

Meeting Minutes
Lake Bomoseen Association, Inc.
Annual Meeting

By: Britt Gilman, Assistant to the Secretary

Date: June 22nd, 2016

Location: The Jeffords Center
Castleton State College

Attending Board Members:

Wenda Bird, Davene Brown, Luca Conte, Bob Franzoni, John Hale, John Casella Jr., Terry Moran, Steve Moskowitz, Ellen Oppenheimer, Bill Wood

Also Attending:

See attached list

The meeting was called to order at 9:17 A.M by B. Franzoni.

Introduction of Board Members

J. Casella introduced the members of the board of directors. He also thanked M. Morris and E. Splatt for their service as they have completed their terms.

Slide Show

B. Franzoni presented a short slide show of pictures from the lake.

Lake Quiz

B. Franzoni led a quiz about Lake Bomoseen.

Secretary's Report

Motion and second from the floor to approve the secretary's report, and it was unanimously passed.

FY 2016 Budget

B. Franzoni stated that the LBA will be moving from a fiscal to a calendar year. Therefore, a six month budget will be generated to cover July 1, 2016 to December 31st, 2016. Then, a year long budget will be generated to cover January 1-December 31, 2017.

Current Budget

B. Gilman presented a balance sheet, income statement, and budget to actual. Notably, she described the accumulated depreciation and depreciation expense related to the harvester. She also described how the expense for the fireworks came from the Donation account rather than the fireworks account. E. Oppenheimer noted that only \$1500 was budget for fireworks rather than the \$5200 shown on the budget.

Celebrate Castleton

B. Franzoni stated that the idea behind celebrate Castleton was to get a July 4th celebration together. The town will work with the LBA to put on the fireworks, which will reduce the overall expenses for the LBA. This year, the LBA donated \$3000 toward the fireworks. B. Franzoni also stated that next year, Celebrate Castleton is considering doing the fireworks to July 8th, which the weekend is following July 4th. The reason for this is that other towns are putting on so much on July 4th, and other fireworks are taking place. He also described the events that would be taking place coming up related to the Celebrate Castleton Committee.

Fireworks

This year, the fireworks are the 4th, with the backup date being the 5th.

LBA Picnics/Social/Education

The Bomo Bash is at 5 P.M today, at Edgewood. D. Brown showed the flyer for Bomo Bash. She also presented a list of the upcoming educational series.

LBPT

L. Conte stated that the LBA, with an attorney, created a sister organization that was an IRS tax deductible organization, which is the Lake Bomoseen Preservation trust. Its sole purpose is to be a funding source for ecological features of the lake. It is a funding mechanism to move forward in dealing with invasive species. Around \$39,000 has been donated so far. When we have a function raise money for weeders, aeration, etc., donations should be made out to the LBPT. He noted there is currently no website, but there may be some web presence in the future.

S. Moskowitz noted that there is a place on the LBA website that people can donate to the LBPT.

New website

B. Franzoni presented a draft of the new website, which is a work in progress,

Lake Objectives

A summary of the discussion related to board objectives us as follows:

- More assistance from the town of Castleton
- Water quality improvement and maintenance
- Water testing
- Possible time limits on boating in certain areas
- Increase membership and develop strategies to do so
- Take more involvement in developing regulations that affect the lake
- Investigate bike paths
- Investigate possible chemicals in head waters of the lake (phosphates from farmlands, houses, etc)—this involves working together with the town to get a sewer line up the west shore
- Avoid herbicides and other chemical uses whenever possible •

- Frank Giannini—monitoring occurs weekly for phosphates and other chemicals
 - Sampling point between Neshobe Island and State Park o Water is about 53 feet deep
 - Sampling takes place to measure clarity
 - Phosphate level has been raising over the course of the past few years
 - Current level is about 14 units per liter o
 - Weeds are biggest issue o
 - Possible chemical usage could be “Renovate” to deal with weed problem.—24 hour application, no swimming for four days o “Renovate” is much more expensive than “Sonar”
 - Bill Wood—testing should likely occur near Crystal Beach •
 - Test for ammonia based on doctoral student’s findings in Michigan
- Incorporate noise pollution policies and use that as an additional parameter for quality
- Address general boat safety guidelines and maintain current guidelines, as well as swimming safety
- Address winter usage of the lake

Board Elections

J. Hale presented a recommendation for three new board members.

Slate:

J. Hale

L. Conte

W. Bird

S. Bender

J. Sabatano

G. Chapman

He also asked for any nominations from the floor. A motion and second were obtained. The motion was passed unanimously by the floor.

Water Quality Committee

T. Moran noted that the LBA is a quasi-judicial entity, and that all of its power comes from membership.

E. Oppenheimer provided an update on the greeter program. This year, the LBA received \$34,270 in a grant for the greeters. The program hours have expanded. Two managers have been hired to run the program.

E. Oppenheimer stated that she recently attended a meeting for the VT Coalition of Lakes, which was very enlightening. Aeration and chemical treatment were both discussed. Chemical treatment cost is approximately \$700-800 per acre. Chemicals are effective for about two to three years. However, when the weeds die, they fall to the bottom of the lake and create muck. Muck was a problem at Little Lake on Lake St. Catherine. At Little Lake, they developed an aeration program to help combat the muck. After four years, Little Lake has gained four feet of water due to the aeration process. However, aeration is considered an experiment by the DEC. The DEC is not entertaining permits from any other lakes at this point, but Lake Dunmore is challenging that and submitting permits. The system costs \$4500 per acre to set up. After the initial set up, the cost is maintenance and electric, which runs about \$245 per month according to Little Lake. Little Lake put a permit in to add aeration to another area, which was denied. However, Little Lake appealed to the governor with a letter, at which time the permit was granted. The system is now on the west shore of Little Lake, and they are seeing tremendous success.

B. Wood presented a power point related to surveying the lake for proposed depth, vegetation, and bottom hardness mapping. Lake Bomoseen is the only major lake in Vermont that does not have a water depth chart available through the State. 2015 was the first attempt to control invasive milfoil on Bomoseen using the ECO harvester. The efforts were severely hampered by a machine that failed to perform to its advertised specifications. Additionally, we could only attempt to remove milfoil where we could see it. Before development of a comprehensive plan for invasive plant control, a survey is important.

The total cost of the survey and required equipment is between \$3475-4700.

D. Sondergild from the Lake Beebe association stated that in order to get permits for Lake Beebe, they had to perform a plant survey of the lake. He also expressed interest in the survey, since six lakes would need to buy into it to get a discounted rate.

Possible sharing of surveying equipment was also discussed.

E. Swift, a watershed planner with the State of Vermont discussed the investigation of Sucker Brook watershed in relation to sediment and erosion. Certain high priority projects are being identified as a result of this assessment work, which will assist in funding. A Lake Bomoseen watershed management plan is being developed.

T. Moran discussed the ECO harvester. The harvester acted as more of a skimmer of weeds than a harvester. It did not perform as was advertised. A number of other associations have had similar problems, such as belt breakage. He stated that he and B. Wood did a huge amount of volunteer work, which is becoming more physically difficult for them. The harvester was stored in a heated building over the winter. It will require additional repair to operate this season. We are in the process of negotiating some kind of settlement with the sellers of the machine, and are working with a lawyer to secure that. He expressed concern about continued costs of operation. He noted that the county of Saratoga, NY has a couple of large weed cutters, and all the work is done by the county. There is a special tax district around the lake, which provides funding to the county, who then purchases, maintains, and operates the equipment. He stated that he does not see that as realistic for this area. However, we could raise the money through the LBPT rather than a mandatory tax.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 P.M.