

Lake Raponda Association

Minutes of the August 14, 2021, Annual Meeting--DRAFT

Will Melton, president, called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. at the home of Bob and Carol Bois, 23 Stearns Avenue. Will introduced special guests Marie Caduto, Agency of Natural Resources Watershed Coordinator for southeastern Vermont, and Cory Ross, district manager, Windham Conservation District. New member Peter MacBride, 361 Lake Raponda Road, introduced himself.

Clerk's report. The clerk's report of the July 11, 2021, Stated Meeting was accepted.

Treasurer's report. Michaelanne Widness reported that receipts for the year Aug 1, 2020, to July 31, 2021, came to \$3471.33, disbursements were \$8688.28, current balance in LRA account is \$9366.71. For further details, see <https://raponda.org/association.html>.

Will acknowledged Alan Baker, who maintains our website and the Raponda Little Library, for his many contributions.

Melton noted that there are two upcoming field programs: Identifying Terrestrial Invasive Plants with Pieter van Loon on Sep 11 and Birds of Raponda with Cory Ross on Sep 25. These and other events for 2021, our one hundredth anniversary summer, were funded by a grant from VT DEC, Dept of Fish and Wildlife.

Dues increase. We hope to offer similar programs in the future. To do so, we will need more of a financial cushion. By vote of the LRA Trustees, dues for 2022 will increase by 50 percent, to \$60 if paid by June 30, \$75 thereafter. Members' program suggestions are welcome.

Fish and Game Committee. As Randy Knaggs has moved away, Will reported for the committee and referred to the report emailed to members. By Zoom the LRA has presented a program on bears and one on loons. Both are available at the LRA website.

Roads and Property Committee. Ben Schlatka had no material updates since the July meeting. The work on Stearns Avenue is progressing. He commended Bob Brody who was sighted picking up trash along Lake Raponda Road.

Social Committee. Beth Brody had several things to report.

For our entry in the Old Home Week parade, a big thank you to the Watsons who loaned their "new" 1950 Vermont-green Chevrolet pickup that served as the LRA float, featuring accordion favorites played by Randy Fayon, and to those who marched in the parade--also those who greeted them along the route. The LRA parade entry received third place in the neighborhood entry division, bested only by the local Boy Scout troop and Wilmington Youth Baseball.

The new logo was designed by Jess Cronin; it was adopted by member voice vote and is ours to use. In 2022, oval car stickers with the logo will go out to members.

Beth could use help setting up and cleaning up for the meetings. Please consider signing up when she sends out the notice in June 2022.

Several people have expressed interest in a starting a garden club. There will be an initial meeting on Sep 3 at the Brody's. It is not a ladies-only group.

Beth thanked the Boises for hosting the meeting, and Will for his years of service as president.

Meetings for 2022 are: **Stated Meeting on July 10**, hosted by Ann and Peter Loughran, 123 West Lake Road, **Annual Meeting on August 13**, hosted by Chessia and Peter McBride, 361 Lake Raponda Road.

Water and Boating Committee. John Meyer would like to expand the committee. Email him at raponda@gmail.com if you are interested. John gave a full report at the July meeting. For that report and also the Roads and Properties report, see <https://raponda.org/association.html>.

In response to a question about the status of 2019 wake boat legislation, a bill in the legislature did not advance and has not been presented since. The matter remains an open question with research underway through the Agency of Natural Resources and others.

Cindy Meyers added: Please pump your septic tank every 3 to 5 years.

Bob Bois reported on several things.

The Greeter Program, a coordinated effort of the town, state, and regional watershed district is in its fifth year. There will be greeters on duty until sometime in September.

Health of the beach. The town samples the water weekly. Last summer there were some elevated the E. coli bacterial readings, this year the levels have been lower.

Blue-green algae is back. Last year there was a bloom (larger algae activity) cited by the town as a minor health threat. No bloom thus far this year. The state inspected the lake last week and found none, perhaps because there had been a lot of rain. Do not swim in algae collections and pets should be prevented by drinking lake water when algae are present in the area.

Special guest Marie Caduto, Vermont conservation professional, spoke, complimenting LRA members on the many things they have done in recent years: water quality monitoring, educational programming with the Center for Ecostudies and entomologists, efforts to slow sediment runoff into the lake, partnerships with town and state on Greeter Program, The outreach of LRA has been incredible. The work we do as stewards of Lake Raponda reflects the value we place on the lake.

Jack Widness spoke about the Lake Wise Program, a state program that evaluates properties and suggests low-costs ways of improving plantings near the lake in the interest of slowing and reducing runoff. As a shallow lake, this effort is vital. Today five more properties were evaluated; two of them achieved Lake Wise awards. The lake will achieve gold status when 15 percent of surrounding properties achieve awards; we are almost there.

A-1 Initiative Committee. Committee chair Ann Loughran noted that we approached this project as interested skeptics and have now had one and a half months of conversations about the initiative. There is a lot of information available on the LRA website, including a video of the second Zoom conversation with Oliver Pierson, director of the State's Lakes and Ponds program.

In the coming weeks the committee will be sending out a survey to members, to get everyone's input and inform our decision as to whether we wish to go ahead with an application (petition) for reclassification of Raponda from "B2" (average water quality) to "A1" (exceptional water quality). Ann assured members that A1 status has no impact on Use of Public Water rules, which protect boating rights. Only a small percentage of phosphorus is caused by normal boating activity on most lakes. The greater source of lake phosphorus is watershed runoff. Any state recommendation to limit phosphorus runoff from land would be voluntary under an A1

management program. Reclassification as an A1 lake would give Raponda priority access to State funding for remediation if phosphorus levels rise significantly.

Bob Brody on insurance. The LRA, formerly primarily a social organization, has become a more active group in the past five years. Given current activities of LRA, it would be in our best interest to seek coverage. For example, we are liable for the behavior of the greeters, who are paid in part by money donated by LRA members. He noted that the cost of a policy was equivalent to 2-3 hours of a lawyer's time and was well worth the investment.

After a motion to proceed with purchasing liability and directors/officers insurance, the membership voted its support.

LRA posters developed for Old Home Week. The posters developed by Will Melton for the Wilmington Wall for Old Home Week will be posted at raponda.org. If you would like a high-resolution pdf of the four posters, please send an email to: will.melton@mac.com.

Nominating Committee and Elections. Carol Bois presented the slate for the Nominating Committee and provided some background. Every other year, in odd-numbered years, the members vote on nominations presented by the committee. According to the by-laws, election will be at the Annual Meeting and by Roberts Rules of Order. The by-laws allow for special meetings to be held by video conferencing, but not for electronic or proxy voting; elections must be in person at the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee presented the slate to the Trustees, who voted to accept it. It follows:

2021 Board Proposed Slate of Nominees

OFFICERS

President:	Bob Bois (current Vice President)
Vice President:	Ann Loughran
Treasurer:	Michaelanne (Mike) Widness
Clerk:	Andrea Glenn

Standing Committee Chairs

Social & Welfare:	Beth Brody
Roads & Property:	Ben Schlatka
Water & Boating:	John Meyer
Fish & Game:	Andrew Adams

This year there was increased interest in running for office. Nominations were taken from the floor: Chessia McBride for clerk, Tammy Adams for treasurer. Both Chessia and Tammy spoke of their qualifications and experience. Comments were offered that complained of the lack of hard copy mailed notices about meetings and important topics, and about the need for profiles, posted in advance, for all nominations for the officer and trustee positions.

The slate of uncontested offices was voted and unanimously accepted, followed by individual votes for the offices of clerk and treasurer, with raised hands counted. Andrea Glenn was elected as clerk; Michaelanne Widness was re-elected as treasurer.

By-laws. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to study and revise the by-laws.

Will Melton ended the meeting, and his term as president, with a song to Lake Raponda.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza Childs, Clerk

2022 meeting dates

Sunday, July 10, 10 a.m.
Saturday, August 13, 4 p.m.