

Ann Lake Property Owners' Association Board Meeting Minutes

August 2, 2022

I. Call to Order: 10 AM. Terry wishes to keep the meeting on topic. He will deviate from usual format, having guests present their proposals from the Annual Meeting first. He invites feedback on both topics.

II. Roll Call of Officers and Board:

President	Terry Sowers	Present
Vice President	Kent Taylor	Present
Treasurer	Kathy Garmes-Taylor	Present
Secretary	Maggie Sowers	Present
Member at Large	Dave Maxson	Present
Member at Large	Sven Anderson	Present
Member at Large	Craig Timm	Present
Member at Large	Jeff Dahlberg	Present
Member at Large	Val Dahlberg	Present
Guest	Lisa Meneau	Present
Guest	Lindsey Meneau	Present

III. New Business:

1. Lindsey Meneau presented a proposal for ALPOA to have a Facebook Page. This would be in addition to our webpage. Its a good way to stay up to date on our activities and communicate between ourselves. She noted that younger persons are more likely to use Facebook to learn of current events. She enumerated items that could be put on face book. She is willing to create a group or page, either private or public for ALPOA. She has several ideas about how this can be used to our benefit. Lisa Meneau noted that several people at the Annual Meeting stated they were not aware of ALPOA activities. Lindsey volunteered to manage the page, noting that she uses Facebook daily. Discussion followed.

- ALPOA official documents such as reports, history and links to other websites must stay on our website.
- It is possible to post permanent information such as boating rules. The two are not incompatible and we can have both.
- Public vs. Private is a decision for the board to discuss further.
- There is concern about undesirable posting such as harassment and threats.

- A few have had bad experiences with Facebook and are opposed to the idea.
- Lindsey thinks it is possible for everyone on the board to be an administrator.
- Access to the site can be restricted, information we post can also be restricted or limited.
- A Facebook site can be removed if it gets out of control.

Terry and Jeff moved, “Lindsey will create a private group Facebook site as a test for the board to trial. “Craig seconded. Aye 8, Nay 1.

2. Lisa Meneau presented a proposal for improving membership. We should consider a tiered membership structure that allows a more open membership. She notes there are many folks who do not reside on the lake who care about Ann Lake. She lists private citizens, local realtors, landlords and local business as examples. Lisa suggests we construct a tiered membership. Incentive to become a member of ALPOA has been a frequent point of discussion for our board. This dovetails into our status as a 501c4 or 501c3. Discussion to follow.

IV. Approval of Minutes from last meeting:

Dave moves approval of the minutes from the annual meeting as corrected for the spelling of Legeret. Kent seconded. All in favor.

V. Report of Officers:

President: Terry has no report and wishes to move to the information about 501c3.

Vice President: Kent has no report

Treasurer: Kathy has no report

Secretary: Maggie has no report

VI. Report of Standing Committees:

Communications:

Government: Craig has no report. He has resigned as President of Lake Ann the village.

Nominating and Membership: Dave moved **We only have 4 members at large for next year and he nominates Terry Sowers as Member at Large starting in 2023 for 1 year. Seconded Jeff. Unanimous AYE.”**

Events: Sven reports there were about 31 participants in the Boat Parade. The new winner photos are already at the Lake Ann Brewery. He plans to mail the photos of last year’s winners to them. Kathy is working on posting this year’s winners on the website. See addendum below for more details.

Newsletter: Val collects information for the Newsletter all year.

Website: Kathy is working with Scott but he has been very busy so it has difficult to get together.

Environmental:

Invasive Species: Kent's report is attached as an addendum below. In addition we will be doing a random survey of how many boat trailers are at the Ann Lake launch. We are attempting to get an estimate of the lake usage. The annual PLM survey is to be performed August 4, 2022.

Loons: We are still blessed with one chick, no additional report.

Water Quality: Usual measurements are still being done. No change. Concerns about PFAS from a member have been investigated. The testing, as done by our local lab, is \$350. The lab estimated a very low probability as there is no source for PFAS in our vicinity. Dave will write a brief summary in a broadcast email. This brought about a discussion regarding broadcast email see new business #6.

VII. Old Business: Kathy and Jeff met yesterday. We must decided if we want to be a 501c3 or a 501c4. There is not much difference between the two. They also learned there is no documented record of ALPOA as a 501c4 with the IRS. Dave suggests we ask Sarah Thompson about this as she was the legal authority that created ALPOA. Information they have gathered so far:

- A 501c3 allows tax deductions for donations.
- A 501c4 is allowed to lobby (which was previously questioned).
- If you want to be recognized as a 501c3 by the IRS it will cost \$2000.
- An annual income of \$50,000 mandates a 501c3 status.
- If you want to be approved as a 501c3 it cost \$275. Green/Duck Lake are only approved as they do not have the required income.
- Approval of a 501c4 costs \$50 annually.
- Both a 501c3 and a 501c4 can apply for grants.
- A 501c3 requires the membership be open to anyone.

Discussion:

- A deductible donation will only matter to individual citizens. It will not matter to businesses.
- It may be easier for us to apply for a 501c3 status in the event we should receive a large donation.
- As this is unlikely, obtaining 501c4 status is relatively easy and should cover our needs. Going from a 501c4 to a 501c3 is a lengthy process and we could be

working on this in the background, just in case a large donation is anticipated. This would require a change in our by-laws.

- We can still open the membership to all.
- Why would anyone want to join, pay dues and have no voting rights? There are intangible benefits.

Jeff moved, “We move forward to get recognized as a 501c4”. Dave seconded. All in favor. The treasurer is responsible for this. It will be either Kathy or Dave depending on their term of office.

Kathy states we need to distribute any proposed changes to the bylaws, such as allowing non-riparian members, shall be sent to members at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. A vote on by law changes will take place at the annual meeting. We will need to update our bylaws to comply with changes in membership. Jeff suggests a committee be formed to review current bylaws and amend the bylaws to address current membership requirements. Val, Jeff, Dave, Kent and Maggie volunteered to serve on this new committee. Val will chair. The goal is to have any by law change proposal ready for a vote at the next annual meeting in June 2023.

Val wants to have this committee report back to the board with initial work at our September 10, 2022 meeting. She will schedule the first meeting within the next few days.

VIII. New Business cont:

3. Terry asked for feedback on the annual meeting.

- There was a surprising amount of enthusiasm for the work our board is doing.
- Pleased with turn out and discussion. Best meeting ever.
- What are other ideas for guest speakers.
 - a landscape specialist talk about greenbelt design to make it not only functional but beautiful. Planned landscaping.
 - cottage ownership from the legal standpoint.
 - cottage insurance.
 - swimmers itch.
- This brought about discussion about committees and how they were formed. There is no Health and Safety Committee at this time.

4. Kathy moves ‘We continue our DBA for \$20 and keep it for another 5 years. The primary purpose is to allow donations for Lake Preservation Fund and not “ALPOA”. Seconded Terry. Unanimous AYE”

5. Terry thanked everyone for their input on the opinion letter he sent to the Benzie Record Patriot on behalf of ALPOA. Kent remarked it was a wonderful exercise in communication between Board members.

6. All agree that topics to be used for Email “Blasts” should be approved by the board.

IX. Meeting Adjourned: 11:50 AM.

X. Addendum

1. Notes from the Invasive Species Meeting 7/27/22

Thanks to all that were able to attend our committee meeting this past Sunday. I felt was a productive get together especially given an open and full agenda. I would like the committee to comment on my recollections and ensure I did not miss anything important to anyone. I will then prepare our minutes for the board. My summary of the meeting’s decisions and discussion are as follows:

1. With so much uncertainty concerning establishing a boat wash station at the landing, it was decided that before we move much further we get a sense of the problem we are addressing. It was determined that a survey needs to be conducted of the launch usage. This can be as simple as a quick drive though the boat launch area and count the trailers parked there. We did not determine who should do this and how often.
2. Purple Loosestrife eradication from our shoreline remains a popular program for us and one that is being managed loosely by committee boaters who locate and report suspect locations for closer examination. Sven has been especially helpful here and we hope he continues to do so but this, in my opinion, needs to be a collective collaboration. What we need is a central reporting point where our observations are logged. I am wondering if Sven would be willing to be that central contact point since he is finding most sites already? How we do this, via phone, text or email would be his or whomever else’s decision.

3. Education of our community on invasive plants/shoreline maintenance and a tie-in to Lake Ann Days participation also seemed very important to the committee. Maggie and Bobbie offered to spearhead this effort with the able assistance of all committee members when educational events are scheduled, such as Lake Ann Days. Bobbie also volunteered to review the material we've already published on our website concerning invasive plants for clarity and relevance to our mission.
4. Preparation for the day we discover a suspect invasive aquatic weed were widely viewed as important. Verification protocols and process need to be refreshed. We need to collect what we already know about the steps normally taken by lakes when they need to begin treatments and start the process of establishing a Special Assessment District or S.A.D. Kent and Diane have agreed to lead on this project. We have both the collected information and experience to offer, which should prove helpful. We will also seek to learn as much as possible from Green/Duck Lake Association which has recently been through this and has shown a willingness to help with such things.
5. "Outreach" was a generally well received topic within this group but was never fully defined nor assigned. One concept was agreed upon; this topic is best addressed at the board, rather than committee level. Outreach has many aspects including education, government relations, contact with other lake associations, to name but a few. There was one type we can look at as a committee brought up by Diane. This involved educating landlords on informing renters about the importance of washing their boats. Diane has offered to talk with two such landlords she knows and 'see how it goes' as we decide our best methods for doing this. She may need some boat stickers if she didn't grab some already, they are a handy conversation starter.
6. Finally, we were rightfully disturbed by the presence of Eurasian Milfoil in nearby Herendeene Lake. By coincidence, it seems that Don has a contact on that lake which is significant since there are very few houses on the lake and no lake association of which we are aware. Don says he will reach out to that person and see what if anything they are doing about it and if signage on their launch would be welcome and effective. This contact is important if we are going to try and arrange some signage placement there so as to avoid cross-contamination with our or other nearby lakes.

2. 1st prize went to Rhonda and Randy Davis with their cartoon theme of the Minions. They received a large floating tube+tow rope and gift certificate to Lake Ann Brewery (LAB) for a growler of beer and a LAB T-shirt. 2nd prize went to Sven and Janece Anderson with their boat decorated as “Dumbo, the Flying Elephant”. They received a Lake Ann Bread Lady certificate for 1 loaf bread/mth for the whole year, and a Papa J’s \$30 gift card. 3rd prize went to the Wolfe family boat decorated in the “Moana “movie theme. They received a Lake Ann Red Door gift card for \$25, a Red Door mug, a pound of ground coffee and 5 free cones for Corner Cone.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maggie Sowers, Secretary