Present: Betty Martin, Gary Martin, Denny Harnstrom, Shirley Johnson, Sue Holthaus, Jackie Schumacher, Jim Madland, Paul Blomgren, Mark Larison, Rick Zaske, Steve Hanneman, Tim Funkmeyer, Mary Knautz

Social Hour

Call to Order: President Paul Blomgren

President’s Report: Paul Blomgren

* Birch Lake is in good shape.
* Membership is strong, has never been stronger and is engaged.
* Area businesses donated prizes that will be raffled after the meeting concludes, including 75 gift cards. Northwoods Docks donates their time putting in and removing docks each year.
* Appreciates the Board’s participation. Steve Hanneman and Mark Larson jumped right in with officer duties, the lake management plan and sharing knowledge.
* Next year’s budget:
  + Numbers look good
  + Expect significant increase, to $1,300, for the memorial Garden’s expense so that annuals can be replaced with perennials and shrubs. Doing so will lead to increased short-term expense with lower long-term expense. A significant portion of this has come from dedicated donations.
  + 2 - $400 scholarships to Deep Portage were budgeted for this year but no one applied. Encourage members to submit applications next year.
* Membership:
  + 222 members last year.
  + In the midst of a membership drive now for the next 2 years. Just reached 201 and expects to be above 222 next year.
  + There are 300+ properties on the lake.

Election of Officers – 2 year terms with no term limits (Unanimously approved)

* Paul Blomgren – President
* Gary Martin – Vice President
* Shirly Johnson – Treasurer
* Steve Hanneman – Secretary

Election of Directors – 2 year terms with no term limits (Unanimously approved)

* Danny Harnstrom – Director
* Sue Holthaus – Director
* Mark Knautz – Director
* Gary Krimmel – Director
* Mark Larison – Director
* Jim Madland – Director
* Jackie Schumacher – Director

Lake Management: Mark Larison

* Birch Lake has performed water testing for 20 years. DNR will always ask for 10 years of history, so we are in good shape with this.
* Lake management planning includes determining how good shorelines, runoff, sewage, buoys and markers are. The BLA has done a good job with all of these.
* We’re funded to react quickly to a new infestation. Would need to determine long term funding strategy if the lake became infested. Leech Lake has Eurasian milfoil and zebra mussels. Girl Lake has Eurasian milfoil. Twin Cities lakes are essentially just mowing milfoil
* Our approach has been to inspect boats and make people aware of infestations. It is important to prevent and respond quickly if necessary.
* Boat inspectors are the best safeguard. The part time inspector at the boat launch is managed by Cass County. When able, please engage with the inspectors.

Wrap-up / Q&A

* Paul – need $15,000 to react immediately to an infestation and $50,000 over 3 years to manage it.
* Paul – stocking of fingerlings was doubled 12 years ago to 1,500 pounds. It basically only resulted in increasing the number of small northern in the lake.
* Member – has anyone had bear problems? He’s behind Swanson’s and has had problems and heard other have had problems recently.
* Paul – working closely with Ten Mile Lake Association regarding the beaver dam. Ten Mile received authorization to blow up the dam, which led to flooding in Pleasant Lake further resulting in putting up sandbags where the dam was.
* Paul – MNDOT is looking for a representative from the BLA for the Highway 371 project. Encouraged members to let a board member know if they are interested.
* Jackie Schumacher – the BLA’s Facebook page is not setup for people to independently put up content. Please send pictures as a private message and Jackie will put on the Facebook page.

Meeting adjourned by Paul

Prize raffle

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hanneman - Secretary