

OVERVIEW OF MA COLAP BYLAW CHANGES

Objectives

- Consolidated our objectives into achievable and manageable goals, at the advice of counsel.

Name and Location

- Massachusetts Congress of Lake and Pond Associations changed to Massachusetts Coalition of Lakes and Ponds. Acronym will remain.
- Updated our mailing address to a specific location, at the advice of counsel.

Organizational Role

- Changed from "parent" to liason. We felt the term parent infers control over all of our member organizations. MA COLAP has been acting as a liason for the past few years and believe this role is more representative of our organization.

Memberships

- Cleaned up membership terminology for consistency and clarity.
- Lake/Pond Associations, Individual Members, and Student Members will all have voting ability.
- There will no longer be restrictions for multiple representations of a particular lake or pond.
- Non-voting members of MA COLAP will now have the ability to hold office.

Meetings of the Membership

- Annual Meeting will be held in "Spring," rather than a particular month. This will allow for flexibility with selecting a venue and not wanting to conflict with other events.
- There must be notice of Special Meetings given 10 days prior to the Special Meeting.
- Clarified that Board Members, Lake/Pond Associations, Individual Members, and Student Members can vote.
 - Meetings are public, therefore, non-members can attend all meetings, but are not allowed to vote on MA COLAP matters.
 - Voting will be by raised hand, voice vote, mailed in proxies, or another method deemed appropriate by the Board.

Officers and The Board of Directors

- Clarified what the roles and responsibilities were for each officer.
- Term length has increased for officer positions
 - Officers will be elected for a term of two years.
 - They can hold the same position for a maximum of two consecutive terms.
- Term length has increased for Board Members
 - Board Members will serve for a term of three years.
 - They may continue to renew their position at the Annual Meeting when their term ends.
 - There is no limit on the number of terms that a Board Member can serve.
- Clarified who can be on the Board and how many Board Members there should be.
- Clarified the process of voting in a Board Member outside of Annual Meeting.

Dues

- The record of membership will be examined prior to Annual Meeting. This will ensure that those who are voting are truly MA COLAP members.

Fiscal Year

- The fiscal year will be changing from October 1 - September 30, to **January 1 - December 31.**

Amendments

- Added an avenue for the Board Members to make amendments to the Bylaw with the approval of the entire MA COLAP Voting Membership.