

HLA monthly BOG meeting held on Monday, March 25, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:44 PM by President Jay Cassella.

Attendance by Zoom : Heather Edelson, Victoria Nicholson, Andrea Hayes, Karin Bullock, Lloyd Pearson, Betty Barsevich, David Chalifoux, Bob Kiehm, Keha Esposito.

Attendance in person : Linda Lamitola, Brian Polak, Laurel Hoynoski, James Nicholson, Sheri Berger, Cindy Porriello, Frank Nunes, Jay Cassella,

All BOG members were in attendance.

-Approval of Minutes for the November 2023 BOG meeting. Sheri Berger, Tax Collector indicated that the minutes as submitted under the New Business section have the word "The" that should be changed to say "to". That is the only correction necessary. Sheri Berger made a motion for waiving of the reading of the minutes, Cynthia Porriello seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Laurel Hoynoski, and seconded by Cynthia Porriello to accept the minutes with the changes, the motion passed unanimously.

-The floor was open to general discussion with James Nicholson asking about an update on the status of ongoing By-Lay amendments. He was advised it would be addressed under New Business.

-Treasurer reports for December 2023, January 2024 and February 2024 were reviewed and presented by Bob Kiehm the March 2023 report will be completed and submitted within the next few days as interest earnings are about to post and there are charges related to website hosting that are being disputed. Full written reports were submitted for the record by email. Mr. Kiehm indicated the following income and expenditures. December 2023 Income \$255.35 and expenditures of \$2,044.73. Motion to accept December 2023 report by Frank Nunes and Seconded by Cynthia Porriello, approved unanimously. January 2024 Income \$334.62 and expenditures of \$3,040.52. Motion to accept January 2024 report by Laurel Hoynoski and Seconded by Frank Nunes, approved unanimously. February 2024 income of \$1,448.06 and expenditures of \$1,536.55, Motion to accept February 2024 report by Laurel Hoynoski and Seconded by Cynthia Porriello, approved unanimously. Mr. Kiehm provided a breakdown of the various expense categories. The full reports will be available on the HLA website.

-Tax Collector report by Sheri Berger. She indicated the 2023 current taxes are \$61,127.81 with a total current tax collected being \$57,595.85 and the back taxes / interest / fees collected being \$1,165.55 for a total collected amount of \$58,761.40. Sheri further indicated that delinquent bills went out on 02/01/24, demand letters went out on 03/01/24, and 3 intent to lien letters will go out on 04/01/24. A written report was provided by email for the record.

-Septic report, there is no report today.

-Road Report, there is no report at this time.

-Lake and Dam report, David Chalifoux indicated there have been 2 meetings this year:

At the 2/26/24 meeting they worked on applications for financial assistance towards the costs of controlling invasive species and those were submitted by the deadline. HLA would need to expend the funds first and would then be reimbursed. They discussed treatment options as well as the possibility of partnering with UCONN and the Land Trust on the matter. The possibility of installing a boat washing station was also discussed. Discussion was also held regarding vessel registration and ways to ID unregistered boaters. Should we contact the resident state trooper about unauthorized / unregistered vessels on the lake? Continuing goals of educating members about invasive species.

At the 3/8/24 meeting all committee members were present and discussed boat registrations, lake clean-up, water quality reports review from AER will be used to develop an overarching plan. Need to develop a way to memorialize the readings being taken and setting up a consistent system, there will be a need to coordinate with other agencies. Tests to be conducted approximately 10 times per year at set GPS locations. There will need to be a budget adjustment for this. Also discussed lake drawdown and sedimentation. David thanked all the members of the Lake Committee for all their work over this past winter.

-Aquatic and Wildlife Committee report, Keha Esposito indicated that they don't have a report ready at this time, but they will forward the minutes from their last meeting for an update. She also recognized the hard work of all the members over the winter.

-Bylaw Committee report by Bob Kiehm, he indicated the committee chair position will be assumed by Brian Polak going forward. Bob provided an update on their work with a follow up by Brian. They have been reviewing the failed By-Law proposals from the last session and exploring ways to help members better understand the proposals as they feel the failure to pass them was due to members not understanding the intent of the changes. They are working on rewording the proposals so that they may be reintroduced. They expect 6 proposals to be forthcoming. Brian indicated they had 2 meetings so far this year regarding new By-Laws to be proposed.

-Audit committee: there is no report this month.

-Web and Facebook report, there is some website updating needed by Jay and Heather, this is forthcoming.

-Fundraising Committee: No report this month.

-Old Business: There is no old business.

-New Business: Spring notices are to be sent out regarding boat/vessel permits and cleaning as well as information from the Aquatic Wildlife Committee.

Several amendment packets are being prepared by or with the support and input of VP Brian Polak who is now spearheading the By-Law Committee. Following is a brief review of each proposal touching upon the outlines including the changes being sought, the reasoning for it as well as some pros and cons for each. The goal is to enhance member understanding in hopes of them passing.

Section 15: Committees- Proposal to add a section "B" that clarifies that though members can nominate, it is ultimately the president's choice on who gets appointed regardless of these nominations.

Section 16: Standing Committees- Looking to update the language regarding appointments to say "appointed by the President", the members can still nominate, but the president is not bound by those nominations. The rationale for this will be provided.

Section 18: Nominations- Looking to change language regarding how many open positions one can run for concurrently. The proposal is that going forward each candidate must pick only one position that they will run for. If they do not win that one, they cannot run for another position, even if it is uncontested. The rationale for that will be provided to the members.

Section 22: President- They are looking to clarify that the President is not acting at the "Direction" of the members, but rather that the President has full Autonomy.

Section 24: Recording Secretary- Proposal to change the 1st sentence to clarify what is required for recording to be just Monthly, Annual and Special Meetings and not include the requirement of recording all the various committees meetings.

Section 51-51A: Camping / Mobile Homes / RV's- Change the language to allow limited camping with prior authorization from the BOG. 51-B to be added to address non compliance and the possibility of fines, a sample application is included in the proposal. Some discussion led to the impression that the documents are unclear as they currently stand. Brian Polak will provide revised language. It appears there was both old and revised language on the sample provided.

Laurel Hoynoski questioned some changes and sought clarification as to whether the BOG would need to vote as a group in order to empower the President to make such appointments. Jay Cassella indicated that this proposed language is being submitted now and cannot be changed at this juncture. Bob Kiehm clarified this currently is at committee and for review and is to be presented at the April meeting for approval. Brian Polak will revise the language ahead of the April 2024 meeting and resubmit the final language.

-General Discussion: The floor was open to the membership, Linda Lamitola spoke as to the camping proposal. Sought to obtain clarification as to the actual definition of what is "living quarters" and "setting up camp"? She feels this should be clarified before it comes up to a vote so there is no confusion as people are trying to cast their vote. A question was raised as to what would be the requirements for a generator use at a campsite? Although that is not clear now, it may be addressed as part of the required application process.

J. Nicholson spoke about the reasoning and/or benefit for the proposed additional lake water testing, questioned whether it is worth the additional costs and wondered if there are any current concerns with the lake water quality. Jay Cassella indicated that the tests are just for E.Coli and are to be conducted at the two deepest spots on the lake.

Laurel Hoynoski made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jay Cassella seconded the motion to adjourn at 7:56 PM. The motion passed unanimously.