

The Lake Raponda Association, Inc.
Minutes of Trustees' Meeting, August 8, 2021

In attendance: Will Melton (President), Bob Bois (Vice President), Eliza Childs (Clerk), Michaelanne Widness (Treasurer); after 2, John Meyer (Water & Boating)

Absent: Beth Brody (Social & Welfare), Bob Brody, Ben Schlatka (Roads & Property), Andrea Glenn (Clerk-to-be)

Guests: Carol Bois, chair of Nominating Committee; Tom Laughlin, president of LREF; Ann Loughran, chair of A1 Initiative Committee

The meeting, held by Zoom, began at 1:00.

Will Melton called the meeting to order. He shared that the LRA entry in the Old Home Week parade received third place in the community organization category. Poster boards on LRA history, assembled by Will, were included in the Wilmington Wall display.

Algae on the lake. Bob Bois reported on the intermittent appearance of blue-green algae. Some marginal growth being pushed around the lake. The town beach and the boat launch area have been closed once. The cooler water temperatures and low phosphorous numbers have impeded its growth. Don't let pets drink lake water. Signs have gone up banning dogs from the beach. E coli levels are low. Bob is the point person on algae growth.

LREF. Tom Laughlin reported on LREF. The last meeting of LREF board was on June 29; it will meet again after LRA Annual Meeting.

A1 Initiative. Ann Loughran reported on the evolving situation with the A1 Initiative. She and Will are scheduled to Zoom with Oliver Pierson on Aug 8, after which Ann will send out to the membership a page listing Positive and Negatives, a link to the article on phosphorous loading in Vt. lakes. These can be stepping off points for the Aug 12 Zoom information session with Oliver Pierson. We will make this Zoom a conversation, allowing people to express their views. The importance of listening to others and of being perceived as neutral was emphasized.

Ann will reach out to other lakes, Maidstone and Caspian, that are considering the A1 Initiative. Six lakes are being considered for A1 status; Raponda is the only one south of Ludlow. We will postpone a vote by the membership on this topic. Instead, we will survey the membership, soliciting thoughts and ideas. Speed is not a priority; getting it right is. This initiative is about water quality; it does not affect fishing or boating.

Tom and Ann left the meeting at 1:45.

Nominating Committee. Carol Bois reported for the Nominating Committee. Carol presented the slate. Please see Nominating Committee report for details. The slate was passed as presented with one abstention.

Only members who have paid dues can vote, 2 votes per property. The bylaws of LRA do not allow for remote voting at this time.

LREF president as member of LRA board. Will presented the idea of adding the LREF president to the LRA board, to increase communication between the two groups. It was decided to add the LREF president as a nonvoting, liaison member.

Liability insurance update. Will has been in touch with two agents. One has given him an application. The application notes that it will cover only 501 3(c) organizations for general liability. The other organization has not gotten back to Will. We agreed that we should go forward with this process; it is important if we can find a carrier.

Dues increase. Will proposed an increase of 50 percent (to \$60 if paid by June 30, \$75 thereafter) of the current dues (now \$40/\$50). The increase will help cover the cost of liability insurance and also help fund outreach programs, such as those of the past two years, which were covered by state grants. The motion passed unanimously.

Charitable gifts for 2021. In the past LRA has made gifts of \$100/each to Pettee Memorial Library, Deerfield Valley Rescue, and Deerfield Valley Health. Will recommended adding a \$100 donation to the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, which has been working on the loon project. The motion to make these four gifts passed unanimously.

Agenda for Annual Meeting.

- Beth Brody will report for the Social Committee.
- John Meyer of Water and Boating has nothing to add to his July report.
- Bob Brody will report on liability insurance.
- The Nominating Committee will present its slate.
- Will Melton will notify members of dues increase.

Meeting dates for 2022. Stated Meeting will be on **July 10, 2022**, the Annual Meeting on **August 13, 2022**. In the future we may wish to have a total of three meetings: two business meetings and one social meeting. Mike proposed that we consider having one of the business meetings by Zoom, to increase attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Eliza Childs, Clerk