

The Beaver Island Association

*Supporting Environmental and
Economic Sustainability*

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Minutes from Beaver Island Association Board Meeting Friday, June 3, 2016 1:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Jim Jones, Ken McDonald, Pam Grassmick, Bob Tidmore, Mark Engelsman, Bob Anderson, Keith Brothers, Peter Igoe, Beth Leuck, Patrick McGinnity, Kevin Boyle.

Not present: Andy Kohls, Craig Schrottenboer, and Taffy Raphael.

1. Bob Anderson reviewed BIA financial situation. For the last several years BIA expenses have exceeded income by somewhat more than \$500/year. Our current fund balance is still about \$9,000, so this is sustainable. We will ask the membership at the annual meeting if an increase of dues from \$20 to \$25 has merit.
2. Island Institute project. There is a lot going on. Some specifics:
 - a. Angel Welke has put together a Beaver Island Asset Summary. Pam will circulate a PDF file and BIA Board Members are asked to review it and respond with additions and corrections.
 - b. The Office of the Great Lakes has offered to fund and provide resources to update the Beaver Island Master Plan (last updated in 2006). This is necessary in order for Beaver Island to be eligible for government grants. The project requires approval of both Township Boards. The St. James board unanimously approved the offer at its last meeting. Paul Welke of the Peaine Township Board may propose a motion at the next Township board meeting to approve the offer, although the outcome is uncertain.
 - c. There was a lengthy discussion regarding strategies to install high speed broadband internet on Beaver Island. Kevin Boyle is leading. We will try to establish high level contacts with TDS and CMU to understand better how this can be done. Peter will set up a meeting with Kevin and other board members with John Allan (Office of the Great Lakes) who will be on the island around the 4th of July to determine if OGL can be helpful in developing a strategy and funding sources.
 - d. With Kevin's help, Peter will send letters to TDS and possibly CMU to see what might be done to address the high speed broadband needs of the island community.
3. Peter to send letter to Kitty McNamara regarding a joint meeting, this summer, of all Beaver Island non-profit organizations.
4. The Beaver Island Birding Trail Warblers on the Water was very successful.
 - a. Attendance had to be limited because of the lack of transportation (without the use of CMU vans). Peter will try to have a discussion with the CMU dean regarding use of vans for future birding events.
 - b. Angel Welke has established a BIBT account on Facebook. It has received a large number of contacts. There was a discussion of ways to further increase publicity.
 - c. There was a suggestion that we should develop BIBT shirts and print the names of companies contributing (say \$25) to BIBT on the back. Pam (?) to follow up?
 - d. The entire BIBT effort needs a more detailed financial plan. Who can assist in this?

5. Northern Lake Michigan Collaborative. One goal is to develop a landscape level plan for the island, specifically to enhance the health of our forests. The project will be supervised by the DNR and Doug Tilley. Beth and Ed Leuck are encouraged to participate for the BIA.
6. Invasive Species Conference on the island June 28 & 29. There will be at least 20 attendees from off the island. BIA board members are encouraged to attend. The meetings will be at the Community Center and there will be field trips. Pam will forward the agenda shortly. All meeting expenses will be funded by the Nature Conservancy.
7. Road signs are missing throughout the island and this is a major problem for visitors. It is also a safety issue for fire protection and EMS. Bob Anderson will discuss with Pat Harmon of the Charlevoix Road Commission to determine whose responsibility this is. Once responsibility is identified, Bob Tidmore will post a request on the forum for citizens to identify locations of missing or unreadable road signs, such information to be forwarded to the responsible party.
8. Peter to talk to the Harbor Master regarding use of the state reservation system, and report back to the board. In addition, it was stated that the same system could be used for campground reservations. This is a subject for follow-up.
9. The Waterways trail is scheduled to open in 2017 with approximately 15 sites, all on state land. To date a \$10k grant has been received from The Charlevoix County Parks and Recreation Department, and this can be used as the required match for the \$42k grant received from the Coast Zone Management organization. It is possible that an additional \$50k may be needed for all additional facilities. There must also be a plan, including funding sources, for on-going maintenance of the sites. Ken McDonald has volunteered to contribute toward logos and signage.
10. There was a discussion regarding new board members. The limit is 15 (per bylaws) and three positions are available. The candidates are:
 - a. Sheri Richards (Jim Jones to contact)
 - b. Alan Vickstein (Beth Leuck to contact)
 - c. Kyle Marvin (Kevin Boyle to contact)

If these persons agree to join the board, they will need to provide short bios that can be read at the annual meeting, prior to the membership vote. Two other persons (Bobbi Welke and John Gordon are alternatives if any of the above choose not to join.)

11. BIA board members are encouraged to attend the Beaver Island Community School Open House, next Wednesday, at the school, 3:00 p.m. It is important to RSVP as pizza will be served after the formal meeting and an accurate count will be important.
12. Peter will schedule a future board meeting to follow-up on today's meeting. One of the items on the agenda for that meeting will be a discussion of our board's organizational structure. With our involvement in so many areas, it probably makes sense to establish board committees, and to invite non-board members to participate on committees in areas where they have expertise.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Peter Igoe