

BIPOA

ISLAND CURRENTS

Beaver Island Property Owners Association Fall - Winter 2005

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.

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For Beaver Island and All Its People

President's Note:

After over 25 years on the Island, off and on, I am sure about one thing. It is always changing. It's fun to exchange stories about what are now the "old days." But more relevant is to try to assess the directions of many of those changes and whether they are likely to produce a living environment that is best for the Island and its residents. In any case, it is evident that we cannot return to the "old days" or bring change to a halt.

While we cannot completely control that change, we can think, discuss, identify issues, solidify goals, and sometimes nudge things a little. BIPOA isn't into control or claiming great credit. But we can persist in nudging in directions that will help conserve the marvelous natural resources of the Island and improve the quality of life for its seasonal and year-around residents.

BIPOA, led by Pam Grassmick, organized the Beach Cleanup Day with residents and students (see the story on page 6.) This project not only removed hundreds of pounds of refuse, but widened participation in active concern for our beaches.

The Master Plan for the townships is taking shape (see story on page 7.) It may not be perfect, but it

is a clear step forward. The consultants have been guided and prodded by the Planning Commissions and by discussions in which BIPOA has taken an active part. I would suggest that those with web access examine the document and respond appropriately. A central aim is to preserve the natural environment for residents, visitors, and future generations. There seems almost complete agreement that such preservation is fundamental to economic development as well as everyone's quality of life.

Most members of the Peaine Township Road Committee are also active in BIPOA. This committee will produce a long-term plan for developing priorities for improving roads and providing a funding base. Conditions last summer should not be forgotten. There were and are health and safety problems that need to be addressed. Extensive paving is not financially feasible, even if desirable. But step-by-step the roads can be significantly improved. This involves study, planning, negotiation with the county and state, and decisive action.

BIPOA cannot back political candidates on any level, but we can support important projects.

Continued on Page 2.

Current Efforts



Rural Health Center Planning

Chair: Joe Reed
(231) 448-2247



Recreation Resources Committee

Chair: Jack Kelly
(912) 635-3921 or (231) 448-2524



Master Plan for Peaine Twp.

Chair: Paul Glendon
(231) 448-2772



Property Owner's Manual

Chair: Ron Stith
(231) 448-2001



Island Clean-Up

Chair: Doris Larson
(616) 243-1037 or (231) 448-2470



Trails Committee

Chair: Krys Lyle
(231) 448-2149



Newsletter and Web Site

Chair: Pam Grassmick
(248) 489-0784 or (231) 448-2314
Co-chair: Doris Larson
(616) 243-1037 or (231) 448-2470



Membership, Promotion & Education

Chair: Ron Stith
(231) 448-2001
Co-chair: Marty Maehr
(231) 448-2926



Planning/Zoning Liaison:

Krys Lyle (231) 448-2149

President's Note, continued from cover.

We can lend time and skills to investigation and consequent action. For example, we can cooperate with the CMU staff on identifying important wetlands and bogs; we can continue to sponsor lectures and discussions on important issues. We believe in an informed

citizenry and in open and responsive public administration. In this process, I see no "we/they" division. It is not one township against the other, summer vs. year-around, business vs. environment. It is one Island that brought us here, and it is for all its people.

— Jack Kelly

Commission on Aging Services on Beaver Island

Beaver Island residents met in August to discuss the lack of services and the poor quality of the Meals-On-Wheels program. Sue Bergman, Director of the Commission on Aging, Shirley Roloff, County Commissioner, and Dietician Darcia Brewer attended. Areas of concern that were identified included: home-delivered meals, dining-out vouchers, physical therapy, social worker availability, senior exercise, visiting nurse, foot and nail care, errand assistance, housekeeping, personal care, lawn work, and snow removal. Sue Bergman explained that individuals must ask for services in order to increase service hours. The CENA who does in-home personal care has only 20-24 hours scheduled. Another 8 hours for homemaking services are budgeted. Hours will be increased as need dictates.

A petition drive resulted in the appointment of an Island resident to the COA board. This position will be filled in December. Hopefully more community input will give direction to services for the Island's elderly. The second request dealt with the ability to have fresh meals prepared on the

Island versus the frozen dinners. Dalwhinnie and Stoney Acres are completing the paperwork to be certified.

Following the meeting, Shirley Roloff said \$31,495 was collected for 2004, and the expected tax revenue for 2005 was \$35,613 from both townships. This does not take into account the taxes collected for Grandvue. The Meals-on-Wheels program is not active at present, and homebound Island residents await a solution.

Any Charlevoix County taxpayer may qualify to receive COA services. Seasonal residents are also eligible. A "Service Intake" form is available from Donna Kubik at the BIRHC, or Sue Bergman at 231-237-0103.

A discussion of Medicare will take place at the Health Center on December 15 at 1:00 p.m. Marge Krchak from COA will answer questions and provide assistance with the forms. Central Drug owners Lani and John Ochs, who are both pharmacists, plan to attend. Anyone receiving a Social Security Disability for 2 years may sign up. For information contact Social Security at 800-772-1213.

Beaver Island—Ours to Protect

A concern that has been mentioned in the past and commented on in the recent Master Plan is: how do we reach visitors and new property owners with appropriate environmental conservation practices? The ability to maintain the natural beauty and quality of life, which is the reason for our original and continuing attraction to Beaver Island, is vital to the economy.

To address this area we have entered into a new arena of public education, which we are calling: “Beaver Island—Ours to Protect.” We plan to create a short video which will introduce the viewer to the Island’s sensitive natural resources: both how to enjoy them and how to protect them for future generations. It will be made available to interested visitors while on the ferry boat, or in the airport waiting room. Realtors may also find the video useful to show to prospective buyers.

One of our members, Barbara Lucas, currently works in video production. Barbara has a graduate degree in environmental policy from the University of Michigan, and specializes in environmental education and journalism. For the past two years she has worked for Christopher Cook, owner of Metrocom International (www.metrocominternational.com), a video production company based in Ann Arbor. The following are online links to view documentaries for which Barbara has served as assistant producer and researcher:

- *The Great Experiment: MSU, the Pioneer Land Grant University*
<http://wkar.org/specials/greatexperiment/>
- *Ticket to Ride* (received the “Best TV News Special” award from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters):
<http://wkar.org/michiganatrisk/programs/frame.php?pgmnumber=1504>
- *Emerald ash borer: Path of Death* (received an Emmy nomination for “Best Public Service Documentary”):
<http://wkar.org/michiganatrisk/programs/frame.php?pgmnumber=1601>

We provided Barbara with a list of areas we would like the video to cover, and she returned with a proposal which we are excited about. Her concept utilizes the video as the centerpiece, to be accompanied by a brochure and a website based on it. The video will offer an entertaining introduction, while the other materials will allow people to access more in-depth information.

As more and more people visit the Island and/or build homes here, we hope to encourage them to do so in a way that will preserve what makes it so special. The opportunity to educate passengers is just too good to miss.

We are in the process of writing grant applications to fund this project, and are fully aware of the fact that many good initiatives are badly in need of funds. We would like to assure people that we have agreed to only pursue environmen-

tal funding from organizations that would not compete for funding with efforts such as the Rural Health Center, the BIHS, or the Community House.

As we all know, Beaver Island is wonderfully biologically diverse, yet ecologically fragile. In a report from 1999, the Michigan Natural Features Inventory cited several examples of the last remaining habitats of endangered species where development is taking place. This site can be found under “Biological Inventory for Conservation of the Great Lakes” (<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ess-cm-BioInvGLIslands-1999.pdf>). As a property owner, you may wish to review this site.

If you have further questions please contact:

Barbara Lucas,
lucasb@umich.edu
or Pam Grassmick at
mcgrass@ameritech.net.

Information Center

BIPOA’s *Property Owners Manual* was mailed last summer to members and placed at various areas around the Island. Off-Island conservation groups and property owners’ associations requested copies, so we have now placed a downloadable version on our website, where you can also find all old newsletters archived.

New material relating to property maintenance is available in the Beaver Island District Library in the file cabinet marked “BIPOA.” We hope you find these sites helpful.

BIPOA Annual Meeting Minutes July 25th, 2005

President Pam Grassmick called to order the Annual meeting of Beaver Island Property Owner's Association, held on Monday, July 25th, 2005. Pam welcomed those in attendance. There were 30 members present.

Doris Larson, secretary, moved acceptance of the July 2004 minutes of the annual meeting, as they were printed in the Fall-Winter 2004 newsletter. The minutes were approved as printed. Annette Dashiell presented the Treasurer's report. The report was approved.

Jamie Morton, program director of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, was introduced to the group. Jamie explained the philosophy of the Alliance: to protect, restore and conserve the Great Lakes. The Alliance was formed in 1970 as the Lake Michigan Federation. The name has subsequently been changed. The Alliance has offices in Grand Haven, Michigan, and Chicago, Illinois. Members reside in all the states contiguous to the Great Lakes. Two current initiatives are worthy of special notice: the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact, dealing with issues related to water drawn from Lake Michigan; and the Great Lakes Regional Collation, which is a result of an executive order of 2004 declaring the Great Lakes a National Treasure. This collation is concerned with issues related to invasive species, sewage overflows, and protection

of natural areas. Jamie stressed that this is an important summer for the Great Lakes and it is imperative to let the government know the importance of the Great Lakes.

Jamie's attendance at the BIPOA annual meeting is in support of the decision of the BIPOA board to be involved in National Beach Clean-up Day, a part of the Adopt-a-Beach program sponsored by the Alliance. The Island will participate in the September 17th Beach Clean-up Day, which involves picking up trash on the beach and recording information. Beaver Island will be the first island to participate in the event. BIPOA members were asked to consider being captains overseeing this program in specific areas of the Island. The Youth Consortium and the Beaver Island Community School have also agreed to participate. The following captains have agreed to serve:

- Gull Harbor:
Youth Consortium
- Little Sand Bay:
BI Community School
- Bonner's Landing:
Ruth and Jack Kelly
- Iron Ore Bay:
Ann and Paul Glendon
- East Side: Ken McDonald,
John and Barb Fiore
- Green's Bay:
Annette Dashiell

The event takes place from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday,

Sept. 17th, and will be followed by a hot dog lunch at the Beaver Island Community School.

Jamie had spent the day touring Beaver Island and was very excited about the willingness of the Island to participate in the Beach Clean-Up Day. She is also happy to give information to anyone interested in the Adopt-a-Beach program. Her e-mail is: JamieMorton@GreatLakes.org.

Jack Kelly reported on the current status of the Beaver Island Recreation Resource Project. The report, which was made available at last year's annual meeting, is being used widely. With the money remaining in the grant from the Great Lakes Aquatic Network and Fund, Jack hopes to provide money for publication of a document on critical wetlands and bogs based on research done by Ed Leuke of CMU. The target date for publication is summer of 2006. Jack is pleased with the attention the Recreation Resource Project has received but he stresses the need for the townships to create a recreation committee for the purpose of creating a long-range plan as part of the budgeting process for the township.

Krys Lyle reported on the Master Plan process. The Master Plan has not yet been approved by either township board. Hopefully, this will happen in August. After the plan is approved, it will be made available for public comment. There is a 90-day

window for comment. Since this time period will probably occur when most summer residents are not on the Island, Krys is trying to find a way for property owners to be informed and to make their opinions known. Krys can be reached at krysl@biip.net. Attendees asked if a postcard could be sent to all property owners informing them of the 90-day public comment period. Krys will try to facilitate this. After the 90-day comment period, the Master Plan will be edited. Then there will be a public hearing for approval. It is hoped that the final hearing for approval will occur when most property owners are on the Island.

Paul Neihaus moved that Annette Dashiell, Paul Glendon, and Krys Lyle be re-elected by acclamation. The motion was approved. It was announced that Dennis Cady has been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Rod Nackerman.

Area reports:

- Lake Geneserath: no report
- Green's Bay: all is well
- South Side: no issues
- Port of St. James: no report
- Eastside: Doris and Lars

Larson reported on their attempts to control "australis fragmities," the invasive plant that is encroaching onto many beaches all around the Island. Control is difficult but may be possible.

• Island Roads: Pam Grassmick reported that the Peaine Township board held an open meet-

ing recently to determine community support for the assessment of 1 or more mills for Peaine Township roads. As a result of the meeting, a committee was appointed to make recommendations to the township board about a plan for road improvements. Several BIPOA members will serve on this committee, chaired by Peaine Township commissioner, Pete LoDico.

Paul Glendon has studied the documents in regard to Great Lakes Energy's Beaver Island surcharge. The settlement agreement under which the surcharge came into being will be in effect for 30 years. This agreement states that any excess electricity generated from the Island will be used throughout the co-op service area. Paul was thanked for his work regarding this issue.

Jim Haveman offered attendees copies of "Shoreline Best Management Practices," printed by University of Minnesota Extension Services.

Pat Rowley announced that license renewals can be done on the phone through Charlevoix County

Dale Boyle inquired about disposal of junk cars. This is an on-going issue on the Island, which has yet to be resolved. In particular, the large field of junk vehicles near Stoney Acre Grill is of concern. It was reported that the judge in Charlevoix ruled recently that the vehicles were to

be removed in 30 days.

Barb Fiore suggested that property owners be sent information about conservancy opportunities for their property, in the hope of securing more natural areas on the Island. It was suggested that an article be published in the newsletter about conservancy options for property.

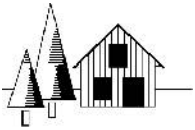
Questions were raised about the sale of properties by the DNR. This spring, the Petoskey newspaper listed several properties for sale on Donegal Bay. The BIPOA board had looked into the property being offered for sale and discovered that for the most part, the property was small, fragmented, interior areas. Jim Haveman spoke in defense of the DNR, which he feels sells property in a responsible way and uses profits to purchase other property adjacent to state land.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully,
Doris Larson
Secretary

After the meeting, board officers were elected:

- President:
Jack Kelly
- Vice President:
Paul Glendon
- Secretary:
Doris Larson
- Treasurer:
Annette Dashiell



B I P O A
 Membership Application
 Beaver Island Property Owners Association

New Member Renewal Update Address

* 2006 Dues: \$20.00 *

Your Name: _____

Island Address: _____

(Address Line 2): _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different than above)

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

(Address Line 2): _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ Fax: () _____

E-mail Address: _____

- I would be interested in serving on a committee.
 I would like to help with the annual meeting.
 I would like to help with special projects:

Please Mail with your Membership Dues of \$20.00 to:

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

Box 390

Beaver Island, MI 49782

First Beach Cleanup

Congratulations to Beaver Island for being the first island in Michigan to participate in the Beach Cleanup. On September 17th we joined with the other Great Lakes Alliance members in the International Coastal Clean-up effort. This would not have been possible without the support of the students, property owners, and teachers of the Beaver Island Community School.

We had an exceptionally beautiful day collecting 260 pounds of trash from over approximately 10 miles of shore. The harbor collection consisted of many items, from car parts to fire-works. The trash collection in that area alone produced 103.5 pounds. Cigarettes, balloons, and plastic food wrappers were the most numerous finds. Cigarette use is decreasing, but due to the plastic content in the filters it may take up to 5 years to break down. Cigarette butts also contain cadmium, continene, lead and arsenic. A 26-pound, 4" well casing and a commercial fish tote were slightly more challenging for the beach-combers. Most beaches occupied with homes were very clean, while those more remote took extra time.

Thanks to St. James and Peaine Townships who took the trash without charge.

A special note of gratitude to Deb Roberts for coordinating the Beaver Island Community School, Michelle LaFreniere with the Youth Consortium, and the young people who came out on an early Saturday morning. The *NorthernIslander* continued to support the groups' efforts with their excellent coverage. Pat Rowley acted as hostess while John and Carol Runberg donated their time, energy and barbeque for the hot dog roast.

We all appreciated the funding from the Beaver Island Property Owners Association to host the outdoor picnic for the volunteers. We spent time with old friends and made a few new ones. I am much indebted to the 42 individuals who gave of their time to help keep our shorelines clean for all our enjoyment.

—Pam Grassmick

Master Plan – Your Thoughts?

Bill Schneider, past president of BIPOA, wrote an article in 1989 discussing the pros and cons of the Wade-Trim Report. The document was public property, paid for with \$66,000 of public money, and, if nothing else, brought ideas and concerns into public scrutiny. The Beaver Island Property Owners Association was formed in 1988 to discuss balancing development with preservation of the Island qualities that bring people back again and again. Bill gave some advice that he wrote almost 15 year ago, that is as apropos today as then while we wrestle with our new Master Plan for Beaver Island. He said, “In some ways the report is like a menu. You can order from it (via the township boards, etc.) or if you prefer, you can close it without ordering. However, if you let your friends and neighbors do the ordering, you still have to share the meal. So let’s sit around the table and see if we can agree on what we’re hungry for.”

The St. James and Peaine Township Planning Commissions are still in the process of taking remarks concerning the Master Plan. You can view the proposed Master Plan on the township’s web sites: www.peaine.org/zoning or www.charlevoixcounty.org

Comments are being collected by Krys Lyle for the Planning Commission and can be forwarded to krysl@biip.net.

Share Your Knowledge

Beaver Island property owners come from a variety of interesting backgrounds. You or a friend may be willing to share your life’s expertise, such as starting a credit union, a specific business, grant writing, environmental education, mental health, civic and/or governmental backgrounds—the topics are endless. If you wish to share your time and talent with residents of Beaver Island, perhaps we can help you find a forum. Please contact any of the BIPOA board members with your suggestions.

Your BIPOA Board of Directors

Jack Kelly – President

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e-mail wpa@psu.edu

We want to hear from you

The goal of the BIPOA newsletter and website is to promote greater communication between all Island property owners. We welcome opinions, stories, informative articles, or issues that you feel would be of interest.

The Deadline for the Fall Newsletter is October 15th, 2005; the earlier we receive stories to include, the better. Please submit all articles or comments to: Pam Grassmick either via fax number (248) 489-1263 or from our web site: <http://bipoa.beaverisland.net>

Moving? Please Keep Us Updated

Anytime that you do not receive your BIPOA newsletter, there is a reason. The most common is that either you moved and did not notify us, or that your dues

Welcome New Members

We wish to thank all of our members who for many years have helped support our collective efforts.

Without your continued commitment and generosity, we would not be the active organization that you see today.

Please feel free to contact any of the board members with your thoughts and suggestions.

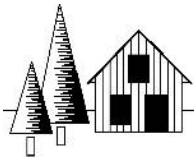
A warm welcome to our newest members:

Sheldon and Pat Anderson
Glen and Betsy Borre
Frank Galati
Judy Lanier and Jack Gallagher
Peter and Ruth Igoe
Janice Kelly
Susan Kelly
Art and Debbie McCaskey
Jim and Kay McElwain
Robert and Julie Neff
Paul and Florence Neumann
Suzi Peterson
Ric Roane
Thomas and Patricia Sell
Ed and Willy Welter

were not paid and we had to remove your name from the mailing list.

Please clip off your name from the address area and return it to us

when you are moving, so we will be able to get the newsletter off to you promptly. You may also e-mail us via the BIPOA website: www.beaverisland.net/bipoa



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