



# Birch Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes

June 11, 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	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

BLA Director Denny Harnstrom passed away June 7, 2021

### **Secretary's Report: Steve Hanneman**

- 5/1/2021 Meeting Minutes - Prepared by Steve Hanneman (Secretary)
- "RBS" Labs referred to in the meeting minutes should be "RMB" Labs
- Subject to this change, the Meeting Minutes were approved – M/S/P – Tim / Jackie

### **Treasurer's Report: Tim Funkmeyer / Shirley Johnson**

- The correct bank account balance is \$19,780.16. An updated report will be distributed and voted upon at the next meeting.
- 105 individual and 9 business memberships have been paid so far. The prior membership period, 226 individual memberships and 56 business memberships were ultimately paid.

## OLD / ONGOING BUSINESS:

### **Membership Drive:**

- In prior years, signing up business memberships success was enhanced with door knocking, often at least 2 times.
- It would be helpful to publish a list of who has visited which business to avoid duplication of efforts. Publishing a similar list for individual door knocking would be helpful.
- Shirley will send Paul a list of names of people who have offered to volunteer and / or have paid extra in addition to dues.
- Rick will send names of 2 winners who renewed early – Hagland / Williams
- It was suggested to make targeted phone calls in July after the list is winnowed down by paid due and door knocks.
- If membership applications are needed, please contact Shirley.
- Shirley suggested giving new members existing excess membership books. Prefer not to hand out in other forums to avoid unwanted solicitations.

### **Boat Parade**

- 'Olympics' is the informal theme for 2021.
- Mark Glende is working on t-shirts.

### **Environmental:**

- Kiosk signage –
  - Mark sent suggested updates to the board.
  - Mark will run suggested changes past the DNR and Bill Kennedy with the City of Hackensack.
  - Mark presented a supplies list needed for the updated kiosk signage. If anyone has supplies at their disposal, let Mark know.
  - A request was made to spend up to \$570 for supplies minus amounts for supplies that BLA Board Members already have on hand.
  - Motion was approved to spend up to \$570 – M/S/P – Gary M. / Mary
- Water clarity / depth –
  - Jim and Jackie performed water clarity testing. Readings were 17' – 21' which is very good.
  - Denny was previously assisting Jim with readings. Gary M. offered to help Jim going forward.
  - Chad Seth (new member) also has volunteered to help monitor water clarity.

- Koelish near Paul's property will take weekly water depth readings. Paul will be backup.
- Beavers –
  - Beavers always return even after attempting to blow up their dams.
  - Trapping seems to have little impact.
  - The dams can be a good filter for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and they have no impact on water levels in either Birch or Ten Mile Lakes.
  - It previously cost \$25 per beaver to trap. Rate is increasing to \$35 next season. Despite making little difference, trapping will continue if members desire. Removing beavers may be helpful to save trees along the shoreline that beavers would otherwise destroy.
  - 12 beavers were trapped last winter. Trapping happens in the winter because it's easier to access beaver houses via ice. Jeff Peterson performs the trapping.
- Get the Lead Out Initiative –
  - The BLA was approached for a donation. The board unanimously supports providing a donation.
  - Total cost of the initiative is \$750.
  - Mark will check with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to determine if they would support.
  - Motion was approved for the BLA to donate \$250 to the initiative – M/S/P – Gary M. / Rick
- Shoreline restoration –
  - There is an open question as to where to refer people who are interested in hiring out for shoreline restoration – there are multiple options.
  - If anyone has success with local nurseries, let Mark know.
  - This year is more difficult due to extraordinarily dry conditions.
  - If there is interest from members, action items to help facilitate will be needed.
  - The goal is to continue to put out information, perhaps in the newsletter.
- DNR funding for loon preservation –
  - Rob Robasco represents the DNR. The DNR is interested in spending funds on acquiring easements / habitat.
  - The primary goals are to reduce mortality and improve fertility.
  - The BLA wants to learn if Birch Lake is on the targeted list.
  - The DNR is looking for loon friendly lakes with demonstrated activism such as loon platforms, etc.
  - It appears there is not much the BLA can do now but will continue to monitor.
- Walley stocking –
  - Rick contacted the DNR for an update and is awaiting a response.

NEW BUSINESS:

**Misc.**

- BLA Sweetheart Days Parade float.
  - It gives good exposure for the BLA.
  - Gary M. volunteered to drive.
- Craft Festival –
  - Need to coordinate with Duane at the Chamber of Commerce.
  - Recommend no booth – perhaps have Wally walk around.

Next combination **virtual / in person** Board Meeting Date / Time: **Friday, July 9, 2021 at 4:00p**

Meeting adjourned by Paul

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Hanneman - Secretary