



Birch Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes

June 13, 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

- 5/09/2020 Board Meeting Minutes - Prepared by Steve Hanneman (Secretary)
Board Meeting Minutes approved. M/S/P – Shirley. / Jackie

Treasurer's Report: Shirley Johnson

- Treasurer's Report approved – M/S/P – Gary M. / Mary

OLD / ONGOING BUSINESS:

Memorial Garden:

- Landsburg is three times busier than normal. The soonest they can start is July 6. The date will be confirmed after June 16.
- Two days of work is estimated. The first day, mulch will be delivered and plant the plants that are being saved.
- Ten people helped with the cleanup. This was about the right number given the size of the garden.
- Goal is to have native plants and those that attract birds and butterflies.
- There are 95 eggs in the martin house!

- Jackie would like to include an update in the next newsletter targeted for the end of next week. Hopefully dates with Landsburg are confirmed by then. If not, will mention the target date and to suggest checking the BLA website for updates.

Backus / Hackensack Relief Fund:

- \$550 was donated by the BLA Board Members.
- \$200 was donated by the BLA.

Deep Portage Scholarship:

- Discussion held regarding donating dedicated scholarship funds of \$800 (2 scholarships of \$400 each) to Deep Portage immediately since programs are being cancelled. The donation will be unrestricted such that Deep Portage may use the donation as they deem appropriate. M/S/P – Mark / Shirley

Newsletter:

- The newsletter will be lighter than usual due to all of the cancelled events because of COVID-19.
- President's letter
- Solicit lake pictures for the annual meeting.
- Memorial Garden update
- Include information for shoreline management to bring awareness to members who are performing shoreline work.
- Gary will prepare an article about the martins to be included in the next newsletter.

Buoys:

- Purchased 4 lit buoys for about \$440 each
- Did not purchase any ball buoys.
- Paul has extra chain and blocks if needed.

Lake Management Plan / Invasive Species:

- Need to formulate a plan and put on the BLA website together with educational information.
- Materials will be gathered from the DNR. Examples: shoreline management, staining docks.
- Cass County covers up to 50% of costs associated with lake management plans.

NEW BUSINESS:

Up the Creek Program:

- It's a significant project.
- Some Cass County farmers are doing organic and water sensitive farming.
- The program involves buying a cow from a farmer, overseeing the processing and selling the meat. Estimated cost is about \$5,000 per cow.
- There are no feedlots in our watershed and there is not much commercial farming.
- Mark will check with other lake associations and the Association of Cass County Lakes to see if any are participating in the program. If so, can we partner with them to lessen the financial cost and administrative process.
- Currently at 43 business memberships and 211 family memberships.

Annual Meeting:

- There will not be a physical meeting this year due to COVID-19.
- There should be no impact to membership levels since this is an off year for membership dues.
- A virtual meeting will be held on Saturday, July 25 at 9:00a. This is the same date as usual. Hopefully the earlier time will encourage more virtual participation.
- Paul and a couple of other BLA Board Members will take in-person questions at the City Park following the virtual meeting – Saturday, July 25 at 11:00a.
- M/S/P – Tim / Gary M.

Boat Parade:

- Saturday, July 4. Begin meeting by the channel around 12:45p.
- Theme: School Spirit

Next virtual Board Meeting Date / Time: **Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 9:00a**

Meeting adjourned by Paul

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Hanneman - Secretary