



Birch Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2020

Board Members; XX = Present							
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	XX	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

- 10/12/2019 Board Meeting Minutes - Prepared by Steve Hanneman (Secretary) Revised to show that Gary M. and Rick approved the Treasurer's Report. Revised Board Meeting Minutes approved. M/S/P – Gary M. / Rick

Treasurer's Report: Shirley Johnson

- Officed expense of \$246.95 was for an HP Envy Printer which was approved by the Board at least 2 years ago. It is property of the BLA.
- Down payment of \$2,500 has been made for the BLA Memorial Garden Project.
- \$1,350 in donations have been received so far for the BLA Memorial Garden Project.
- Treasurer's Report approved – M/S/P – Jackie / Jim

NEW BUSINESS:

Covid-19 Impacts:

- This is an off year for the annual membership drive. Hopefully that results in less impact for membership dues.
- We will hold off on making the final call regarding timing / place / possible cancellation of the 2020 BLA Annual Meeting.
- The BLA 4th of July Boat Parade should still be able to be held.

- The Hackensack Flea Market, Sweetheart Days / fireworks remain up in the air.
- The weekly Hackensack Children's Fishing Contest has been canceled for the 2020 season.

Hackensack Area Foundation (fka – Hackensack Game Changers):

- Discussion was held regarding how COVID-19 is impacting the local community.
- Approved to leave BLA's donation amount the same at \$200 as was approved at the 2019 Annual Meeting. M/S/P – Jackie / Mary

Backus / Hackensack Relief Fund:

- Fund is used to help citizens with expenses associated with heating, food, etc. Many people are out of work in the area.
- BLA will donate \$200 to the Relief Fund. M/S/P – Gary M. / Sue
- Paul volunteered to accept and aggregate personal donations from BLA Board Members and then make a lump sum donation to the Relief Fund on behalf of the BLA Board.

Misc.:

- Paul connected with the President of the Ten Mile Lake Association in February. The goal is to establish ongoing communication / connection.
- A permit is needed for the loon raft. Jackie will take care of obtaining the registration.
- Discussion was held regarding allowing businesses to advertise in BLA published materials. We must be cautious about appearing to favor organizations over one another, including non-profits. It's preferred that businesses seeking to advertise become business members of the BLA and then they can advertise in the directory, etc.
- Gary M. has cleaned out the martin houses – the birds are here.

OLD / ONGOING BUSINESS:

Membership Update:

- Currently at 43 business memberships and 211 family memberships.

Memorial Garden:

- 2 trees were removed and 2 stumps were ground out.

- Next step is to begin garden cleanup. If able to assist, please meet at the garden on May 21, 2020 at 10:00a. A weekday was selected to help avoid weekenders and help with social distancing. Additionally, the dump will be open to take old plants, etc. Paul has a trailer that can be used to haul items to the dump.
- If anyone wants perennials from the garden, please contact Shirley. Only a portion of what is there now will be kept.
- Landsburg will begin their work in early June. Expenses will be reduced if others are able to help.
- Crushed granite will be used for the walkway. Over time, it is expected to become compacted and wheelchair accessible.

371 Project Update

- HDR, Inc. are consulting engineers who are shepherding the 371 Project.
- 3 community meetings were held September 2019 – January 2020. Focus is on the stretch of highway between County Road 40 and County Road 5.
- HDR is currently hosting a virtual open house and has asked for feedback by May 25. Tim forwarded email communication from HDR to the Board with a link to provide feedback.
- Sue will post the HDR information to the BLA's website together with a narrative from Tim.
- Jackie will also include an update in the June newsletter.
- BLA priorities remain:
 - Safety
 - Water runoff
 - Beautification
- Most of the project work will be performed in 2023.
- No final decisions for design have been made yet, however curb / gutter and parallel parking appear likely.
- The City of Hackensack will also be making street improvements over the next 1 – 2 years and will be coordinating with the 371 Project stakeholders.

Buoys:

- Discussion was held regarding a few ball buoys that are missing around the little and big islands and regular buoys that are damaged and need to be replaced.
- Northwoods Dock has quoted a cost of about \$400 for new lit buoys which is essentially at cost. They normally cost \$520+.

- Approved to purchase 4 lit buoys from Northwoods Dock at about \$400 per buoy and to purchase 4 ball buoys from Jim's Trailers at about \$50 per buoy. M/S/P – Gary M./ Rick

Lake Management Plan:

- Water quality testing - Ellie Kriese, RMB Lakes Program Coordinator, will be available at the Hub (in the parking lot) in Hackensack on Wednesday, May 27, 9a – 11a for volunteers to pick up their coolers. An alternative pick-up date is Friday, May 29, 1p - 3p. Jim will help Mark with testing throughout the summer.
- As of last fall, Ten Mile lake found zebra mussel veligers but no adults. Adults are typically found 2 – 3 years after infestation initially occurs.
- Recommendation was made for testing on Birch Lake for veligers. Mark reviewed training on-line and is confident that he can perform the testing to specifications. The veliger screen cone and sampling cup are a \$220 one-time cost. RMB charges \$98 to evaluate each sample. Mark could concentrate samples from up to 3 locations into one and have just one sample tested by RMB.
- Approved for Mark to purchase a screen cone and cup for about \$220 and be reimbursed by BLA. M/S/P – Jackie / Shirley
- Mark will also continue monthly testing for invasive aquatic species.

Deep Portage Scholarships:

- Deep Portage scholarships this year are TBD due to COVID-19. To this point, no applications have been received for scholarships.
- Discussion was held regarding reallocating funds set aside in the budget for Deep Portage scholarships to other youth-based programs / activities this summer or to possibly carry over into 2021.
- More discussion will be held at future meetings depending on things develop with youth-based programs.

Next **virtual** Board Meeting Date / Time: **Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 9:00a**

Meeting adjourned by Paul

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Hanneman - Secretary