

HLA Special Meeting held Monday 8/28/23. The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Vice President Brian Polak. A motion to accept the bylaw proposal for review and vote was made by Laurel Hoynoski and 2nd by Cynthia Porriello. All Board members were in attendance except President Jay Cassella.

Members In Attendance eligible to vote: Dora Ramsey, Mary Damico, Anthony Grandazzo, Sandra Kiehm, Heather Edelson, Bennet Chotiner, Frank Termini, Lloyd Pearson, Alan Howell, Cynthia Porriello, Vanessa Lenart, Sheri Berger, Carianne Lirot, Mary-Beth Russo, Betty Barsevich, Laurel Hoynoski, David Chalifoux, Robert Archer, Linda Lamitola, Eleanor Porriello, Frank Nunes, Michael Ferraiolo, Mary Shea, Barbara Delicata, Teresa Resnick, Shawn Wilson, Bruce Reynolds, James Nicholson, Robert Damico, David Wysocki, Brian Polak, Alan Stokke, Mark Soby

Non-Voters in attendance: Robert Kiehm, Sharon Howell, Jill Carey, Victoria Nicholson, Keha Esposito

The purpose of this special meeting was for a review of and a vote on amendments to Sections 41 and 48A of the HLA Bylaws. The Bylaw update requests were submitted by members James and Victoria Nicholson. The proposed language change as well as the current language was posted for member review. The proposal was also mailed out to the entire membership on 8/16/23, with a few notices sent on 8/17/23.

General Discussion was opened to comment as follows:

-Frank Nunes asked Mr. & Mrs. Nicholson to provide some further insight on the thought behind striking from the existing language a section calling for monitoring of fishing and compliance with fishing regulations. It was explained that fishing regulations are already addressed in Sec46 of the bylaws and as such this section is redundant.

-Keha Esposito wanted to make sure that Section 46 of the bylaws is currently enforceable as written. Was advised by Bob Kiehm that it is.

-Alan Stokke spoke about the large numbers of boats on the lake on 7/4/23 and his observation that many motorized vessels did not display the required stickers. He would like to see greater enforcement as a means to protect our lake. He also spoke to the need to develop a way to enforce our bylaws with the many people he sees wheeling in boats through the beaches / launches.

-James Nicholson raised concerns to multiple gasoline powered boats seen on lake in violation of bylaws limiting motors to battery operated. One incident involved a non-member who was believed to be taking a member's boat off the lake.

-Shawn Wilson indicated he was the victim of the attempted boat theft, indicated the boat was recovered thanks to member vigilance.

-David Chalifoux spoke further on the thought behind updating the language of Sec48A. Said there's been an evolving philosophy over the last 6 years or so along with greater scientific understanding about our particular lake needs as a result of surveys and studies conducted. The professionals we've been hiring recommend the lowest frequency and level of draw downs as possible for the best lake ecosystem health.

-Mark Soby expressed concern that the new proposed length of draw down is not sufficient to perform the necessary work that may be necessary on members lakefronts which can include docks / seawalls / vegetation.

-Alan Stokke spoke to applaud regulating the drawdown but disagrees with the limit on the number of days as he feels it is unwise as it ties the Association hands by not allowing any leeway.

-James Nicholson indicated that the 16 day limit only begins once the water reaches the low level mark but work can begin before that level and can continue once the gates close and water rises over the following several additional days. The professionals have cautioned us about the accelerated adverse effects of erosion and vegetation death while water tables are drawn down. Our consultants have spoken with a unanimous voice on this matter. He expressed that the associations mission is the health of our shared lake and not the individual's needs as it pertains to their individual docks / walls.

-Teresa Resnick feels the 16days are sufficient, especially if members take advantage of the advanced notice given to plan ahead with helpers, materials or contractors if needed.

-Linda Lamitola supports the new drawdown proposals but disagrees with the way they are written as she also feels it does not allow the Association enough flexibility. She appreciates the science behind the recommendations but also thinks its not 100% black or white and flexibility is always beneficial. She wants the ability to make adjustments in real time by BOG. She further stated in her 35 years on the lake she's never know of a fish kill due to lowering the lake.

-Shawn Wilson agrees more flexibility should be available rather than locking in such rigid limits.

-David Chalifoux indicated he believes that in 1996 it was necessary to restock the lake of fish due to implications from a lengthy lake drawdown.

-Victoria Nicholson added that the proposed suggestion are based on the recommendations of our hired experts and should not be based on our layperson opinions and or desires and needs. We must lower the lake as little as absolutely

necessary and for as short a period as absolutely necessary. The residents' individual needs come second to the lake's needs.

-Robert Archer Jr. indicated he's been fishing here since 1984 and he's definitely noticed a decrease in the fish size and quality, especially since the dam repairs work was done years ago. He feels we must listen to the science.

-Mary Shea is concerned about the implication of weather on the timing of the drawdown, and the inability to make adjustments based on that. Bob Kiehm indicated that something like a storm coming in could be addressed by the BOG under the Emergency clause.

-Laurel Hoynoski spoke about members considering their maintenance work needs as those on the ocean (who don't have a way to draw down) do. There are ways around it, such as a "dry dock" or other interventions.

Voting was conducted by private written ballot, and tallied jointly by multiple BOG and Association members. The vote results are as follow:

Section 41 - Motion carries with a vote of 31 in favor and 2 against

Section 48A - Motion carries with a vote of 27 in favor and 6 against

The Special meeting was adjourned at 6:43pm on a motion by Heather Edelson and a 2nd by Laurel Hoynoski.