Chuck Roy	N/A
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	BALA President, Chuck Roy adjourned the meeting.	
Meeting adjourned at 11:26AM		