

Burden Lake Association
September Membership Meeting
Camp Adventure – 2nd Dyke Road
September 15, 2020

Board Members

Present: Theresa Flynn, President, Gary LaMay, Vice President.

Others Present

31 members present (see attached sign-in sheet) not all members signed in. The agenda was emailed to all members prior to the meeting.

Ice Breaker

Those who wanted to participate in the ice breaker were given a card with a length of a straw on the back. You had to identify if you had the longest or shortest straw by comparing it with other members. People mingled and enjoyed the game. Winners of bottles of wine were Pam Maier and Peter Lindley.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by President Theresa Flynn.

The President announced the BLA's new treasurer – Dina Addario. The membership gave Dina a welcoming round of applause.

The minutes of the August 18, 2020 meeting had been previously emailed to the membership for their review. The members attending the meeting approved the minutes as distributed.

President's Report

Old Business:

- The President gave an update on the lawsuit – President Flynn and BLPC Representative Bob Loveridge met with Mark Cioffi to discuss the status of the lawsuit. A settlement meeting took place on September 8, 2020. The plaintiff's attorney asked for clarification and the judge asked the BLPC attorney to provide written clarification by September 11, 2020. The judge informed the parties to make a decision by September 25, 2020.
- Payment to the BLPC lawyer
 - 25% of the bill payable by the 3rd lake (BLCA)
 - 25% of the bill payable by the 1st & 2nd lake (BLA)
 - 50% of the bill payable by the original six BLPC members
 - Bob Loveridge made a motion to request the BLA receive an itemized bill of the work completed by the lawyer, it was seconded by Frank Lewandowsky – members were in favor.
- The BLPC is drafting an amendment to their by-laws to include language that states lake front property owners will have exclusive rights to their lakeshore up to the high-water mark.

- Culvert project update - Presented by Vice President Gary LaMay –
 - VP LaMay met with Nancy Perry (Town of Sand Lake Supervisor) regarding the status of the culvert replacement and to discuss the grant that was awarded from NYS (\$129,000) for repairs and replacement. The town established an account to deposit the grant funds, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State’s Division of Budget froze the funding. Regardless of the freezing of funds, the town decided to move forward with the first segment of the process by hiring an engineering firm to evaluate and design what would be required for the repairs to the dyke. The town paid for the evaluation and design fees that were approximately \$25,000. However, if the grant funding is withdrawn or cancelled, the town risks not being reimbursed for these costs.
 - A member mentioned that the engineering firm CT Male performed a study of the culvert 4 years ago (October 18th, 2016) and recommended that due to significant corrosion and its impact on structural integrity, it was recommended to replace the covert within 3-5 years.
 - There is concern for the health and safety of anyone going through the culvert. VP LaMay suggested that BLA members call Nancy Perry and voice their concerns. Bob Loveridge suggested that the BLA invite Nancy Perry to the October meeting to explain the town’s actions and answer questions. VP LaMay said he will invite her to attend.
 - Bob Loveridge also suggested that a letter be sent to NY State Dormitory Authority stating the membership’s concerns regarding the health and safety issues that still exist with the present condition of the culvert. Perhaps this information would alter their position on the releasing the funding.
 - A member suggested that if the actions currently being taken do not result in advancement of our concerns, we should consider formal legal action based on issues of community safety & health.
 - A question was asked if the town could close off use of the culvert. A member responded that they didn’t think the town could block the flow of the water from one lake to another.

New Business:

- A vote on new membership applications was approved:
 - Scott and Heidi Bieg – 1st lake
 - Jonas Morelli and Edward Riepe - 2nd lake
- A member asked if there was specific criteria in the By-Laws regarding membership. President Flynn stated the current by-laws require a membership vote to approve a new member. She suggested this matter could be addressed by the By-Laws Committee.
- President Flynn presented the fiscal report:
 - Balances
 - Checking account: \$4,721.40
 - Savings account: (Dyke Fund) \$12,465.27
 - Water Quality: \$15,000

- Legal fund: \$950
 - Membership Dues: \$3,300
 - Expenses Paid
 - Copper Sulfate treatment \$1,500
 - Postage \$11.00
 - Additional disbursements - \$200 Lisa Thorn, \$300 Tom Slater
- Unauthorized Disbursements
 - President Flynn informed the membership that a total of \$500 in checks were written without authorization. Lisa Thorn (former treasurer) wrote two checks, one to herself to refund her \$200 donation made to the legal fund and the other check she wrote was issued to Tom Slater to refund his \$300 donation to the water quality fund. Mike Durant (former president) clarified that he wrote the \$200 check to Lisa.
 - Any check over \$200 requires the approval from the President prior to being written, which was not obtained.
 - Further, the issuances of these two checks were not made by anyone with the authority to do so as Lisa Thorn nor Mike Durant were no longer in positions to write or authorize checks.
 - President Flynn requested the money be returned to the BLA as it belonged to the BLA once it was donated.
- New Policy – President Flynn stated no future refunds will be issued and a “no refund policy” will be established.
 - By-Laws may propose drafting a statement of “When a donation is made to the BLA it becomes the property of the BLA and will not be refunded” .
 - All new membership forms will state that all donations are non-refundable
 - It was discussed that if the BLA is made aware of a member suffering a hardship, the members of the BLA may choose to sponsor a fundraiser to provide assistance to that member rather than refund their donation.
- Banking - President Flynn stated that she will close the current bank account at CapCom and will open up the following new accounts at SEFCU:
 - 1) Checking (Operating Expenses)
 - 2) Savings (Dyke Fund)
 - 3) Legal Fund, and
 - 4) Fundraising.
- Budget - President Flynn compared operating costs from 2018 to present and proposed operating costs for 2021:
 - 2018 – 118 members, dues collected - \$2950, operating costs \$992
 - 2019 – 133 members, dues collected - \$3325, operating costs \$1390
 - 2020 – 132 members, dues collected - \$3300. operating costs \$2275
 - 2021 – the operating costs is expected to be \$1,200
- Water Treatment Cost - President Flynn presented the Water Treatment costs over the past three years:
 - 2018 \$20,396
 - 2019 \$21,020 (Water quality donations for 2019 were \$15,405)
 - 2020 \$20,780 (Water quality donations as of 9/15/20 were \$15,000)

President Flynn informed members that we will have to do a better job with fundraising and contributions to the water quality fund to ensure we have enough funds to treat the lake.

- Water Treatment Proposals – presented by Frank Maier
Frank Maier discussed the different options and costs associated with effectively treating the Curly Pond weed and Milfoil. He stated the price will remain the same next year if we do the same treatment [\$20,780]. Frank Maier also addressed the increasing Milfoil growth in the lake and offered the following estimated costs:
 - Increase the Aquathol rate by 50% at a cost of \$24,000.00
 - Sonar \$21,000 - \$33,000 depending on weather.
 - ProcellaCOR \$750-\$1,000 per acre depending on depth of each site and acres treated (five-acre minimum plots).

The vote on the anticipated expenditures for 2021 will be delayed to the October meeting so people can have a chance to digest this information.

- Committee Descriptions and Sign-up sheets were made available during the meeting. Members were asked to sign up for any of the following 7 committees they would like to participate in:
 1. By-Laws
 2. Fundraising
 3. Membership
 4. Newsletter
 5. Social/Activities
 6. Water Quality
 7. Website
- BLPC work party- 8/18/20- presented by VP LaMay.
VP LaMay reported that he and other BLA members were asked to help repair the spillway that was in disrepair and falling down. When they arrived and questioned Mark Cioffi regarding approval from DEC to do the work, Mark Cioffi replied that he had a letter stating that they had approval. Mark Cioffi had a letter in his hand from DEC but no one present asked to read it. They completed the work repairing the spillway back to its original form. The BLA later found out that Mark Cioffi had received written notification from DEC of existing damage to the spillway dam, however, no permit was sought prior to the work party doing the work.

The BLPC was notified that they would most likely be fined because they did not secure a permit to do the work. There was much discussion between the membership if anyone knew this beforehand and that the BLPC went ahead without permission. A question was asked as to who paid for the supplies to do the repairs.

Due to prior vandalism, posted signs and a camera have been put up in the area of the spillway to record anyone tampering with the work done. There was also discussion between members regarding the condition of the valve and possibly repair it.

- Fund Raising - Poker Paddle
Time and Date 9/26/20 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm (rain date Sept. 27th)
Members were asked to participate by either being a “Dock Host” to provide cards, drinks and/or snacks or be a “Paddler”. The afterparty will be hosted by VP LaMay and his wife, Carly LaMay.
- Secretary Position vacancy - President Flynn stated that the Secretary position on the BLA board has not yet been filled and asked that anyone interested should contact her.

New Business from Members

No additional new business was brought forward by the members.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 P.M.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held October 20, 2020 at 6:30 P.M at the Third Lake Club House.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Beach
9/15/20 Volunteer Minute Taker