



Big Alum Lake Association

Fiskdale, MA

Big Alum Lake Association Annual Meeting Minutes

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2021 @ 10:05 AM HELD @ ST. ANNES OUTDOOR PAVILLION

ATTENDEES	<p><u>Officers of BALA</u> Chuck Roy (President) Jeffrey (Vice President) Debbie Gran (Treasurer) Colleen Molta (Recording Clerk) Jennifer Bernardo-Bailey (Corresponding Secretary) David Bellerose (BALA Board Member at large)</p> <p><u>Committee Chairs and Member(s) – At- Large</u> 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/Election/Bylaws Committee – Mark Smith H. Watershed Drainage Committee – Tom Clark</p>
BEGIN TIME	10:05 AM
MATERIALS	Agenda; Meeting Minutes from 7/10/2021 Meeting; Treasurer’s P&L Report; Boating Rules and Updates; Watershed Drainage Update and introduction of Colleen Molta as corresponding secretary.
RECORDING CLERK	Jennifer Bernardo-Bailey

1. REVIEW OF MEETING PROTOCOL AND AGENDA

BALA PRESIDENT CHUCK ROY

DISCUSSION	Meeting Protocol and Agenda Review.	BALA President Chuck Roy
Reviewed Protocol of meeting instruct protocol and then review of agenda items		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Review of meeting protocols and move forward through the Agenda items.	Chuck Roy, President	N/A

2. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

CHUCK ROY

DISCUSSION	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 August 21 st , 2021 with 13/14 board officers present with 33 BALA members and 1 guests/nonmembers.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
No action needed- All completed; President, Chuck Roy determined there was quorum present to proceed with voting needs for meeting.	Chuck Roy, President	N/A

3. MEETING MINUTES

CHUCK ROY & JENNIFER BERNARDO-BAILEY

A. Meeting Minutes were provided by Jennifer Bernardo-Bailey, Recording Clerk than now Corresponding Secretary, for review from the last all BALA Membership and Board Meeting held, 7/10/2021. 1st motion to accept meeting minutes by Tom. Clarke, 2nd by Barabara Hitchcock 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
A.	Debbie Gran, BALA Treasurer presented the financials and reviewing the year to date Profit & Loss Statement for review as well as the End of Year 2020 P&L. Deb shared the treasure reports of financials. Deb recapped income and expenses for both the EOY and YTD P&L's total membership dues and donations were the two highlights of income as we didn't have gala was amount of \$8,378.64. Expenses kept to minimum, but included watershed committee costs, lake environment pretreatment and post treatment contributes to expenses \$14,729.96. We also received a large betterment reimbursement \$2,550.00 higher than in past due to 2019 not reimbursed for entire amount at that time. Overall with COVID challenges all is great and did great. In the end totals of \$67,021.88.	
B.	Moving ahead to this year from Jan to July, we have received to date from membership which is \$7,902.00 which is fantastic, and received funds from people we have never had in past. Donations to have been fantastic in the amount of \$8,314.50. Betterment from the town was \$1500.00 which is closer to usual amount received versus higher amount in 2020. BALA 2021 Gala brought in \$1,800.00 (Total reported to brought in: 50/50: \$300.00, Ticket Costs: \$3,500.00; Auction: \$2,500, bringing to total of \$6,300.00 and costs of \$4,500.00) Costs were paid for pretreatment and treatment itself which is over \$5000.00. The BALA administration costs may have seem to risen but this has included payments for the port-a-potty, \$355 paid to date. Total expenses to date, \$38,425.00 which includes some of the following: watershed project (\$25,000); Boating (\$395.00); Rec Committee (\$5150.00); Website Fee (\$400); BALA Admin costs (\$1500.00). CD income on lowside with rates low on renewals. Total net income so far is \$2,121.04	
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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chuck Roy re-introduced Barbara Hitchcock as the new Membership Committee Head as of July meeting. Barbara discussed that 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 2018 which increased 87% in 2019 and with Mari Roy she sent out the paper and email as of the July meeting there was 92% of residents paying as members which has increased to 94%. Barbara re-state her mission that she will continue to try get 100% paying in, as she will continue to visit door to door to members that have not committed. Barbara again thanked being involved and stated she has had fun so far with this.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Barbara Hitchcok, 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

MARION REILLY

DISCUSSION	Marion Reilly reported on Recreation Committee	
A.	Marion Reilly spoke on behalf of the Recreation Committee. Marion mentioned that meetings have restarted, April and May as zoom with first in person in June and than follow up in July with having the wonderful BALA GALA. Activities include Non motorized Kayak/Paddleboard around the lake on July 11 th at 9am, and motorized tie ups of boats, personal watercraft, airplanes whatever to tie but the weather has not cooperated for the tie-ups	

as they had to be cancelled on July 16th and August 20th. Any events will cont to be listed on the Big Alum Calendar.

- B. BALA Gala turn out was fantastic again this year, with the theme is Summer Breeze. Held at Hylands Pavillion as on Friday, August 6th. Was well attended, and food went well with the offering of lobster, steak, chicken meals as in past. Hamburgers and hotdogs for kids were welcomed. Registrations went well, auctions were fun and overall night was a success. Raising \$1800.00 after costs.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Any events to continue to be sent over to be placed on the website and via email commmunication.	Marion Reilly	N/A- ongoing

7. DAM COMMITTEE

KEN GAJEWSKI

DISCUSSION	Ken Gajewski reported from the Dam Committee	
A.	Ken Gajewski reported that dam will be going back to Nov 1 st opening date for a draw down of 30 inches. Usually is closed since first week of December. Recovery is usually well as we usually have spill over. We are lucky as other areas of the country are struggling for water.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Dam to be open Nov 1 st with close first week of December.	Ken Gajewski	N/A

8. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE/SLAC COMMITTEE/SLAC

BRUCE GRAN

DISCUSSION	Bruce Gran discussed environmental status of Lake.	
A.	Bruce Gran reported that with increase in boating traffic in 2019, weeds have increased and it was a bad year for weeds. More living on the island in 2019, both boating and island use seemed to have decreased this sumer of 2020. We had pretreatment eval and weed treatment on June 24 th . A lot of curly leaf pond weed at shorelines much more than we have ever had in past. The Hutchinson area has been knocked down. Another nuisance weed is in old Pratt/Prack Cove area, crispus weed that is covered. Working to knock weed down. Roots need to be ripped out. Reducing what is left. Bruce beleves a second treatment will be needed. He has asked Solitude for cost and dates. This will set us up better for next year. This post weed treatment survey occured with Solitude, July 23 rd . All areas treated and look at all other areas of concern.	
B.	Chuck Roy asked for update on SLAC Committee. Bruce Gran mentioned no meeting as of yet to date that the water quality testing and results is the only update currently for SLAC. Matt Kibbe asked if the water quality results have been reported, Bruce responded that the water quality testing was just completed July 8th with the visibility came to 22 feet. The results will be entered in state main database through SLAC. Bruce mentioned the water temperature has been high which can attribute to fish kill due to decreased oxygen.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Reevaluation of weeds within the lake is continual.	Bruce Gran	On-going

9. WATERSHED/LAKE DRAINAGE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

TOM CLARKE

DISCUSSION	Tom Clarke presented about Watershed/Lake Protection Issues and Concerns	
A.	Tom Clarke spoke about normal inspections for walking around the lake. Stating that we are in good shape for protecting the lake from erosion and drainage contaminants.	
B.	Tom reported: Tom Clark inspects Lake Rd, ,Tom Faxon inspects Mt. Dan Rd, Dave Bellerose inspects Big Alum Rd, Matt Kibbe inspects the Trail, Wes Sargent is the tehncial advisor as he has experience in road construction and drainage, and Paul Roy inspects Paradise Lane. Tom spoke with reference of areas that is of concern to watch around the lake, and stated there are ten areas that watch closely as they have drain culverts, swails or known issues. Two areas repaired: Item #2, #3 both work completed work about a year ago. Other than that they are keeping an eye on everything using this as a monitoring tool.	
C.	North End Work: erosion, breakthrough of drainage into lake, sand in water, it was necessary to do this work. Construction has been completed, 500 feet long. Original price \$30,000.00 but had a 10% increase in price. Price should have gone up to \$50,000.00 but the construction co only charged us 10% increase.	
D.	Separately by the residents of that area that paid for paving not paid for by BALA, therefore the hill of NorthEnd was paved to help with drainage. This paving was not paved at all by BALA but paved by the 6 residents of Lake Road. No funding came from BALA.	

- E. Tom discussed the work and stages of the work completed for North End. Discussed the digging of the drains, hail, drains placed. Swails created. 50 to 75 feet of tiered swales with 4 catching basins to existing swales. Tom reiterated that the initial bid has decreased to cost of about \$33k all in with Piabi Construction out of Southbridge but he completed about \$50,000.00 worth of work. Tom is happy with this work and looking better than expected, the town has been reviewing the work and feels the work is above what was needed to be done. Tom asked if anyone had questions, Bruce Gran wanted to thank Tom for his efforts and work being completed. Bruce said the water coming down is now clear and clean and not filled with muck. Tom mentioned there is still an issue with having water drain from the neighborhood above, Sturbridge Woods. Their pond overflows and drains down to our area into the lake. Tom brought out the town and they are going to look into funding to help drain the water better to the new drainage areas that BALA has created. Chuck Roy thanked Tom Clark for all his work and the residents of Lake Rd to step up and pave that road as it helps keep the lake clean.
- F. Chuck asked about any other problem areas: Tom Clark mentioned there is work still needed to be completed over by the Italian American Club has a major road drainage issue, but they do have a swail and drain over there but getting a quote to get a covert drain in that area to plan in future.

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

MARK SMITH

10. NOMINATING / BYLAW COMMITTEE

DISCUSSION	Mark Smith reported on the nominating committee
A.	Mark Smith stated next at the August 2022 membership meeting there will a vote. This year we do have a change of Lisa Sandersen stepping down from her current role of Secretary and will be replaced by Jennifer Bailey who is currently the Recording clerk and has been for a couple of years. We would like to thank Lisa Sandersen for all her dedication, time and years of work for the board. We would also like to thank Jennifer Bailey for stepping up into the Secretary position. Jennifer Baileys' role of recording clerk will in turn be taken over by Colleen Molta whom we would like to thank for joining and taking on this role. These roles will switch over as of this August 2021 meeting. As noted at the last meeting, Mark Minuci stepped down from his role as Vice President and Jeff Buchanan was nominated to fill that position. No other nominations were made, so Jeff Buchanan has been elected to that position In addition, the President will appoint David Bellerose as the new Board Member at large. These changes in roles have been approved by the Executive Board and no voting will need to occur on these current changes.
B.	Our next membership meeting with voting for 2022 will take place per the by-laws on the third Saturday of August, August 21 st at 10 am. Whether it will be via zoom or in person to be determined.
C.	Chuck Roy mentioned that these changes in roles will be in effect until end of this term 2022 and will need to go back up for vote at the next August 2022 meeting.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Next all Membership meeting to be held July, 9 th , 2022, 10 am.	Mark Smith	July

11. BOATING COMMITTEE

MATT KIBBE

DISCUSSION	Matt Kibbe discussed boating activity.
A.	Matt stated that boating activity has been slower than normal this year. Bow riding. On pontoon boats is illegal and dangerous. Underage kids driving jet skis is illegal. Please go to boating rules. There are safe boating flyers that he created available. 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 to the island is still happening, we have placed signs to steer people to use the boat ramp port-a-potty.
B.	Boating certificate classes is available for online and inperson classes. SLAC will offer another one next May and we will share that information when available.
C.	New sign has been made for the boat ramp. Very colorful and nicely done.
D.	Matt mentioned the buoys will stay in the water until end of October.
E.	Chuck Roy thanked Matt Kibbe for all his work and time putting in all the 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. Chuck feels the signs are helping as they have noticed less toilet paper on the island even though still some.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Buoys, island status, and waterways to be maintained / monitored.	Matt Kibbe	On-going

12. FISHING COMMITTEE

CHUCK ROY FOR ROB SCOBLE

DISCUSSION	Chuck Roy discussed for Rob Scoble	
A.	Chuck Roy spoke for 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.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Rob Scoble surveys the fish and stocking of the lake.	Rob Scoble	On-going

13. LAKES ADVISORY COMMISSION

DISCUSSION	Bruce Gran	
A.	Bruce Gran spoke during Environmental Committee updates about water quality updates. He updated about SLAC wanting to start meetings again soon. One update from SLAC is that South Pond has been dealing with a lot of algae and other invasive weeds like milfoil. With all the slime in the deeper areas has built up causing problems have been increasing. They have hired an outside company to inject the lake with the aluminum oxide which is at a heavy cost of \$400,000. The only good thing is that injection will last them 20 years at eliminating the phosphor. We at Big Alum and Little alum are lucky as we naturally have that injected into our lakes.	
B.	SLAC had a meeting in July.	
C.	Chuck Roy asked about Big Alum environmental study of lake, July 23 rd at 9 am was the sampling.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Bruce Gran to report water quality results to Lakes Advisory Commission.	Bruce Gran	Ongoing

14. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION	Chuck Roy	
A.	Old Business:	
B.	Chuck Roy reported that we already earlier in meeting reviewed the watershed updates from Tom Clark so we will move on from that.	
C.	Chuck Roy asked for the membership to vote on the creation of the 501c4 after he had Jeff Buchanan re-discuss the updates on making BALA a 501c4. Jeff Buchanan and Lisa Dalberth researched at no cost to BALA (which the membership gave up to \$1,000 to research but no funds were used) the various types of tax exempt entities. Jeff reported that they found making BALA a 501c3 would not be in the best interest of BALA because of the onerous public charity requirements; instead, the best alternative would be a 501c4. With the 501c4 there is no tax benefit for donations but this keeps the membership private versus open to public. Alan Peppel asked 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, no tax deduction for contributions. Alan stated this helped him understand. Chuck thank Jeff and Lisa for their time and energy on this. The executive board has voted to creating a 501c4 and the membership voted to create the 501c4 with first going to Mark Smith and second going to Tom Clarke and all but three, (3) members present voted on making BALA a 501c4 with two, (2) abstains.	
D.	Chuck Roy re-mentioned from the July meeting that the new boat sign at the ramp came out beautiful and nicely put together. This was donated by a member who would like to remain anonymous. But we thank him and appreciate the updates.	
E.	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 need to go with the original dam opening date of Nov 1 st as we won't have the paperwork approved in time for an earlier opening date.	
F.	New Business:	
G.	Chuck re-mentioned that this board has taken on a lot of projects and work and that there will need to be dues increase of \$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 cost with 8-10 drains could rotate every other year. Next year higher as we will clean all at once. 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. And we will need 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 has never been a dues increase, there was actually a decrease in dues as the reserve fund was being used to make up the BALA difference, which we don't want to use the reserve 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 to \$50 increase that would be an additional \$3,775 in dues. Alan agrees and thank the board for being proactive 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 so to include these costs in the yearly fees and adjust the fees to rectify these costs therefore if we need to increase by \$50 to do so. Deb Gran mentioned with the increase in projects we would need the increase to be \$50. Chuck Roy asked for a vote of increasing the dues for 2022 by \$50, with Tom Clarke as 1st motion to accept the increase with Mark Smith as second and all members present in agreement with (3) three members abstaining from voting.

- H. Chuck Roy thanked Lisa Sandersen and presented her with a plaque for all her time and work. And Cuck verbally thanked Jennifer Bailey for taking Lisa's role and Colleen Molta for taking Jennifer Bailey's role.
- I. Chuck Roy thanked Tom Clarke for all his work for Big Alum and presented him with a plaque thanking him.
- J. Chuck Roy asked if anyone had any questions. No one had questions. Chuck stated next meeting will be July 9th, 2022 at 10 am. Meeting adjourned at 11:34 am, first motion by Jeff Buchanan and 2nd by Barbara Hitchcock and all in favor @ 11:34 am.
- K. Next Meeting: July 9th, 2022, 10 am, hoping to continue to be in person format.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Chuck Roy to send out info about next meeting date, July 9 th , 2022 with hope to continue to be in person format.	Chuck Roy	N/A

DISCUSSION BALA President, Chuck Roy closed out the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Next meeting date to be Saturday, July 9 th , 2022. 10 am. Format to be determined but hoping to continue with in-person at St. Annes' Pavillion.	Chuck Roy for meeting date	N/A