

B I P O A NEWSLETTER

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

Fall 1999

Mission Statement

The mission of BIPOA is to:

1. Represent the combined interests of our membership on issues of mutual concern that may affect the fundamental character of Beaver Island.
2. Support the preservation of the natural resources and beauty of Beaver Island and appropriate environmental conservation policies and/or methods.
3. Work with local government units in support of property owners' shared perspectives, concerns and investments.
4. Foster and support economic growth that is consistent with the preservation of the natural beauty of Beaver Island and the quality of life which is the reason for our original and continuing attraction to Beaver Island.

Name the Newsletter

With our current plan to publish a growing Newsletter three times a year, we are now looking for the perfect name! If you have a suggestion for the permanent name of the BIPOA Newsletter, we would love to hear it. Please contact Pam Grassmick with your ideas. Or, you can submit your suggestions online, anytime, through our website at <http://beaverisland.net/bipoa>

To the members of BIPOA

BIPOA is your organization. It is dedicated to providing you information about issues that affect the fundamental character of Beaver Island and to giving you a forum to form and express your opinions. It is open to all Beaver Island property owners. It exists because of your interest, support, time, and effort.

To that end, I would like to report to you that you have a Board of Directors that is second to none. On a volunteer basis, they have taken on sizeable tasks that serve your interests and the interests of Beaver Island.

This newsletter is one prime example of that. Pam Grassmick has done a wonderful job working with Jeff Cashman to produce a first rate production. It has involved a lot of time and effort on her part as the results clearly show. Our plan is to send you a newsletter three times a year so that you will always be up to date on issues concerning the Island. Pam has also worked with Jeff to develop an excellent BIPOA web site. If you have access to the Internet, we hope that you will visit the site periodically as we intend to use it in the future to provide you with timely information about important issues that cannot wait until the next issue of the newsletter.

BIPOA Vice President Paul Neihaus has been working

extremely hard to provide BIPOA with information regarding the very important electric power supply and rate issue. Paul has made several trips to Lansing to gather information at the Public Service Commission meetings and has compiled an extensive database on the hearings. The article in this newsletter provides an overview of the many complex issues involved, and shows just how difficult Paul's job has been as he has worked to keep Beaver Island Property Owners informed.

E.B. Lange has also been hard at work following and gathering information on the issue of obtaining a professional planner for the island. This has been one of the topics that you as members have most consistently voiced your interest in and concern about. In most cases you have expressed your desire to see the development of a "big picture" view of the island, both for the present and for the future. This sentiment has not been expressed to me as "anti-growth" but rather as desiring *well-planned* growth – that is, growth, and we all know that growth is inevitable, that is channeled in a way that helps to maintain that fundamental character of Beaver Island – that unique essence that makes it such a special place.

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BIPOA Committees



Rural Health Center Strategic
Planning Task Force
Committee Chair: Maggie Bennett
(231) 448-2836



Keubler Trail
Committee Chair: Sharon Vance
(231) 448-2842



Island Electrical Service
Committee Chair: Paul Neihaus
(231) 448-2367 or (248) 438-6374



Newsletter and Website
Committee Chair: Pam Gassmick
(248) 489-0784 or (231) 448-2314



Membership and Promotion
Committee Chair: Marty Maehr
(734) 994-8904 or (231) 448-2926



Work with Townships' Planner
Committee Chairs
E.B. Lange (231) 448-2568
& Rod Nackerman
(248) 693-9808 or (231) 448-2812

You can also e-mail committee chairs from our website. The address is beaverisland.net/bipoa

BIPOA Address, continued from page 1

E.B.'s report will let you know about some of the things going on to help this happen.

BIPOA member Sharon Vance, along with board member Doug Hartle, are directing an effort to gather information on the Kuebler Trail and are also working with associated property owners to determine the feasibility of making the trail a permanent part of the Island's outdoor resources. They are carrying on the hard work and efforts of Fred Haubold, former BIPOA president, on this issue and will be reporting on what they have found.

Because an organization like BIPOA can only be effective when it has the support of a majority of the Island property owners, Marty Maehr is directing a very important effort as chair of our marketing and promotion committee. Marty is exploring a number of ways to increase our membership and has been hard at work to implement them. So do not be surprised if more people begin to ask you how to become a member of BIPOA!

BIPOA member Maggie Bennett is serving as a member of the very important Rural Health Center Strategic Planning Task Force. She will help to keep us informed on the developments in this areas, which have extremely important implications for all of us on Beaver Island.

Last but certainly not least, the BIPOA Secretary, Jan Gerson, and the BIPOA

Treasurer, Rod Nackerman, have consistently played the fundamental role in keeping the internal machinery of the BIPOA well-oiled and functioning smoothly. Jan is always ready to take on another project or task and to see it through in a timely and very professional manner. She puts a tremendous amount of time and effort into her activities on behalf of your organization. Rod serves as our "money" man. This is no small task as it involves not only handling and keeping track of all of your dues but also preparing the necessary financial reports of BIPOA and investing any currently available funds to earn us additional dollars. Both Jan and Rod deserve our sincere thanks for their efforts.

As I said in the beginning of this letter, BIPOA is your (and what I really mean is "our") organization. To be successful, it must have your participation. On behalf of all of the Board members, I would like to heartily encourage you to get involved, even if only in a small way, with some of the many present and future activities of BIPOA. Any and all of our committee chairs would welcome your input and participation in their committee's endeavors. You only have to contact them to get involved. Or, if you have areas of concern that are not currently being actively explored, please contact me or another board member to get your concerns on the Board agenda. We cannot guarantee

Public Service Commission Update:

Great Lakes Energy Proposal for supplying electric service to the Island.

that we will be able to tackle every task, but we will certainly give every one fair consideration as we plan our efforts.

Additionally, you may want to contact Pam and write an "opinion" piece for the newsletter. We want to encourage members to think of and utilize the newsletter as one of their means for communicating their views on Island issues.

And finally, let me give you a personal vision about what I think BIPOA can be and can mean to Beaver Island. I see BIPOA as an anchor for the Island in a sea of change. I don't mean an anchor in an unchanging sense (since an anchor can always be hauled up to let the boat move to a new and better spot) but as something that allows us to determine a point of bearing – something that gives the occupants of the boat a chance to determine their position and chart their course without having to spend all of their time responding to the constantly buffeting winds and currents. To this end, I will work hard with you and our Board members to try and shed light on all issues relevant to you, to try and expand BIPOA into an organization that includes all Beaver Island property owners, whether permanent or non-permanent resident, and to provide a forum where we can all come together to talk about and plan what we want and need for our Island.

Sincerely,
Rick (Wm) Andrew
President, BIPOA

BIPOA supports reliable electric power for Beaver Island. Because of the importance to all Beaver Island Property Owners, BIPOA has been following the process carefully. Three main issues have emerged as areas which need clarification relating to the Great Lakes Energy proposal.

According to William Peloquin who has 28 years experience dealing with regulatory matters and is employed by the Attorney General, the first issue has to do with revenue requirement models.

The second issue is the need for three-phase power at a cost of 3.5 million to serve only three to six customers.

The third issue deals with the need of an on-island generating plant. Mr. Peloquin does not feel that an on-island generating station is necessary because of the increased reliability of the new "three cable" system and the ability of critical customers to install their own on-site generators. Wolverine will benefit from the on-Island generating station in that it will provide the capacity to allow the avoidance of the entire Beaver Island loop during critical load times in the

summer. However, in exchange for minimizing voltage fluctuation and improving response time, Island residents could be required to pay either all or some of the cost of the on-Island generation station.

The plan from Great Lakes Energy comes at a time in our State's history of electric deregulation and this is why Great Lakes Energy and the Island are under the Attorney General's microscope.

In the process of unraveling these key issues, other issues such as the current rate design which is biased in favor of existing non-seasonal Beaver Island customers, have also been identified.

If you are interested in more in-depth information concerning the issue, BIPOA has made available whatever information they have received as public record at the Beaver Island Public Library. The Michigan Public Services Commission (MPSC) Case Number is U-12033

An administrative Judge is expected to rule on the Great Lakes Energy Rates on October 27th. We hope to have more information in the following months.

Upcoming BIPOA Dates

The Annual Meeting

Thursday, July 27, 2000

7:00 PM

Peaine Township Hall

Spring Newsletter

March 15

Submission Deadline: February 15

School News

By Courtney Moore

Gymnastics tumble to the Island

Students in grades preschool-kindergarten through sixth have not only acquired a new friend, Kevin Jeter, but they also found a man who is offering to teach them gymnastics. Older and younger children may also participate if they are interested. The cost is \$20.00 per child and for two or more students in the same family add \$10.00 for each additional student.

During the Gymnastics course, students will learn tumbling and acrobatics, including such things as rolls, cartwheels, hand springs, partner rolls, jumps, and working on the horse. Jeter looks forward to trying to "teach the kids how to do tricks that, without instruction, they normally wouldn't be able to do." At the end of the course there will be a recital that, he says, "both kids and parents will enjoy."

Teachers' Tidbits

Jim Stambaugh would like to inform the Island that in his humanities class, the juniors and seniors will be learning about Roman art, architecture, and culture. His students will be choosing a project of their choice to work on.

In the B.E.S.T. (business, education, service, and technology) class, Connie Boyle's students will be writing technical information, and some students are beginning to work in Microsoft Powerpoint. In her geometry class, students are researching for their mathematician history projects.

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B.I. Rural Health Center Strategic Planning

By Maggie Bennett

On Tuesday, October 26, 1999, the Beaver Island Rural Health Center Strategic Planning Meeting was well attended. It was held at the St. James Township Hall and began with B.J. Wyckoff presenting the program format. Next, Joe LaToff introduced the panel and each person gave his or her group's responsibilities and services:

- Sue Bergman - Chairman, County Commission on Aging
- Greg Piaskowski - Executive Director, Agency on Aging - Region 10
- Nancy Bottomley - Adult Health and Aging Services Northwest. Michigan Community Health Agency
- Jim Tuinstra - Hope Network "Residential Services"
- Shirley Roloff - Charlevoix County Commission
- Barbara Swartzfisher - Past Director of Friendship Centers (Emmet Co.) Barbara lives here on the Island and is manager of the Harbor View.

Discussion between the audience and the panel began with the attempt to define the needs of senior citizens on Beaver Island, and to list the services which are presently available on the Island. The audience was then asked to identify the most important currently unfulfilled needs. Suggestions included:

- Assisted living housing
- Housekeeping inside and outdoors
- A phone tree for reassurance
- Meals on wheels
- Financial help with prescriptions and with submitting health claims
- and a swimming pool for therapy and relaxation.

In the discussion which followed, Tom Bussell expressed that he felt that there was a need for better communication between the panelists, their groups, and the Islanders, especially since "our taxes pay for the services." In response, Penny Kiss suggested that we needed health related information published once a month in the Beaver Beacon.

B.J. Wyckoff then asked "what data is needed to access the programs?" Sue Bergmass responded that to access the programs, "you simply need a referral from us."

Joe LaToff noted that the task force is currently putting together a survey for the Island. He also agreed that we need a person to coordinate the needs of the Island with the services provided in Charlevoix County.

As the meeting came to a close, the audience suggested that more meetings should be held, possibly monthly. The meeting adjourned with positive feelings about help with health needs on Beaver Island and an optimistic outlook regarding future dialogue.

Unique but not Alone

“Small Town” Healthcare

Sometimes, “Islanders” feel that they have a unique situation, and they do when compared to other easily accessible areas. Yet we find as we are exposed to other remote areas of the world that many have similar situations and challenges.

My husband, Brad, and I worked at Kanakanak and made medical calls to many isolated villages in the Bristol Bay Area. By isolated, I mean similar to our access to and from Beaver Island by boat or plane. I often commented that I was prepared for this adventure due to growing up on Beaver Island. I felt comfortable preparing for the winter months ahead by ordering from the Annual Barge Sale or dealing with no mail, fresh foods or visitors due to inclement weather for days when the plane could not land. We have great respect for the innovativeness, resourcefulness, wit and sometimes courage that people who live year round in remote areas must possess. Sometimes what seems like a unique need may actually be a universal human need. We hope you find inspiration in the following and we look forward to the insights that our Strategic Health Plan will have for Beaver Island.

A Good Death in an Alaskan Village

by Rachel Muir, BSN, RN

I met Lydia after she had endured three years of cancer treatment, chemotherapy regimens and radiation which required trips to Anchorage, 350

air miles away from her home. I was assisting her with a bed bath at Kanakanak Hospital in Dillingham, part of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation and the only hospital in the 46,000 square mile service area. Lydia was nauseated and couldn't eat. She weighed 58 pounds. Her family seemed afraid of caring for her and didn't want her to know how sick she was. The “modern approach” of caring for a terminally ill Elder is to send them away to a nursing home or hospital many miles away – where they may not get to say goodbye in their own way. Through a combination of Yup'ik and English, I learned she wanted to go home. And so we arranged for her to go home with support services.

Lydia knew how sick she was. She had watched her body slowly waste away. I flew on a small plane to visit Lydia once a week and called her home every day. Each day there were more stories, more symptoms, and more medication changes. On each visit, my presence was more and more accepted. Once, I forgot my house sandals and was offered slippers to replace my boots when I stepped into the small house. This became a small ritual – Lydia's daughter greeted me with a pair of slippers each time I arrived for a visit.

When Lydia's pain, nausea, dyspnea, and constipation were palliated, she wanted boiled fish, smoked fish, and wanted to go ice fishing. When friends came to visit, Lydia joked with them – “Come eat the cake I made.”

As weeks passed, Lydia's metastatic cancer progressed. Her family cared for her. She really wasn't interested in eating and saved her energy for crocheting purses and visiting. The daily phone calls and weekly visits helped avert expensive and traumatic medevacs.

During one visit, Lydia was crying. Her pain wasn't out of control, but she was lonely and wanted to help her daughter cope with her impending death. It seemed easier for Lydia's family to medevac her to Kanakanak Hospital. I supported Lydia in her wish to stay home surrounded by comforting memories, family, and friends.

On January 31, 1999 Lydia died – at home. It was -30 degrees. Several village men worked through the night to dig her grave, which included lighting fires to heat the earth. The whole village turned out for the funeral. I was honored to attend. Lydia's daughter gave me the bag that Lydia had crocheted for me. Many elders thanked me for being “Lydia's nurse.” I thanked them for being her friends. Her grandchildren told me how she died and that she was in heaven.

I hope Lydia, her family and friends experienced a good death – just like it used to be. I also hope that Lydia's friends know that they too may be able to stay home and live out the last part of their lives among familiar surroundings, customs, friends, and family instead of leaving their village and never coming home again.

Should BI Townships Hire Another Planner?

By E.B. Lange

Rapid development of business and residential construction on Beaver Island is evident and a concern to many residents, seasonal and year around. Such growth must be regulated by careful planning and zoning ordinance if this Emerald Isle is to retain the qualities which inspire this investment.

The Charlevoix County Recreation Plan, 1998 in the introductory paragraph states: "The Beaver Island Archipelago is the most unique asset to Charlevoix County in terms of land-water features, historical importance and concentrated occurrence of endangered, rare, and special flora and fauna ... efforts must be painstakingly met to ensure that the quality of historical and natural features not be compromised."

The Beaver Island Revised Master Plan, 1994, p.5 - The 1989 Comprehensive Development Strategy Report made two key points after an extensive survey of permanent and seasonal residents:

- Both populations placed a high value on retaining the natural features and historic character of the Island.
- Economic development was recognized as being important by both groups.

"The seasonal residents were more cautious in being positive about future growth. These two

points of view are actually very complimentary and were reinforced by input from both groups."

Beaver Island Township Boards and Planning Commissions are made up of local business people and retirees. The time and specialized knowledge needed to manage the rapid change occurring on the Island places heavy demands on these officials. Their efforts can too often mean "playing catch-up" and lead to burn-out.

Paul Nelson, Peaine Township Trustee, arranged an introductory meeting of all Township officials and the public with independent professional planner Mark Sisson on September 28. He is extensively experienced and flexible in his ability to work with local planning and zoning needs. My personal opinion is that Mark Sisson is an ideal source of the kinds of help Beaver Island needs to best manage such rapid development. He also is available for continuing assistance for his clients.

St. James Township Clerk, Jean Palmer, called the townships' attorney James Young to ask his opinion about hiring a planner to help Beaver Island planning and zoning efforts. Mr. Young's opinion is emphatically "Yes, as long as I can work with him."

I attended the October meetings of both the Peaine and St. James Township Boards and Planning / Zoning Commissions to hear the officials' responses to the meeting with Mr. Sisson. The need for a planner is supported by some, but not all, in both townships. St. James decided to check references and possibly interview two or three other planners. Peaine agreed that this is a prudent way to proceed.

The Peaine Planning Commission has hired secretarial help and is intensively working to get zoning ordinance compiled with new ordinance, revisions, and corrected typos into computerized form and to produce a new up to date print-out. February is the scheduled finish of this effort. At that time, they will consider working with a professional planner.

The Island needs a unified zoning ordinance which accurately and strongly supports recognized Island values.

BIPOA members need to communicate with township officials on this issue. There is some conflict of interest between resident values and economic interests. We need to patiently and carefully work out a balanced approach to dealing constructively with inevitable growth. Your BIPOA Board will communicate by letter with Island governments in support of retaining professional planning and zoning assistance.

Letters

The goal of the BIPOA Newsletters and Website is to not only allow greater communication between BIPOA members and our Board, but more, to provide a forum for Beaver Island Property Owners to express their opinions, ask questions, share stories of interest, inspiration, or information, and together resolve issues relating to Beaver Island. We welcome your input, and will try to respond to all inquiries either personally or in our Newsletter. Following are letters that we have received this fall.

Dear Beaver Island Property Owners:

I would like to comment on Deed Restrictions relating to various parts of the Island. I was born on Beaver Island. I am currently a seasonal resident with Beaver Island as our retirement aspiration. I have come to enjoy the beauty and charm that Island life has to offer. In the 50's and 60's, some of the developers had the vision to implement deed restrictions to preserve not only the property values of lots, but also to protect the water quality from our wells and limit erosion along our shoreline by controlling density on lakeshore lots. It is the responsibility of property owners to be aware and comply with the deed restrictions on their property or we will find our environment deteriorating and our property values suffering. These supersede any local ordinances that may presently be in place. It is also important that enforcement be an

intrinsic component of our Zoning Plan for the Island. We, the property owners, must insist that deed and zoning restrictions be enforced or they become meaningless.

– Submitted by Pam Grassmick

Dear Beaver Island Property Owners Association:

How would your organization feel if the Mormons came back to Beaver Island as permanent residents? Is there room for them on the Island?

–Submitted by Jack W. Davis

Yes there is room for Mormons on Beaver Island as permanent residents. Mormons have returned to the Island and lived there for several years during the 1970's. King Strang's granddaughter also has visited the Island and presented the Beaver Island Historical Society with a chair belonging to him.

If you would like to submit articles, letters, or opinions for upcoming newsletters, please mail them to:

Pam Grassmick
28629 Kendallwood Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Fax (248) 489-1263

You can also e-mail articles to us from our website at beaverisland.net/bipoa

The Community House

A project of the Preservation Association of Beaver Island:



Progress Report.

- We have final drawings for Phase 1 of the Beaver Island Community House - the Children / Youth / Adult / Welcoming Centers on our landmark harbor site.
- A silent capital campaign with naming opportunities is underway.
- Property is now being purchased for Phase II - the theater and assembly hall, along King's Highway on the edge of town.
- The Beaver Island Youth Consortium has funded and hired a Youth Director: Elaine West. We are happy to be participating with the school and both townships in this long-awaited step.
- The Community House project office has moved to the "bank building" between the Shamrock and Ace Hardware.
- Pictures of the community helping to clear the harbor site can be viewed on our website, at beaverisland.net/pabi

School News, continued from page 4

In November, Beth Croswhite and her elementary guidance class are learning about physical challenges. They will be discovering through personal experiences challenges such as auditory, visual, movement, and learning disabilities. In December, they will be exploring multicultural holidays including the African-American holiday, Kwanzaa, and the Swedish holiday, Santa Lucia.

Deb Roberts and Mike Myers are teaching their 1st through 4th grades about the solar system and the south east region in social studies. They are also preparing for the Christmas program.

Jacque LaFreniere's social studies class is studying Northern and Southern Europe, and her integrated science class is learning about chemistry. Her coordinated science group is studying cells, and the physics class is continuing their studies of motion. All 7 - 12 grade science classes are working on semester projects, with students

choosing either NASA's Student Involvement Program, a Dupont essay contest, or the Toshiba Exploravision. For the NASA project, students can design a mission to Mars, analyze changes in Earth systems, or write a story on current space or aeronautics events. Exploravision consists of choosing a technology, researching its past and present, and predicting twenty years into the future.

The 9th and 10th grade rain-forest tee-shirt sale was a huge success! They sold 146 shirts, saving 14.6 acres of rainforest. Joanie Adams was the top seller with 44 shirts!

Finally, don't forget that the Islander volleyball and basketball season begins soon!

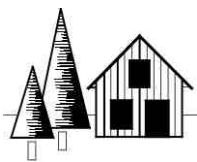
As we watch the year go by

Beaver Island Community School is watching the year go by as the school decided to make a real yearbook for the Island. Not only will it be a yearbook, but it

also will have a literary journal in the back with poems, drawings, and short stories that are made by the students.

Staff writers include Jenny Bousquet, Hilary Palmer, and Heather Cary. The business manager is Kristen Russell. Emily Bates and Kellie Gillespie are the editors, and Courtney Moore is the copy editor.

The yearbook committee wanted to use a millennium theme for the 1999-2000 book, and they decided on "Our Moment in Time." They will be using stars, moons, planets, and other celestial art for the cover and the inside decorations. The committee is committed to making this yearbook a reality, and they will be asking businesses if they would like to advertise in the book. Because the book is not just a yearbook, the committee is going to be selling to the students, staff, and to the public as a memory of the year 2000.



B I P O A

Beaver Island Property Owners Association
30330 East Side Drive
Beaver Island, MI 49782