

ISLAND CURRENTS

Beaver Island Association Newsletter - Spring-Summer 2011
Supporting Environmental & Economic Sustainability

TIME TO CONSIDER TOWNSHIP CONSOLIDATION?

How it could happen, and whether (or not) it should.

A year ago in this newsletter we asked whether Beaver Island politics and governance might be improved by consolidating the two townships into one, and that question was discussed at the annual membership meeting. No consensus emerged among members or the board, but a few members said the idea had been raised and dropped some years earlier and opined that the Association should not try to revive it. Attendance at the meeting was light, however, so questions about the issue were included in a membership survey later last year and 20% of responders said the Association should engage in public advocacy on township governance generally and township consolidation is an appropriate project for BIA to participate in or organize.

We have not decided to do that, but in light of continuing complications and disharmony between the separate township governments over the past fall and winter, we think it is worthwhile to keep the subject alive. What follows is our attempt to advance the discussion by explaining the statutory basis and procedure for township consolidation and identifying some pros and cons of such a project for local government, citizenry and taxpayers.

The Michigan statute authorizing county boards of commissioners to “vacate, divide, or alter . . . or consolidate townships” was first

enacted in 1851. In its original form it permitted a county board to take such action “upon application . . . of at least 20% of freeholders who are actually residents of each of the townships to be affected by the alteration,” but provided no details on how consolidation was to be accomplished. Amendments to the statute 137 years later filled in those gaps and established another method of achieving consolidation: by voter approval in the affected townships in an election ordered by the county board in response to petitions from registered electors in those townships.

Specifically, “proceedings for consolidation . . . may be initiated by filing a petition with the county board of commissioners signed by a number of registered electors who are residents of the area to be consolidated equal to at least 5% of the total population of each of the affected townships.” (According to the 2010 Census, the Peaine Township population is 292, St. James 365, so only 15 signers would be needed in Peaine and 19 in St. James.) Such a petition “shall name the townships proposed to be consolidated, state the name of the consolidated township” and “request that the county board of commissioners initiate proceedings necessary for consolidation under this act.” If the county board finds the petition is proper it “shall submit the proposition to a vote of the electors of the affected

townships [and] specify a date for the election . . . on or before May 1 in the year of a general November election.” The county clerk then notifies the township clerks of the date for the election and “question to be submitted,” and the township clerks “shall arrange for [such] an election.”

If a majority of electors voting in each township approve consolidation, the county board is required to approve it by resolution and consolidation “is effective at 12 p.m. on November 20 following the election.” If petitions from Beaver Island were to be signed and submitted to and approved by the Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners later this year, an election on the question could be held next spring, and if approved by the electorate, consolidation would take effect November 20, 2012. If there is a desire to move more slowly, the whole process would be pushed back two years, with consolidation to be voted on in the spring of 2014 and, if approved, take effect November 20 that year.

In the resolution approving consolidation, the county board also is to “call an election of the township board for the consolidated township at the next August primary and November general elections,” to “replace the elections of the boards of the townships that are consolidated” with a new township board consisting of a supervisor,

clerk, treasurer and two trustees, and all five board members would be elected in the general election in November 2012 or 2014.

If consolidation is approved by voters in both townships, a “coordinating committee” is created to “assist in the planning and implementation of [the] consolidation” from the date of the election on that question until consolidation takes effect the following November 20. It is to be “composed of the supervisor, clerk, and treasurer of each affected township” plus a resident of each of the two townships chosen in an election “held at the same time” as the election on proposed consolidation.

If voters reject consolidation, the election of coordinating committee resident members is void. But if it is approved, the coordinating committee has these duties: to “prepare and adopt an interim budget for the consolidated township” for the period from November 20 until the start of its first full fiscal year; establish initial salaries for the officers of the consolidated township; recommend persons for board appointment to other boards and commissions of the consolidated township; and “study and make recommendations concerning the coordination, consolidation, repeal, and reenactment of the ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations of the former townships for the consolidated township.” This last matter should be the first order of business for the consolidated township board, because the ordinances etc. of the former townships continue “in full force” in those territories until it repeals or amends them.

All rights, claims and liabilities of the former separate townships will pass to the consolidated township, including ownership of real and personal property, money,

books and records, positions in pending litigation, and rights to collect unpaid property taxes. The consolidated township will be what is called a “general law township,” as Peaine and St. James are. As such, they have what the statute calls “extra voted millage,” and the ballot question for consolidation also must identify what the “extra voted millage” of the consolidated township will be.

This is where things could be a bit complicated. There is not much difference between the numbers of registered electors in the two existing townships, but their millages are quite different. The total taxable value of real estate in Peaine Township is now about 50% higher than St. James, but their operating costs are about the same, so total millage for general operations in St. James is almost 50% higher than in Peaine, and its dedicated millages also are higher because the townships historically have contributed approximately equal *dollar amounts* for shared services like fire protection, transfer station, EMS, municipal airport and Historical Society.

As discussed in the last *Island Currents*, an Island-wide total rate of about 9.75 mills would yield the same total tax revenue, but would increase the township tax bill on a property with \$100,000 taxable value by about \$170 in Peaine Township and decrease it by about \$250 in St. James. Obviously that could be a sticking point for Peaine property owners. But it is reasonable to think a consolidated township might provide the same services at lower total cost than two separate townships, by eliminating duplicated expenses not only for elected office-holders’ salaries but also such things as town hall utilities, other office expenses, insurance, and professional service fees

(for example, for different lawyers representing the townships to help resolve inter-township disagreements or make inter-township contracts.) That might reduce the total consolidated township millage rate enough for the average annual tax increase for Peaine property owners to be more like \$100. That still might be a problem for some Peaine voters, even if many of the additional taxes would be paid by property owners who can’t vote on Beaver Island, but money probably should be a secondary consideration among the pros and cons of township consolidation in any event.

Other possible negative concerns could be that interests unique to or in conflict between the separate townships might be jeopardized by consolidation; that the “power structure” at one end of the Island might dominate the other; that earning opportunities would be lost by eliminating five elective offices and assistants or deputies for three of them; that the town hall property of one township or the other would become an unused white elephant; or that transition from two townships to one might be too complicated or time-consuming. There would seem to be two sides to each of those coins, however.

It might be asked, for example, whether each existing township really has unique interests inconsistent with the other, as opposed to common interests in all the cultural, social, environmental, recreational and economic attributes that make Beaver Island *as a whole* a unique place we all love, cherish and want to protect and promote. Also, much of what each township does always has *had to be* funded and managed collaboratively with the other, and a process of consolidation within a clear sta-

tutory framework hardly could be any more complicated, time-consuming or disharmonious than relations between the two separate township boards have been over the past few years. In any event, both the process of consolidation and, if approved, governance of the new united township should be transparent democratic exercises beyond the control of *any* power structure, real or perceived.

As for the township properties, whichever of the separate town hall properties is not used for the consolidated township offices could be a valuable asset, either to be converted to another public use or to be sold, with the proceeds used to defray any one-time costs of the consolidation process (which should not be large) and establish a substantial fund that could be used for future capital projects and/or to hold the line against future millage increases.

Finally, it may be noted that consolidation would be consistent with increased emphasis in state government on increasing efficiency and eliminating redundancy at all levels of government. Perhaps Beaver Island could gain positive attention in Lansing by leading this movement.

It may be asked (in fact, some already *have*) if it might be better to change to a village or city form of government for Beaver Island. A possible advantage mentioned is the ability to hire a professional manager, but general law townships already can do that, and although it may not be realistic financially for either township alone, it might be for a consolidated township. As a city (but not a village), Beaver Island could have governing body representation by geographic districts rather than at large, but whether that truly would be advantageous, or simply pe-

tuatate archaic notions of conflicting interests between different parts of the island, is debatable. No other potential advantage is readily apparent, but converting from township to village or city is not a viable option anyway. It would necessitate dissolution of both townships, which has no clear statutory mechanism and would be left to the discretion of the county board, and incorporation from scratch as a village or city *would* be a cumbersome, complicated, expensive process requiring lots of expensive lawyers' services. In contrast, a clear and relatively *uncomplicated* statutory template exists for consolidation, which could enable Beaver Island to be governed within a familiar, effective framework, but more efficiently, economically and harmoniously, as one township instead of two.

These may not be *all* the pros and cons of township consolidation, and we invite Beaver Island Association members and all other Beaver Islanders to identify and debate any others that come to mind. But we hope this discussion of how and why our two townships might be turned into one will contribute to serious, open-minded, objective consideration of the issue by everyone who cares about the Island's future.

BIA 2011 ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY, JULY 11, 7 P.M. AT PEAINE TOWNSHIP HALL

The 2011 BIA Annual Membership Meeting will be Monday, July 11, 2011. The agenda will include a proposal to amend Article I Section 2 of the BIA Bylaws to read as follows:

The Board of Directors shall consist of not less than nine nor more than fifteen members, appointed by the incumbent Board of Directors to serve three-year terms beginning on

July 1, with terms of individual board members staggered so that approximately one-third of the Board is appointed each year. No person shall serve more than three consecutive three-year terms.

This new provision will replace an elaborate existing procedure for BIA members to elect members of the Board of Directors at the annual membership meeting. That procedure has been essentially a formality for many years, and a large majority of members who responded to our member survey last fall said they would prefer this simpler alternative and also would be satisfied with opportunity to attend a summer Board meeting instead of having a formal annual membership meeting, as called for in Article IV of the Bylaws.

The Board proposes no change in the requirement for an annual membership meeting, but does propose to amend Article VI. It requires membership approval for contributions of Association assets to any other organization, group or individual and any change in the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws, and says all members shall receive copies of the Articles and the Bylaws. As amended, it will read as follows:

- a) *The corporation shall contribute organization funds or goods purchased with organization funds to another organization, group or individual only with Board approval.*
- b) *The Board may amend the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws as it sees fit from time to time.*
- c) *Any member of the Association will receive a copy of the Articles or Bylaws upon request.*
- d) *No individual member or group of members other than the President shall state views as being those of the Association without official authorization by the President. [No change in this provision.]*

These proposed amendments will be voted on at this summer's annual meeting, which as usual also will feature open discussion on any issues of concern to BIA members.

Notes from an Ecosystem Planning Workshop

Before the Peaine and St. James township boards de-commissioned the Natural Resources and Eco-tourism Commission, it had arranged an Island Planning Workshop with representatives from The Nature Conservancy and the DNR for February 15, 2011.

The Commission was in limbo by then, but the workshop proceeded as planned, moderated by John Legge and Dave Ewert from TNC. Other participants included Brian Mastenbrook from the DNR, several NREC members (in person or by phone), Wildlife Club President Jeff Powers, Planning Commission members, and other people interested in the topics discussed, namely: protecting against Emerald Ash Borer and similar threats to Beaver Island forests; identifying, monitoring and eradicating invasive plants; and deer population and hunting issues.

Discussion of the first of these topics focused on the state-ordered quarantine against bringing firewood to Beaver Island and measures to keep potentially infested wood off the island, including signs prominently posted on the mainland and the island. Watch for those signs in your travels to and from Beaver Island and spread the word that importation of firewood is prohibited.

The following summary of discussion of the other two topics is based on notes that TNC circulated after the workshop.

Invasive Plants. The first question was, how much do we know about the status of invasives on the Island? Phragmites has been well-surveyed, but there is no thorough invasive plant inventory for other species. It would be useful to develop a list of species most

likely to invade Beaver Island, maybe with help from the Grand Traverse Conservation District project that has collected information on the most pressing threats for Charlevoix County.

Next the group considered how to minimize importation of invasives by homeowners, especially for landscaping. It was agreed that outreach is critical and should include raising awareness of invasive plants, emphasizing the value of native ecosystems and native plants, and recruiting the local greenhouse and Marvin's Gardens in Charlevoix as key partners in this effort. Ideally there could be a brochure with localized information about what is invasive, or likely to be, and what native or non-native but non-invasive plants should be prioritized for Beaver Island.

The group also discussed possible introduction and spread of invasives through logging. It was noted that loggers on state land are required to verify that the on-site foreman has a certificate of completion of Michigan Sustainable Forestry Education or equivalent Wisconsin training, which include Best Management Practices, or BMPs. It later was learned there are no established BMPs directly related to preventing invasive spread, such as best practices for cleaning logging equipment. Possible DNR inclusion of specific equipment-cleaning requirements in logging contracts for Beaver Island and state land was discussed, as was possibly requiring loggers working on private land to have such training and observe best practices. The bottom line, however, was that currently there is no monitoring of whether loggers on

state land actually follow any of the BMPs on their work sites.

Finally the group considered how Beaver Island, with limited resources, can monitor invasives and respond to new infestations. It was agreed that an Early Detection-Rapid Response program is necessary and possible, but there is little local capacity and expertise for surveys, monitoring and control activities. CMU may be a potential partner, and increased capacity could come through a volunteer association or network, with training by experts. Another alternative is to hire an expert to coordinate work by volunteers. It will be problematic to measure success in this area, either in terms of public awareness or actual prevention and/or eradication of invasives, but if an EDRR program is established, after a few years its effectiveness could be measured by tracking the size of newly-discovered infestations. Also, with cooperation from the local greenhouse and Marvin's Gardens, it may be possible to create inventory "watch lists" to identify non-natives that may become invasives in the future and detect whether outreach and education have lowered BI customer demand for non-natives.

Deer population and hunting.

It was noted that the DNR Wildlife Division, which has responsibility to manage state lands in the Beaver Archipelago as a "wildlife area," is beginning a two-year planning process to cover all wildlife in the archipelago, in accordance with DNR policy of managing within carrying capacity. The problem is, carrying capacity measurement usually is left to surrogate indicators like car/deer crashes and crop

damage. DNR biologists have said Beaver Island has some of the lowest deer densities in the state and provides lower-quality habitat due to little early-succession habitat and agriculture. Nevertheless, there are enough deer to impact native vegetation, as reflected in sharp browse lines on white cedar in many places and lack of Canada yew compared with outer islands lacking deer.

It was agreed that setting deer harvest levels to match true carrying capacity would require significant local backing, and though there may be public support for a smaller deer herd, people may be reluctant to express it. DNR could conduct a survey to help document this, and collecting objective carrying-capacity-related data also could be useful. It was noted that Peaine Township supports funding a wildlife biologist to help monitor deer population effects and programs for effectively monitoring deer browse exist elsewhere (at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, for example). A simple, inexpensive starting point for measuring deer impact on Beaver Island native vegetation could be to photograph white cedar stands annually to document browsing lines and regeneration or absence of regeneration. If a wildlife biologist is hired, there could be more sophisticated methods.

The group briefly discussed the possibility of establishing deer herds on the outer islands and concluded it is unlikely because their carrying capacity is low and there is little public interest in it and no current plan for it. It was observed that Garden Island still has a few deer and attracts a few hunters every year.

Next the group discussed the nature of the deer hunting expe-

rience on Beaver Island, reaching consensus that the island is not likely to become a hunting destination generating significant local revenue, given its remoteness and limited deer carrying capacity, but mostly will continue to provide a traditional form of recreation for islanders. There also was consensus that it is unlikely, even with implementation of a program such as Quality Deer Management, that the island deer herd ever will have large numbers of large deer. In short, the “island experience” probably always will be more of a draw than a possible superior *hunting experience* on the island.

Finally, the group pondered how public opinion affects Beaver Island’s deer population and what in fact overall public opinion on that subject is. To answer these questions, it was suggested that there be a formal survey, perhaps by 2014, with data collected on browsing and vegetation regeneration being disseminated in the meantime to help inform the public about ecosystem impacts from the existing deep population.

Editor’s note: It seems obvious that this workshop covered a lot of ground, explored important issues, and identified valuable projects for *somebody* to work on. But given the uncertain status of the NREC (which apparently may or may not be reconstituted in some form by one or both townships after further review), it is not clear who that somebody will be. The Beaver Island Association can and should have a role in these endeavors, but does not have sufficient organizational capacity to take general leadership/management responsibility. Although we do not contemplate any further formal surveying of our membership on these ques-

tions, we encourage all of you to think about them, make your views known both to the BIA board and in any other forum that suits you, and get involved personally in advancing our shared mission of supporting environmental and economic sustainability for Beaver Island.

2011 BEACH CLEANUP TO BE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Board Member Ken McDonald is organizing the annual beach cleanup again this year and has it set up with the Beaver Island Community School for student participation on Saturday, September 17, 9 a.m. to noon. As always, the students will be invited to gather afterwards at the Community Center for hot dogs and other refreshments that will be provided by the Association. But this is not just a student event, and we invite all BIA members who are on the island that weekend to participate. Ken will provide collection bag, instructions and documentation forms and any encouragement and advice you may need – and if it’s more convenient, you can clean up your stretch of beach on your own schedule on another day.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES!!!

BIA membership dues again will be only \$20 for 2011-12. Renew your membership now by sending a check for that amount (or \$40 if you still haven’t paid for this year, as noted next to *your* address) to:

Beaver Island Association
P. O. Box 390
Beaver Island, MI 49782

Also, visit BIA website at:
www.beaverislandassociation.org.

WILDLIFE CLUB MAKING PROGRESS ON WILDLIFE CERTIFICATION PLAN

The Beaver Island Wildlife Club is working on a Wildlife Certification Plan in consultation with other local organizations and the Michigan DNR, which ultimately will have to approve such a plan.

Appearing below is a draft plan outline the Club prepared in February. President Jeff Powers said it is still a work in progress, but the Club is happy to have it published here because it wants its work with the DNR to be synergistic with efforts of other groups such as the former NREC and to proceed in cooperation with BIA and the township governments. Jeff said the Club hopes to bring in a wide variety of resources and interests to make this Certification plan beneficial for all stakeholders in the management of Beaver Island's natural resources.

DNR officials came to the island in April for a background meeting with the Club to discuss the draft plan and deer hunting antler point restrictions, and that process will continue soon to elaborate on the plan further.

We express our congratulations and gratitude to the BIWC for its work on this important project, and our thanks to Jeff for permission to publish this outline.

Purpose: Provide a template for establishing a collective focus on selective wildlife and their supporting habitat through collaborative effort, and define a framework for community support and necessary guidance by Michigan DNR and other relevant divisions.

Benefits: Encourage native species proliferation within limits of habitat and management goals (current

examples include walleye rearing pond and stocking of Lake Genesee-rath and Fox Lake, now in its 9th year, and wild turkey winter feeding program in its 8th year); provide long term conservation improvements; encourage resident ownership and pride in their environment (example, support of wildlife food plots); positive impact to local economy.

Scope: initially, Beaver Island private and public lands, including the archipelago and its waters; eventually, expand to include Garden Island, etc.

Management: *locally*, Beaver Island Wildlife Club working in partnership with other interested island groups such as BICC, NREC, township governments and others; *state level*, working in partnership with DNR, MUCC, etc.; *nationally*, partnerships with other organizations to facilitate achievement of goals, examples include QDMA, USDA-WS; *period*, two-year time horizon with periodic detailed review of objectives and results; *local funding* through community groups and other individuals, fund raising efforts and partnership with other organizations, plus state funding of turkey food plots and federal and state funding of cormorant control efforts.

Activities: Identify focus wildlife and define their supporting habitat.

Determine wildlife population and inventory and condition of relevant habitat, including: assess soils and forage base through testing and food plot work (50+ acres planted

in 2010); assess deer population by biological harvest analysis and driving surveys; monitor walleye stocking efforts using resources of tribal biologists interacting with MDNR and local organizations; monitor loon nesting activity and chick survival rates; define realistic target management goals and measurements.

Determine detrimental (non-native competition) and improvement factors to focus wildlife and their habitat. Examples: deer, turkey, Great Lakes small mouth bass habitat, creation of young forest habitat benefits woodcock, grouse, and songbird populations.

Develop and implement action plans to reach management goals using sound scientific methodology with DNR oversight and participation, including: current (fifth year) joint efforts with USDA-WS to reduce cormorant impacts throughout the archipelago and with DNR to institute antler point restrictions as one component of a Quality Deer Management program to be implemented Fall 2011.

Desired Outcome: Certification by DNR that sound principles and conservation efforts are being applied to improve focus wildlife and their habitats.

“HOME ON SHORE” VIDEOS STILL AVAILABLE, ONLY \$5

This CD explains and illustrates many sound practices for environmentally responsible development and management of shoreline property. Send order and check to BIA at POB 390, 49782.

SUMMER LECTURE SERIES RESUMES WITH THREE PRESENTATIONS IN JULY

The Beaver Island Association will offer three presentations this year in a summer education series that is being revived with encouragement from over 70% of members who responded to our survey last fall.

On **Thursday, July 7**, Dr. Nancy Seefelt of the CMU Biology Department will give a talk about her research on **migrating songbirds on Beaver Island**. Dr. Seefelt will discuss the stopover ecology of warblers, thrushes, vireos, and other small migratory birds that pause on Beaver to eat insects before continuing north. Everyone who spends spring on the island knows about the hoards of midges (sometimes mistaken for mosquitoes) that form what look like plumes of smoke over areas like East Side Drive. These tiny insects, which do not bite, are incredibly important to these migrating songbirds as a source of fat and protein. Beaver's unique location in the middle of Lake Michigan makes it a perfect rest stop for small migratory birds, who rely on the calories they gain from midges to continue their journey. Come hear Dr. Seefelt present her data about what songbirds Beaver attracts and how they use the island as a stopover habitat. *Peaine Township Hall, 7:30 p.m.*

On **Wednesday, July 13**, Kay Charter of Saving Birds Through Habitat, a popular presenter at last summer's forest symposium, will explain "**How to Grow a Bird Feeder**." Few people are aware that virtually all our migrating birds have been losing ground for decades, with populations of some species declining by up to 90% in the past four decades. Most people

believe they help birds by offering seeds and suet from hanging or post-mounted bird feeders. But such well meaning efforts do little for birds like warblers, vireos and tanagers. Most birds must have insects at some time in their lives; many depend largely or entirely on insect food; and 97% of all terrestrial avian nestlings require insects to develop. Charter will discuss the challenges for our marvelous migrants and offer valuable suggestions on how to provide genuine assistance by improving natural habitat on your property not just for birds, but for other at-risk wildlife as well. *At Beaver Island Community Center at 7 p.m.*

On **Monday, July 25**, just before this year's *Baroque on Beaver* concerts, Dr. Ed Leuck of the Department of Biology of Centenary College of Louisiana will discuss **native plants of Beaver Island** as alternatives to cultivars and grassy lawns. The co-author of *Plants of Beaver Island* and longtime summer resident of the island, Dr. Leuck will give advice on what native plants work best in what type of habitat, how and when to plant them, and how to maintain them after planting. He will also discuss some of the more common invasive plants on the island and how to keep them from spreading. With extensive knowledge of BI flora, he will help identify plants on your property and tell you how to manage them: great information for everyone who's ever wondered, "What's that plant, and should I keep it or kill it?" *Peaine Township Hall, 7:30 p.m.*

All these presentations will be open to the public free of charge and everyone interested in nature

and wildlife on Beaver Island is invited to attend. Please plan to do so . . . and talk them up with your friends and neighbors.

WOODLAND STEWARDSHIP

Beaver Island is blessed with thousands of acres of beautiful hardwood forests. Much of that area is public land, but a significant portion is managed by individual land owners, for whom there are many sources of information and assistance to help meet forest stewardship goals. Here are some near BI and on the Web:

MSU Extension's Boyne City office is a great place to start looking for information and access to education programs. We stock a variety of bulletins on woodland stewardship and can direct you to educational programs in this area. One of our newest efforts helps landowners plan to transfer forest land to heirs. Call 231-582-6232 or www.msue.msu.edu/charlevoix.

Natural Resources Conservation Service. This federal agency administers the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQUIP), part of the 2008 Farm Bill, that provides cost-share assistance to forestland owners to hire a professional forester who is a certified plan writer to develop a stewardship plan, which is a very important tool for reaching your goals. Call 231-347-5255 to reach the Petoskey office.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Until recently, DNR Service Foresters in northern Michigan provided direct assistance to forest landowners. With budget cuts and retirements, that service is no longer available in

this area, but the DNR web site has useful information, especially about two state laws, the Commercial Forest Act and Qualified Forest Properties Act, that can reduce private landowner property taxes. Search for “private forest lands” at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Forestry consultants are professionals who provide assistance to forest landowners for a fee, most frequently to help write stewardship plans or manage timber. You can find area consultants listed on the MSU Extension website.

Other excellent forestry web sites include Michigan Forest Pathways (miforestpathways.net), Michigan Forest Association (www.michiganforests.com), and the U.P. Tree Identification guide (uptreeid.com). There are lots of other ways to learn about your forests through books, magazines, conversation with other landowners and membership in landowner

associations. It’s a great idea to do your homework and take an active stewardship role. A well-planned forest will yield many benefits.

-Dean Solomon, Sr. Educator
MSU Extension, Boyne City

WANTED: YOUR VIEWS ON BEAVER ISLAND’S FUTURE

BIA member Seamus Norgaard, a North Central Michigan College professor and seasonal BI resident, will be doing presentations for the Historical Society this summer on past, present and possible future relationships between the Island’s economy and environment, for which he is surveying residents’ opinions. We encourage you to participate in the survey if so inclined. To obtain and complete it, contact him at 231-525-8144 or celticbodyprayers@gmail.com.

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