

Town of Belgrade

Lakes Committee charter

I. Authority

On March 5, 2019, the Board of Selectpersons approved the formation of an ad-hoc Moorings Committee to explore concerns about houseboats mooring overnight on Belgrade's lakes, impacting shoreline properties and lake water quality. On Oct. 20, 2020, the committee delivered its recommendations to the Selectboard. Among the recommendations, the Moorings Committee suggested it transition to a standing committee rebranded as the Town's Lakes Committee to advise the Selectboard on lake-related issues.

II. Purpose

Lakefront property accounts for a majority of Belgrade's property tax base. The lakes are also the centerpiece of the community's tourism industry. Thus, the lakes are crucial to Belgrade's economic and recreational vitality, and its aesthetic beauty. The lakes are a resource that must be protected and preserved not only for the community, but for the entire state of Maine and beyond.

The Lakes Committee is to consider, research and discuss issues, concerns and other matters that impact the community's greatest natural resource – its lakes. The Lakes Committee will work in partnership with the 7 Lakes Alliance, local lakes association, other towns that share Belgrade's lakes, and other stakeholders in addressing lake-related matters. The committee will serve as an advisory body to the Board of Selectpersons. Its recommendations will be brought to the Selectboard for discussion and consideration.

III. Committee Structure and Appointment of Members

The Lakes Committee will consist of seven members. Members shall be appointed by the Board of Selectpersons. Membership shall include:

1. One member from the Belgrade Lakes Association.
2. One member from the McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association.
3. One member from the Friends of Messalonskee.
4. One member who is a seasonal resident.
5. Three at-large members.

Terms will be for three years. At its first meeting, committee members will draw lots to determine which two members will initially serve a one-year term, which two members will initially serve a two-year term, and which three members will initially serve a three-year term.

IV. Meetings

As with all Town boards and committees, the meetings of the Lake Committee must be posted and open to the public. At its first meeting, the committee shall:

1. Elect a chair, who will preside over the meetings and will report to the Selectboard, as necessary.
2. Appoint a secretary to take written minutes of meetings.
3. Determine a meeting schedule that consists of at least one meeting per year and a normal meeting time and date (ex. third Thursday of the month) for other meetings, as needed.
4. Begin working on bylaws that will govern how the committee operates. The proposed bylaws will be presented to the Board of Selectpersons for its approval.

Approved by the Board of Selectpersons on _____(DATE).

Melanie Jewell, Selectboard chair

Rick Damren, Selectboard vice-chair

Ernst Merckens, Selectboard member

Kathleen Wall, Selectboard member

Dan Newman, Selectboard member