



Echoes from Our Lake

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
WALKER LAKESHORES LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION
MARCH 2021
VOLUME 151

President's Remarks

As I sit at my desk looking out on our frozen lake, I am hoping that the grip of winter is coming to an end! I am also looking forward to all that will need to be done as our spring and then summer arrives – items such as flowers and vegetables that will be on our minds soon, along with cleaning up from the winter storms, and moving all the leaves that have blown back on our property. Yes, we will be getting the house ready for warmer weather.

My focus for spring is to organize some volunteers to help with the clean-up at the clubhouse and the surrounding area, along with clean-up at the park and the area near the storage shed. We need to clean out the ditches and culverts so that we can direct the water run-off from the roads.

We will also be asking for help cleaning up the Dam spillway area and removing weeds and debris downstream of the dam. There are a number of additional chores to complete: we need to install three new signs at the community entrance, check all the street signs, and fix any other signs that need repair. I am hoping that we can get a good turnout of people to handle all these chores.

We're still looking for volunteers to become members of the Board of Directors for an interim year – "please step up and help".

I'm sure we'll find some other tasks that need attention as we approach the summer.

I hope everyone is doing fine. Please stay Safe & Well!

— John

We're about to conclude – but we need your help with this – the process of revising our Bylaws, a process that began some three years ago in response to the embezzlement of funds – a major setback for the Association. Our Directors have labored long and hard to get this revision "right." Your job is to acquaint yourselves with the changes and vote on them on March 20.

Call for Volunteers

CAN YOU VOLUNTEER TO HELP OUT?

PLEASE READ THIS AND THINK HARD ABOUT WHETHER YOU CAN SPARE THE TIME TO HELP IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNITY. WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

You don't have to be a Director to be on a committee. WLLA Committees are listed below. They could all use additional members.

- Finance
- Membership/Nominations/Elections
- Program/Youth
- Clubhouse
- Lake
- Road
- Planning
- Communication
- Rules and Regulations
- Security
- Rental
- Beach and Grounds



We need new Board of Directors members to serve in either interim positions until the new Board is seated in September and/or to run for the Board in the July elections. Board meetings are held the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. We have streamlined the meeting process such that they currently run 1 to 2 hours.

A Director must be a member in good standing, attend a minimum of nine Board meetings per year either in person or remotely and also join one committee. All Directors and Officers have a fiduciary responsibility to act in the best interests of the WLLA community.

If you're interested in volunteering, please send an email or note to the office and let us know your interests, work experience and how you'd like to help out. If you're interested in being on the Board, please send a letter of intent and a short resume to be reviewed by the current Board.

Any questions can be directed to the office email: wllassociation@gmail.com or phone 570-296-7788.

Please take note:

The community again requests property owners to clear ditches and culverts on their property borders with Association-maintained roads, so drainage flows freely alongside the roads and not on the roads. Thank you.

Revised Bylaws – Background & Voting Arrangements

A vote of the Walker Lake Shores Landowners Association Membership will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 9:00 am on a revised set of Bylaws. You must be a Member in Good Standing (dues paid) to attend and to vote.

The proposed revision combines our existing Constitution and Bylaws, Appendix II and Appendix III in our current printed version of our handbook, “the Red Book.” PA Planned Community Act recognizes Bylaws, not a Constitution, so our current documents are inconsistent with the Act that governs communities such as ours. Correcting these documents is only possible by following the amendment procedures for each of these sections. The bar is set high for successful adoption, requiring adoption by the board, then two votes of the membership, each with a 2/3 majority.

The book also requires updating with several amendments not incorporated in the existing printed version (current through 2008). We need to replenish our supply of printed copies so it will make good sense to print updated ones.

Here is an overview of the process:

- The process was started by simply combining the text of the 2 existing documents.
- Amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws since 2008 (the date of print of our current book) were then researched and incorporated.
- The 2019 Bylaws Proposal was reviewed with several points incorporated (for example: votes for officers, no multiple offices, reduction of board size from 15 directors to a total of 11 including the executive officers, annual external audits...).
- The Rules and Regulations Committee then reviewed everything, word by word. Clarification was added as deemed necessary based on wordage or understanding of situations (for example: the definition of member was updated, the language describing our voting process was rewritten for clarity, Beach & Grounds was added as a standing committee...).
- Once finalized at the committee level, the document was presented to the Board of Directors. Feedback was incorporated.
- The Board took this document up at its Oct, Nov, and January meetings, voting in the affirmative at its January session to advance it to membership.
- A Special Meeting of the General Membership will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 9:00am to conduct the first vote of the membership. A 2/3 majority vote of members present is necessary to advance to the second vote.
- The second vote will be of all members, voting by mail or otherwise delivered written ballot, at the beginning of the 9:00 am May General Membership meeting.

The proposed revision is posted on our website, www.walkerlake.com under the Rules & Regs committee tab. For more detailed information about this proposal, see the supplemental documents, the “Constitution and Bylaws Combined: Method of Development” and “Constitution Bylaws Combined v9 11-21-2020 with change tracing,” also posted.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the vote will be held by zoom. Members are encouraged to attend by zoom if at all possible. Simply request an invitation from the office by emailing your request to wlassociation@gmail.com. You will receive a reply with a link for this important session.

For those who can't attend by zoom, a limited number of attendees will be accommodated at the Clubhouse. You must make a reservation with the Office to attend in person and you must adhere to all covid-19 guidelines of maintaining social distancing and wearing a mask. The number that can be accommodated at the Clubhouse will be dictated by the restrictions imposed at the time by the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Please vote!!



Membership Fee

When deciding whether or not to pay the optional \$50 Membership Fee, please keep in mind that, in addition to the right to use the beaches, boat landing, tennis court, picnic areas, community events, etc., you may also become part of WLLA's governing body, stand for election, serve on committees, participate in meetings and VOTE!!! Please remember -- the tennis court is open to members only.

If you want your voice heard regarding WLLA decision-making, you must be a Member in Good Standing as per page 7 of the Red Book.

Winter Storms Melt Road Budget

“This winter season has been, by far, the mildest one as I can remember in my twenty years of living here at Walker Lake. While we never had a deep frost, we had enough freeze - thaw cycles coupled with a lot of rain which has caused a number of a new potholes throughout community.” —That was the opening paragraph of my article in the March 2020 Newsletter. **Oh, what a difference a year makes!**

This winter has not been so kind. An early snowstorm in November, followed by some snow and heavy rains in December combined with an average year’s worth of snow in February has directly impacted the WLLA 2021 road budget.

The December rain storms around Christmas caused major erosion on several of the gravel roads off Birch Road. To fix these and to work towards eliminating future erosion issues we made improvements to some of these roads including raising the roadbed and making sure the roads were crowned so water would drain properly. We also added a new culvert pipe at the corner of Erie and Birch to carry the water under Erie into a ditch runoff and not over and down Erie Road, which has caused erosion issues for years but none to the extent of the December storm. The cost for the work and the three hundred (300) tons of stone we added to the roads came to \$13,425.

Then, the snow started and seemed like it never wanted to stop. To me it seemed like it snowed every day of the first three weeks of February. According to WLLA resident and retired National Weather Service meteorologist David Vonderheide, Walker Lake has received 73 inches of snow this season through February, with 44 inches coming in February alone. Normal average snowfall in February is 10 inches. Normal for the entire winter season, based on a 30-year average, would be around 34 inches.

The number of times it snowed as well as the amount of snow we received were a double whammy on our road budget. First, because of the numerous small events, we had to spread more winter materials (salt and anti-skid), which meant that we used almost the entire \$8,500 we budgeted for the entire year for material. Keep in mind as I write this, we still have the rest of this season and the beginning of next season to contend with within the parameters of this year’s budget.



Newly raised roadbed and new culvert at Erie and Birch

The second part of the whammy was the abundance of snow received without any snow melt due to temperatures not being above freezing. As many probably noticed, the roads became very narrow as the size of the plows we contract for could not push the snow any further back or any higher. This even happens on highways, where, to make more room, the

crews must either use a wing plow or, and/or a bucket loader to move the snow to make more room. *

Knowing there was still more winter to come with the possibility of more heavy snow, we had to make room for more snow using a backhoe with tire chains and an 11-foot heavy duty road plow, along with additional plow truck to “mop up” behind the backhoe. This cost an additional \$6,000.

The one bright spot in those expenditures was that we did improve several of the gravel roads off Birch and we did add the new culvert pipe at Erie.

With the unexpected but necessary expenditures, we will have less money to do major road improvements this summer. The clear, first priorities will be getting the gravel roads regraded and potholes patched, and patching potholes on the asphalt roads.

Once those first objectives are accomplished, the Road Committee will size up what’s left in the budget and then we and the Board will make decisions as to where we go from there. Please check the monthly Road Committee reports found on the website; we’ll update you further in the June newsletter.

— Michael DeVita, WLLA Road Committee Chair

*** Important Note: See the February 2021 Road Committee report on the Walker Lake website for more information and why the decision was made to move the snow making more room.**

PROPOSED BYLAWS REVISION

IMPORTANT VOTE DATES:

#1 - Saturday, March 20, 2021 9:00 a.m. via zoom

Proposed Bylaws vote of members in attendance at a special session of the General Membership.

Limited seating will be available at the Clubhouse by reservation only for those who cannot attend by zoom.

This is a vote of all members in attendance – PLEASE ATTEND & VOTE!

#2 – May 15, 2020 9:00 a.m. (location/zoom TBD)

General Membership Meeting.

This vote is for all members, voting by mail or otherwise delivered written ballot.

Making Good Trouble

The story of how Peter Staley, a Walker Lake resident since 2005 and an AIDS activist who, to use a phrase coined by the late Congressman John Lewis, has been “making good trouble” since the 1980s, developed a deep friendship with with Dr. Anthony Fauci, chief medical advisor to President Biden, is fascinating. It starts with Peter’s maternal grandfather.

James Rhyne Killian Jr. (1904 – 1988) was the 10th president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and, in 1957, became Science Advisor to President Dwight Eisenhower. Following the Soviet Union’s launch of the Sputnik satellites in late 1957, Mr. Killian was instrumental in establishing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Later, as Chair of the Carnegie Commission on Educational Television under President Johnson, he recommended establishment of what became the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and National Public Radio (NPR).

“His life was fascinating. I revered the guy,” Peter said.

(Peter’s paternal grandfather, Edward Staley, was Vice Chairman and President of W. T. Grant Company, the chain of mass-merchandise stores that reached its peak of sales and income during his tenure in the 1950s.)

Born in Sacramento, Peter in his youth moved frequently as his father, a plant manager for Proctor & Gamble Corporation, was transferred from site to site across the country. While his dad was a “Rockefeller Republican,” his mom was a “die-hard Democrat,” which made for some “very interesting dinner table conversations.”

Though drawn toward politics, or advisory public service à la grandfather Killian, Peter decided, following graduation from Oberlin College, to first solidify his financial footing by working as a bond trader on Wall Street. He was, he said, “miserable,” partly because he’d – meanwhile – come to accept himself as gay and “bond trading floors are – or were – the most sexist, homophobic work environments in New York.”

After observing, one evening, that he had symptoms similar to those of young gay man with AIDS depicted in the TV drama he was watching, Peter sought out his physician, who diagnosed him with AIDS-Related Complex (the last stage of HIV infection before full-blown AIDS). AIDS involves HIV (the human immunodeficiency virus), a retrovirus, inserting itself into T-4 cells, the “conductors” of the human immune system. The HIV so inserted then “turns those T-4 cells into a factory for making more HIV,” leading to a progressive failure of the immune system, allowing life-threatening infections and cancers to thrive.



“Activism is about acting on empathy,” Peter Staley says.

At the time of Peter's discovery of his own infection, there was no cure for AIDS, only limited therapeutic modalities, and the disease was almost always fatal. It had spread, epidemic-like, primarily in the gay and African American communities while the country basically ignored it.

"I realized that the virus had genetically integrated itself into my body," Peter said. "I was convinced I was going to die. And, as I realized what was going on in New York: the people dying of AIDS – and, on the national level: the underfunded, slow motion research, I got more and more angry."

"The situation for the community and for me personally was so dire – so bleak, that even though I may have been politically 'rational,' I adopted a radical response. We simply didn't have the luxury of a slow political process. If we didn't turn the AIDS epidemic around, nothing else mattered."



Peter Staley atop the entrance to the Food and Drug Administration headquarters in Washington.

Peter quit his job as a bond trader and joined the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP), an organization formed by Larry Kramer, among others, that was devoted to political action. ACT UP began organizing non-violent protests designed to get public attention and force change. Members – including, prominently, Peter – shut down the New York Stock Exchange; closed off the headquarters of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Washington, and invaded the headquarters and sealed themselves into the executive suite of Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. (now part of GlaxoSmithKline), a pharmaceutical company that, in 1989, was selling the first AIDS drug (which had been mostly developed at government expense) at \$10,000 per patient per year, the highest level of any drug then on the market.

"We did some damage when we did that at Burroughs," Peter said. "But we said we'd pay for the damage – which we did." We were there to make a statement – and Burroughs lowered their price."

"Our actions were carefully calculated, logical political decisions," Peter observed. The cost in property damage and in the harm to the reputations of some government officials – the collateral damage of their actions – seemed to Peter to be "part of the disruptive path of progress. You cannot get all you may want on one side of the scale and not lose something on the other," he said.

But ACT UP, generally, and Peter, specifically, did more than be disruptive. They studied the science of AIDS and came to know it so well that they became "almost an arm of public health," according to Peter. They advised panels of doctors and scientists and gave direction to the pharmaceutical research. In an alliance of strange bedfellows, they sought to provide for the medical establishment they'd initially scorned, the "muscle" needed to expedite the drive for therapies and then cures.

And that was how Peter and Dr. Anthony Fauci developed a collegial relationship that evolved into a “deep friendship.” With his Jesuit upbringing, Dr. Fauci, Peter says, is “almost too good – he tries always to see the good in people. And he’s been on a wild ride this past year. I tried to help him navigate that.”

By mid-1989 – eight years after AIDS was first identified, 80% of Americans said more money should be spent on AIDS research – and it was. By the mid-’90s, protease inhibitors, antiretroviral drugs that prevent viral replication, were approved and, within two years, annual deaths from AIDS in the United States, which, prior to that had been increasing approximately 20% each year, fell from over 50,000 to roughly 18,000 – and they continue to fall.

It had taken ten “hard years” of activism to get there, and, Peter allows, there were many “discouraging moments.” “The last five of those years, we were just plowing through the pessimism – doing it by default,” he said. “You have a choice when continuing on looks so bleak. But for us, throwing in the towel looked even bleaker.”

“There are moments in history when things pivot and you can’t predict those moments,” he said. “And if you’re still fighting when they happen, they’re glorious.”

The successful fight against AIDS set the stage for the sweeping cultural change of the last two decades that led to, in Peter’s view, the “acceptance of gay life as part of normal life experience.”

“We’re going to be OK,” he said. “If you look at things generationally, there is a national momentum that is unstoppable.” Starting with AIDS activism, “we refused to accept the indignities. It’s been breathtakingly successful. It’s a shame that it took the death and dying to get us there, but that’s what’s happened.”

(Though he maintains a “tiny” apartment in New York’s Greenwich Village to which he says he may move when he “retires (when I can no longer drive),” Peter loves life at Walker Lake, especially the quieter, slower pace. He remains very much an activist, however, and an advisor to Dr. Fauci and others in the medical and pharmaceutical communities. He’s just now finishing his memoirs, tentatively entitled Never Silent, due to be published later this year.

For those interested in learning more, Peter features prominently in the 2012 documentary How to Survive a Plague, which depicts the early years of the AIDS epidemic and the actions of ACT UP.)

— Bob Fisher



Jan. 2021 NYT Op-Ed on COVID vaccines: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/12/opinion/world-covid-vaccines.html>

How to Survive a Plague: https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B00AGEHFK8/ref=atv_dp_share_cu_r

New York Times podcast, *The Daily*: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/21/podcasts/the-daily/hiv-aids-cure.html>

Interview with Dr. Fauci on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tv/CFIEMt8Kg2B/?hl=en>

Attn: Parents of Young Drivers

Like many of you, I had a high school classmate who, driving in the dark, failed to negotiate a turn, hit a utility pole and died, and – as bad or worse, paralyzed his front-seat passenger for life.

A rash of recent local incidents suggests that some of our young drivers either do not appreciate the lethal power of a car, or do not respect the rights of other users of our roads, or both.

Whether or not you suspect that your son or daughter might be mishandling the privilege of driving, we urge you to find an appropriate way to remind him or her of what is at stake when they get behind the wheel.

One mistake can change the course of a life, and one act of discourtesy has its own ripple effects on the quality of our community.

Thank you,
Bob Fisher

You Are Not Alone

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can't talk? text us at **570-798-4VIP**



During this difficult time, VIP continues to provide free services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other serious crimes.

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