



# Birch Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2021

<b>Board Members; XX = Present</b>							
XX	Paul Blomgren - President	XX	Tim Funkmeyer – Asst. Treasurer	XX	Steve Hanneman - Secretary		Denny Harnstrom - Director
XX	Sue Holthaus - Director	XX	Shirley Johnson – Treasurer	XX	Mary Knautz - Director		Gary Krimmel - Director
XX	Mark Larison - Director	XX	Jim Madland - Director	XX	Betty Martin - Director	XX	Gary Martin – Vice President
XX	Jackie Schumacher - Director	XX	Rick Zaske - Director				

Call to Order: President Paul Blomgren

Secretary's Report: Steve Hanneman

- 1/09/2021 Meeting Minutes - Prepared by Steve Hanneman (Secretary)
- Meeting Minutes approved. M/S/P – Rick / Jim

Treasurer's Report: Tim Funkmeyer / Shirley Johnson

- Checking account balance is up slightly due to collection of membership dues.
- Expenses are typical and within budget.
- The Bank Forward CD was renewed 3/2021.
- Paul has the checkbook. Shirley had additional checks and deposit slips presented.
- The Memorial Garden is completely paid for.
- An invoice has not been received from Northwoods last year for the new buoys. It was recommended to give Northwoods a 2-year BLA business membership for consideration of the buoys.
- Treasurer's Report approved. M/S/P – Jackie / Mary

## OLD / ONGOING BUSINESS:

### **Membership Drive:**

- It's best to track membership by parcel numbers since they will never change.
- It would be helpful to add mailing addresses / names.
- Spreadsheet data provided by Hoppe is as of 2019
- The 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend is the best weekend to coordinate door knock visits since most people are up then. It'll be important to be sensitive to staying outside and keep distance due to Covid.
- Jackie recommended sending an email now to encourage membership renewals. Will send around the fishing opener.
- Since 1/01/2021, 8 of 60 people paid via Pay Pal.
- It was suggested to place membership applications at Swanson's and the Chamber of Commerce.
- Paws & Claws is the only business that has signed up thus far. It has been a difficult year for small businesses.
- It's important to keep data updated – data integrity is important.
- Sue and Shirley will be the gatekeepers of the current spreadsheet.
- Paul will work with Shirley to update data and will target door knock activity in July. The goal is to complete by 7/31/2021.
- The sooner the June data can be distributed, the better.
- The county website contains tax / parcel data that is in the spreadsheet.

### **Environmental:**

- Jim's Trailer is now doing decontamination activities – it was formerly Northwoods.
- A water level reader is needed to take at least weekly readings. The gauge will be installed. It was suggested to installing the gauge in a public area so that more than 1 person can take readings depending on schedules. Paul will check with Fred Karlisch because he has volunteered for other activities.
- Shoreline restoration –
  - Mark and Tim attended training at Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR).
  - MLR has a 1,000 point rating system.
  - MLR is looking for a full commitment. Mark is not sure if we should commit to that. A formal committee would be required to help rate properties. Downside to this is that it would introduce competition and who gets signs and who does not.
  - It was suggested to initially look for easy ways to make improvements for incremental improvements.

- MLR's scoring system is easier to use
- Cass County Soil & Water District will cover up to ½ of expenses for shoreline restoration.
- Kiosk signage –
  - Mark will connect with the DNR for options
  - Information option is to publish list of area lakes that are infested with aquatic invasive species and a list of decontamination stations.
  - Mark will take pictures of the kiosk and send an email with suggested changes to the Board.
- Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL)
  - Meeting is scheduled for 5/28/2021 in Backus and via Zoom. Water quality testing kits will be handed out. Gary, Jim and Mark will attend.
  - Shirley will provide the ACCL Paul's, Tim's, Gary M's and Steve's information as officers of the BLA Board.
  - RBS Labs will give a presentation.
  - Mark is giving a presentation about water quality.

**Misc.**

- Confirmed \$200 has been budgeted for the City of Hackensack fireworks on 7/10/2021. M/S/P – Gary M. / Jackie
- Memorial Garden - Shirley will cut back plants as needed and also stop by Landsburg's Nursery to pick up more granite sand. Some of the existing sand has washed into the lake. Not much has popped up yet for plants.
- Rick will talk to the DNR to get an update about walleye stocking. It's likely that volunteers will not be accepted this year due to Covid.
- Annual Meeting – the tentative date is 7/31/2021.
  - Newsletter – Jackie will send the next newsletter in the next month or so. Gary M. will send Jackie information about the martin house.

Next combination **virtual / in person** Board Meeting Date / Time: **Friday, June 11, 2021 at 4:00p**

Meeting adjourned by Paul

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Hanneman - Secretary