

Adirondack Lakes Alliance

ALA Meeting Notes from September 30, 2014 in Horicon Town Hall Brant Lake, NY

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 AM by Ed Griesmer, who briefly reviewed the agenda for the day. John Snyder agreed to take the notes for the meeting.

Ed Griesmer noted that at the prior meeting on August 21st the group reviewed, edited and approved the ALA Mission Statement. He also noted the work group meeting on Sep 19th when the draft By Laws were drawn up. He stated that the review and approval of the draft By Laws were the primary agenda item for today's meeting. To start the meeting Ed Griesmer introduced our guest speaker, Assemblyman Dan Stec from Queensbury, representing the 114th Assembly District.

Assemblyman Stec gave a brief commentary on his background, including his education and involvement in politics at the Town, County and now at the State level. He noted his awareness of the issues around Aquatic Invasive Species and his familiarity with how ADK lakes are trying to manage the problems. Stec noted two pieces of legislation passed by NY State this past legislative session, and he was co-sponsor for both of these bills in the Assembly.

In the first new law, Senator Betty Little sponsored the bill to require the DEC to place signs at all boat launches warning the public about the dangers of AIS and the importance of boat cleaning.

The second new law, the NYS "AIS Transport Law", effectively prohibits the transport of AIS in New York. Dirty boats can be fined. This is the first, and vital, step in building a comprehensive statewide program for the prevention, management and control of AIS. The law gives many organizations, local governments, lake associations, among others, an important tool for stopping the spread of AIS. This new state law may foster replication of the Lake George and Loon Lake models across the Adirondacks and across the state.

Assemblyman Stec noted that funding for the implementation of the new laws is a big issue. There is no good funding plan for AIS yet, but the Environmental Protection Fund may be one source that could be considered. New York State needs to put in money, as well as Counties, Towns, Villages and other local groups and organizations.

Special Taxing Districts were also cited as sources for local government to pursue in funding AIS control and prevention programs. Stec gave some details about his experience in the Town of Queensbury helping to establish a Special Taxing District at Glen Lake to help manage AIS there.

Assemblyman Stec took questions and gave some advice on the issues of AIS, funding, etc. There was a lengthy discussion about various taxing examples used now, such as the "Bed Tax", the Loon Lake "Park District", and the tax district at Schroon Lake for the dam. He offered some guidelines in how Special Taxing Districts may determine who may be included: Those benefitted by the district must be in; those not benefitted need not be included. Waterfront properties may share a greater burden than those with lake access only; Towns must also share in the costs if there are Public Launch facilities for those not living on the lake, or even if there are Car Top Only access sites. Nobody should get a free ride on AIS control. Towns may need to establish Special Taxing Districts for each different lake in their area, rather than one district to cover all lakes.

Following Assemblyman Stec's presentations, the regular ALA meeting began to review and comment on the draft By Laws for ALA.

Ed Griesmer explained the background of the organizational design: ALA as a parent group for other Lake Associations; ALA's Executive Committee working on day to day activities of the ALA; ADKS divided up into 5 Regions with 2 ALA regional Directors from each Region; ALA with at least one Annual Meeting.

Ed noted the draft By Laws were pulled together by a work group on Sep 19th. He suggested that the draft By Laws would be discussed, in order, with an opportunity for all to make comments and suggestions on the entire document before voting to approve them.

Before discussions on the By Laws began, Mark Granger noted that it was important the ALA decide whether the organization would be incorporated as a Private Not For Profit organization or not, since it would be easier to deal with it now rather than later. He recommended that this should be decided soon.

ALA By Laws Review-

Article I - Members

Section 1 – Whether a Lake Association from “outside the Blue Line” could be a member? It was decided that only ADK based Lake Associations would be eligible. However, other neighboring Lake Associations could be “Associate Members” as noted in Section 2 – non-voting members. (No change is needed.)

Section 2 – Associate Members – non-voting Associate Members may contribute to ALA (in many ways) but are not required to pay dues or fees. (No change is needed.)

Section 3 - No change is needed.

Section 4 – Annual Dues – There should be 2 classes of dues – for Lake Associations and for Individual Members – to be determined by Executive Committee. (No change is needed.)

Article II – Meetings of Members

Section 1 – edit to state: “There shall be ten (10) regional directors, two (2) elected from each of the five (5) defined regions, A through E, within the Adirondack Park.” ...

Regional Director versus Regional Coordinator? Regional Director was preferred by a majority of attendees. Section 2 – No change is needed.

Section 3 - At end state: “Executive Committee meetings are open and all ALA members may attend.” Electronic attendance at Executive Committee meetings? O.K.

Section 4 – No changes needed.

Section 5 – Re word: “Annual Meeting. There shall be at least one Annual Meeting of the ALA, at a time, date, and location to be determined by the Executive Committee. The purpose of the Annual Meeting will be to conduct the business of the organization and to elect the Executive Director, Officers and Regional Directors. As necessary, there may be additional ALA meetings. Notice of all ALA meetings stating date, time, and location shall be sent to all ALA members at least 21 days in advance of such meeting. An exception may be given for any Emergency Meeting, if needed. The ALA Annual Meeting will be held in early summer to allow participation by a majority of ALA members. (No additional changes are needed.)

Article III - Directors

Section 1 – Re word: “There shall be ten (10) regional directors, two (2) from each of the five (5) defined regions. Each regional director shall be a member in good standing of a member lake association, and she (he) will be authorized by their lake association to make decisions on behalf of the member lake association. Regional directors shall serve a two year term.

Add New Section – Time for regional caucus at Annual Meeting to select regional directors.

Article IV - Officers

Section 1 - No changes needed.

Section 2 – No changes needed.

Section 3 – Vacancies. Change to “If a vacancy occurs, at the next meeting of the Executive Committee, they shall appoint...”

Article V – Duties of Officers

Section 1 through 4 - No changes needed.

Article VI – Terms of Offices

Section 1 – Add section to reflect ALA calendar year operation and summer elections with terms of office beginning January 1 of the year following election in the previous summer Annual Meeting.

Section 2 - No changes needed.

Article VII – Quorum, Voting

Section 1 – No changes needed.

Section 2 – At end of section add: “(A member may have no more than 1 proxy to vote on their behalf.)”

Section 3 – No changes needed.

Article VIII – Committees

Section 1 – In last sentence: “Standing committees shall be created or excused as necessary.”

Add Section 2 - A Nominating Committee will be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee shall meet at least 30 days before the ALA Annual Meeting and prepare a slate of candidates to be voted upon by the ALA membership at the Annual Meeting. Regional Directors will be elected by the Lake Associations from each defined region; time for special caucus sessions to elect the Regional Directors will be provided at the Annual Meeting.

Article IX – Amendments to the By-Laws

Section 1 – No changes needed.

ALA By Laws – Approval -

Following the revisions to the draft By Laws, a motion was made and seconded to approve the ALA By Laws as amended. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

Executive Committee – Interim appointments until Annual Meeting

Ed Griesmer asked attendees to vote on the proposal to appoint an interim Executive Committee.

The proposal was discussed, and members present were invited be included on the interim Executive Committee. The slate proposed after discussion was:

Executive Director – Edward Griesmer

Associate Executive Director – Jane Smith

Treasurer – Karen Meltzer

Secretary – John Snyder

A motion was made to accept the slate of officers for the interim Executive Committee and was seconded. The motion was voted on and approved by the members present.

Priority Issues for Lake Associations -

Ed Griesmer mentioned an upcoming meeting by SAVE. Ed was invited to attend to represent the ALA; several others present stated that they had not heard of the meeting and had not been invited.

The group mentioned the following priorities:

- Funding for AIS Control and prevention

- Strategies for combatting invasive species

- Establishing a Clearinghouse for information

Ed noted the release of the latest APPIP report on the Economic Impact of Invasives. Members were advised to get a copy and read it.

The meeting then closed.

Future Meeting Dates and locations:

ALA Meeting – Summer 2015 - Date, Time, Place to be determined

Interim Executive Committee meeting –

November 5th at 10:30AM at Ed Griesmer's home in Queensbury – 18 Hyde Court.

Please contact Ed if you plan to attend. (518 792 7862)