

BIPOA

ISLAND CURRENTS

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

Spring 2003

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.

Important Dates

BIPOA Summer Lecture Series

at the Peaine Township Hall

Beaver's Painted Turtles - June 30th

Dr. John Rowe - 7:00 PM

Alien Plant Species of B.I. - July 21st

Dr. Ed Leuck - 7:00 PM

Museum Week July 14th - 19th

2003 Annual Meeting - July 28th

7:00 PM at the
Peaine Township Hall

Island Health Fair - Sept. 13th

Fall Newsletter - November 15th
Submission Deadline: Oct 15th

BIPOA

Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting of BIPOA is scheduled for Monday, July 28th 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Peaine Township Hall. Recreation Resource Plan, Master Plan update, and other reports will be presented.

Developing the Property Owner's Manual

All persons interested in helping with the development of the Property Owners' Manual are asked to meet on June 30th 2003 at 12 noon at the Peaine Township Hall. Larry Sullivan from the Charlevoix Conservation District will join us.

Beaver Island Health Fair

Mark your calendars for the Beaver Island Health Fair scheduled for September 13, 2003 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Beaver Island Community School. The mission of this fair is *to provide an opportunity for Beaver Island people of all ages to access screening and information relating to personal health maintenance with the emphasis on promoting safety, optimal wellness, and a happy life style.*

Kudos go to Mike Penkovich of Universal Signs for his donation of a banner for the Beaver Island Health Fair. This donation will greatly improve the visibility of the fair. If you would like further information, please contact Audrey Beilman at (231) 448-2083 or Pam Grassmick at (231) 448-2314.

Peaine Master Plan

The following information relating to the Peaine Township Master Plan is compiled from the preliminary informal meetings during the summer of 2002. 135 residents, both summer and year-round, south, east, west, and central, met informally to discuss and share ideas about the future vision of their township. According to Judy Lanier, these conversations helped guide the survey that will be mailed to all Peaine township property owners in June 2003. The conversation summary is organized below in three parts:

- 1.) What Peaine residents say about the unique character they want for their township;
- 2.) What Peaine residents think is most necessary to maintain their community's unique character; and,
- 3.) What guidance Peaine residents have for implementing their ideas.

The numbers in parentheses correlate with the hosting household. Please take time to complete and return the Master Plan survey when it arrives in June. Your input is vital to developing our township's future. For further clarification, contact Judy Lanier at judithl@biip.net, telephone number (231) 448-2441, or a member of the Peaine Township Planning Commission.

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Current Efforts



Rural Health Center Planning
Committee Chair: Joe Reed
(231) 448-2247



Recreation Resources Committee
Committee Chair: Jack Kelly
(217) 352-3801



Master Plan for Peaine Twp.
Committee Chair: Paul Glendon
(231) 448-2772



Property Owner's Manual
Committee Chair: Marty Maehr
(734) 994-8904 or (231) 448-2926



Island Clean-Up
Committee Chair: Doris Larson
(616) 243-1037 or (231) 448-2470



Trails Committee
Committee Chair: Krys Lyle
(231) 448-2149



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



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



Township Planning/Zoning Liaison:
Krys Lyle (231) 448-2149



St. James/Peaine Township Board
Liaison: Frank Blatt (231) 448-2831

What Character do Peaine Township residents want for their community?

The great majority of those participating in Peaine's summer conversations want the Township to remain rural and forested. They want to accommodate tourists, but not be overrun by them – and they want no commercial activity that disturbs their “countryside” look and feel. They want Peaine to remain as undeveloped as possible, with St. James as the commercial side of the Island. While some thought that St. James should work harder to maintain its “small fishing village” look and appeal, virtually no one suggested a change in the “peaceful, woodsy, wilderness” that is Peaine's.

In fact, the single issue that overwhelmingly dominated the residents' conversations was the overall look and feel of their surroundings and environment. Of the nine issues, *environmental protection* ranked first in the amount of attention it received in the discussions. In order of overall talk time and attention – it was followed by *roads, recreation, safety and health protection, health care, waste management, the public airport, youth, and then “other opportunities and services.”* Though we summarize our residents' beliefs about the township in terms of their actual recommendations, nothing emphasizes the strength of their convictions about Peaine's character better than their own words.

- We have total consensus on Environmental Protection as our highest priority, not only natural resources but the totality of the Peaine Township environment as a nature-focused, rural, diverse, unhur-

ried, non-commercial place to live.

- Our attendees were unanimous about the desire to retain green spaces, protect the environment, and maintain the “rural” nature of Peaine Township.
- We're in consensus that a certain level of development will happen here – but it must always be with the natural environment protected – reflecting Peaine's uniqueness on Beaver Island.
- The Island and the people who live and work here are different than the mainland and we should encourage and support that difference rather than mimic the mainland. How many places are left in this country as pristine and unique as Peaine Township with the natural beauty of its woods and lakes that should remain natural.
- Spend money on dust control instead of cutting along roadsides – and leave the wildflowers to lend a more rural lifestyle.
- Preserve something uniquely Beaver Island, which is the dirt-roads.
- No racetrack. No casino. No McDonalds. No golf course. No Bay Harbor.

What plans do Peaine residents suggest for protecting the things they see as most necessary to maintain their community's unique character?

When the conversations focused on the issues themselves, residents showed how truly determined they were to preserve what they came here to enjoy and experience. One group framed their entire report by saying that

their “overall consensus was to keep the Island much like it is at the present time, with the following tools and improvements” – and then they gave us their suggestions – as we now try and do here for all 13 groups.

Environmental Protection:

1.) All thirteen of the groups wanted the township to retain and restore its natural pristine beauty – while preserving the diversity of its environment and neighborhoods.

- Our commercial areas are congested and full of trash.
- Get rid of the junk and avoid the look of strip development.
- Control the blight – round up the junk cars and trucks.
- Get rid of the junk and clutter and trash and keep our beaches clean.
- Plant greenbelts between the road and businesses, and control the harvesting of lumber adjacent to roadways.
- Maintain the woodsy “specialness” of the township – keep it *Up-North*.
- Get better noise control – from the electric plant, airport, and motors on inland lakes.
- Environmental protection is the primary goal and controlled development is required – once the environment is gone, it is gone.
- Our unique natural environment should be the draw for tourists.

2.) Seven groups wanted to manage Peaine’s population density to allow for open space and personal privacy. (Groups 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12)

- Stop development of less than 10 acre lots;
- Keep Peaine Township residential and rural/agricultural with single-family dwellings;

- Protect our low density housing – keep property as large as possible (100 feet of frontage is too small);
- Use every possible means to protect our forests and wetlands, and prohibit “re-engineered” wetlands;
- Encourage large open spaces – everyone likes the 10 acre size;
- Preserve State land from private development

3.) Seven groups wanted better signage for public lands and roads – keeping signs to a minimum, some wanted information on how to protect vegetation, and others wanted wood signs – no metal, plastic, or neon.

(Groups 1, 3, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13)

4.) Three groups wanted something done about light pollution – they want to enjoy the beauty of the night sky as well as the beauty of the day. (Groups 9, 11, 13)

5.) Two groups wanted to preserve the current *diverse* mix of land uses, building types, income levels, and personal interests and expressions – they want to avoid “sameness” and “look-alikes.” (Groups 6 and 7)

Road Improvements:

1.) Ten of the thirteen groups favored dirt roads to blacktop – so long as there is adequate dust control and proper grading and drainage. (Groups 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13)

2.) One group thought the current roads were in very good condition, except a few in need of upgrading for fire truck accessibility. (Group 5)

3.) One group suggested paving to the airport, with better dust control to avoid paving the rest (Group 4)

4.) One group favored blacktop for selected roads (Group 1)

5.) One group was mixed on the blacktop issue – concerned about the danger of dirt roads and their hardship to cars – but other members worried about the danger of greater speed on blacktop. (Group 12)

6.) Six wanted more natural beauty roads and the beauty of relatively narrow roads, with trees and canopies growing over them – with electric lines buried and little mowing on the roadsides. (Groups 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10)

7.) Three groups wanted speed limit signs better posted and enforced. (Groups 1, 2, 6)

8.) Two groups wanted more easement roads to limit the number of driveways having access to the main road. (Groups 6 and 10)

9.) One group wanted better enforcement of existing laws – the speed limits; no all-terrain vehicles; no passengers in truck beds. (Group 10)

10.) One group wanted a study on the effects on drainage of crowning roads. (Group 11)

Recreational Opportunities:

1.) Eight groups wanted improved access to Peaine’s common property and public land, including its parks, trails, and beaches – the suggestions included better signage, parking, and maps. (Groups 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12)

2.) Seven groups urged Peaine to identify, post, and maintain an improved system of trails - with separate trails for walkers/skiers, horseback-riders, and those on bicycles, snowmobiles, and all-terrain vehicles. (Groups 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 13)

3.) Six groups wanted separate recreational areas for activities that disturb or endanger others – including:

- a gun range for skeet and target practice – to keep shooting away from homes, walkers, and bird-watchers. (Groups 3 and 6)
 - jet skis allowed on Lake Michigan only – instead of inland lakes where people want to watch loons and hear the quiet. (Groups 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 13)
- 4.) Three groups wanted more boat launches to give non-Lake Michigan dwellers access to the big lake, though two asked they not be on Iron Ore Bay or Iron ore Creek. (Groups 6, 7, 13)
- 5.) Three groups wanted a community sports and recreation area – one thought it could be at the Township Park; another suggested a “YMCA” type facility; another wanted a Senior Center and several wanted a pool. (Groups 3, 9, and 12)
- 6.) Several single groups requested particular things, including:
- some playground equipment and a walking trail on Iron Ore Bay. (Group 13)
 - improved markers and parking at Boyles Beach. (Group 2)
 - approval for commercial riding stables to be on agricultural land. (Group 3)
 - a paid administrator for parks and recreation – to get grants and funds. (Group 2)
 - more picnic areas and facilities for teens and families. (Group 6)
 - closer collaboration with CMU for recreation education. (Group 7)
- 7.) One group urged that Peaine improve trails before expanding its parks. (Group 7)

Safety and Health Protection:

- 1.) Eight groups wanted better fire protection – collectively they had these particular suggestions: (Groups 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13)
- expedite the building and use of the Peaine Fire/EMS Station;
 - enforce clean-up requirements for all logging in Peaine;
 - sponsor selective deadfall harvesting – cut and stack for use;
 - no campfires except in fire-pits;
 - better maintain Hannigans Road for west-side fire protection;
 - keep adequate space between buildings and between propane tanks;
 - increase the number of fire fighters and EMS living in Peaine Township, with recruitment and incentives if needed.
- 2.) Four groups wanted better home safety with more adequate law enforcement in regard to theft and break-ins. (Groups 7, 8, 9, 10)
- 3.) Three groups wanted better road safety with improved visibility at key intersections, and one group suggested that we limit the number of cars coming over on July 4th, Homecoming, and Labor Day week-ends. (Groups 8, 9, and 13)
- 4.) One group wanted better water quality protections – monitoring undesirable nutrients and considering a common septic system as the East Side population increases. (Group 6)
- 5.) One group wanted sites to be identified for helicopter landings in case of major emergencies. (Group 3)

Health Care Provisions:

- 1.) Five groups commented on the strength of the existing EMS, while suggesting an EMS presence at

Peaine’s new fire station, defibrillators in other Peaine Township sites (e.g. the south end lighthouse and airport), and making advanced EMS/ALS education available.

(Groups 4, 6, 7, 11, 12)

Four groups wanted the township to maintain quality care such as they currently provide for the seasonal and year round populations.

(Groups 8, 9, 10, and 11)

Four groups commented on the populations served by Island health care; one wanted no assisted living (Group 1); one said that ever improved care for all ages was needed (Group 8); one wanted adult foster care made available for seniors (Group 4); and one wanted more alcohol prevention and rehabilitation opportunities.

(Group 7)

Three groups wanted strong financial support for BIRHC and support for its expanded facilities. (Groups 7, 9, and 10)

Waste Management and Recycling

1.) Seven groups wanted the waste management station to continue its good work – they said:

- The recycling station is doing an excellent job. (Groups 3 and 5).
- Keep our recycling state of the art. (Groups 6, 9, and 11)
- Our waste management is the strength of the Island. (Group 12)
- Kudos for the transfer station. (Group 7)
- We should credit the workers and begin planning for the transfer station site needed in the next 10 to 20 years. (Group 6)

2.) One group wanted waste management workers to be more

“user friendly” (Group 11).

Youth Support and Activities:

- 1.) Three groups wanted more attention to and investment in the needs of youth, especially in the form of improved recreational facilities and opportunities. (Groups 5, 9, and 11)
- 2.) One group wanted more adult help with the problems of youth, such as underage drinking and theft. (Group 2)

Public Airport Management and Facilities:

1.) Six groups wanted the Township to curtail further investment in the public airport – though they said it in different ways:

- There is no need to further develop the airport. (Groups 8 and 10)
- Airport upgrading is definitely a low priority. (Group 9)
- Approach Welke to take over and run the municipal airport. (Group 8)
- Support the use of the public airport so that it can better support itself. (Groups 3 and 6)
- The public airport is underutilized and we want it to be more self sufficient without raising taxes to support it. (Group 11)

2.) One group reported that the public airport should become a Fixed Base Operation (FBO status gives access to federal funds.) (Group 13)

3.) One group suggested that the Township limit the size of planes and restrict landing patterns to help curtail noise. (Group 11)

Other Thoughts and Ideas:

1.) Three groups discussed the possibility of a Peaine Township merger with St. James, but reached no consensus. (Groups 1, 2, and 7)

2.) One group wanted something done about the Beaver activity that leads to stagnant water build-ups and high lake levels. (Group 5)

3.) One group thought that gravel pits should be controlled by zoning as demand grows. (Group 9)

4.) One group thought a policy of catch and throw-back for our inland lakes should be considered. (Group 8)

5.) One group wanted plastic fences outlawed. (Group 11)

6.) One group wanted better communications with the Boat Company, a longer running season, and more night trips for freight in the summer. (Group 4)

7.) One group thought people needed better information on utilities and where to get help when they had problems. (Group 3)

What guidance do Peaine residents have for implementing their plans?

First, assure a Master Plan that defines expectations for preserving Peaine’s rural character – and strong zoning ordinances that require compliance.

- Have strong language in the Master Plan on zoning and enforcing of zoning laws. (Groups 8, 9, 10, and 11)
- Enact and enforce more restrictive setback requirements from the water, roads, and property lines. (Groups 6, 8, and 10)
- Enforce the green – we have no desire to see more asphalt, and the Township’s *land use* policies should support residential and agricultural use. (Groups 9 and 11)
- Severely limit commercial development in Peaine for tourist businesses (e.g. restaurants and stores) - keep it

mostly residential.

(Groups 6, 9, and 11)

- Focus on natural-based travel and exploration, but keep big commercial vehicles out – confine commercial development in Peaine to those areas already zoned as such. (Groups 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11)
 - Keep tourism from *ruling* Peaine and the Island – diversify, and with some protections – encourage *home-based, small cottage* business. (Groups 4, 7, 11, and 13)
 - Spot zoning could allow a restaurant/grocery store on the south or central part of Peaine – some would give tax credits for it, but others thought it would have to be financially viable on its own. (Groups 3 and 6)
 - Consider more commercial parcels, but keep them nature-based and with residents’ protections. (Group 4)
 - Clean up, set blight controls, add a “nuisance ordinance,” and enforce the law. (Groups 4, 8, and 12)
 - Adopt a lighting ordinance to preserve the darkness – with laws requiring lights to shine downward. (Groups 3, 9, and 11)
- Second, educate Island residents and visitors on Peaine’s expectations and zoning laws.
- Make zoning ordinances available to the public. (Groups 1 and 6)
 - Make the Master Plan available for purchase. (Group 6)
 - Publicize all zoning requests, not just requests for variances. (Group 9)
 - Have a place to get up-to-date information on key meetings. (Group 9)

- Survey the public before identifying any more commercial areas. (Group 10)
- Offer programs, videos, and maps that help Islanders and tourists know about our trails and environment – and how to care for them. (Groups 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11)
- Encourage people to check on deed restrictions when buying property – get realtors to help. (Groups 6, 8, and 10)
- Survey visitors as they leave the Island to learn about their views. (Group 9)
- Better communication between townships. (Group 9)

Third, enforce Peaine Township's zoning laws.

- Aggressively enforce codes. (Groups 1, 6, and 8).
- Strictly enforce ordinances. (Group 10)
- Zoning violations need to be addressed. (Group 2)
- More law enforcement to preserve and protect our environment and safety – even on the south end. (Groups 7, 8, and 9)
- Check on and severely limit the number of variances. (Groups 6, 8, and 10)
- Increase and enforce fines for littering. (Group 11)

Fourth, consider ways for Peaine Township to achieve our goals (while increasing efficiencies and revenues and containing tax increases.)

- Set priorities for investment. (Groups 1 and 6)
- When the Master Plan is completed, the Township should develop a strategic plan for the course it will take to make sure it happens. (Group 9)

- Consider an administrator for parks and recreation to get grants. (Group 2)
- Consider adding a transportation tax (boat and plane) and/or tourist taxes (restaurants and hotels) to help fund improvements. (Groups 2 and 3)
- Consider having user fees for our recreation areas. (Group 11)
- Consider tax credits for commercial ventures that lend a rural rustic look or refurbish old farm homesteads. (Group 6)
- Consider operating an eco-center/nature center like Raven Hill – work with CMU. (Groups 6 and 11)
- Consider trash containers at more locations with year-round pick-up. (Groups 10 and 13)
- Investigate how Charlevoix County does taxation on the Island – residents feel the Equalization Department doesn't take Island variables into account. (Group 6)
- Tax money should go into buying land for recreation, such as for buying public access rights to the Island's trails. (Groups 6 and 9)
- Improved technological capacity is needed for more home businesses. (Group 4)
- Have the planning commission/township board consider setting aside land for low cost housing for seasonal and year round help – also consider needs for transportation (bus or bikes) to get to St. James. (Groups 3, 10, and 12)
- Keep good schools to encourage youth and attract families. (Groups 5, 11, and 12)

June 9th School Millage Proposal

June 9, 2003 Operating Millage Proposal: Non homestead and non-qualified agricultural property tax.

The millage will enable the school district to levy not more than the statutory rate of up to 15.7908 mills against non-homestead and non-qualified agricultural property required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation guarantee.

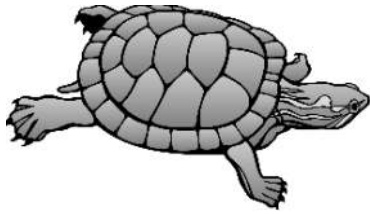
Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, exempting therefrom homestead and qualified agricultural property as defined by law, in Beaver Island Community School, Charlevoix County, Michigan, be increased by 1.6 mills (\$1.60 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation) for the year 2003, to provide funds for operating purposes (this millage is to restore the "Headlee" reduction)? The estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2003 is approximately \$102,000.00.

We want to hear from you

The goal of the BIPOA newsletter and web site is to promote greater communication between all Island property owners. We welcome all opinions, interest stories, informative articles or issues that you feel would be of general interest. Please submit all articles or comments to: Pam Grassmick either via fax number (248) 489-1263 or at our web site: beaverisland.net/bipoa

And please join us for the BIPOA annual meeting on Monday, **July 28th** 7:00 p.m. at the Peaine Township Hall.

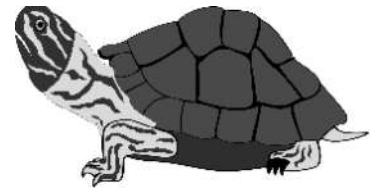
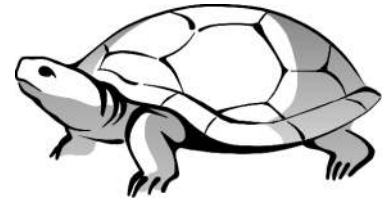
BIPOA / CMU Summer Nature Lecture Series



Back by popular demand is the BIPOA/CMU Nature Lecture Series which kicks off on June 30th, 2003 with "*Painted Turtles of the Beaver Archipelago*" by Dr. John Rowe from Alma College.

On July 21st, the topic is "*Alien Plant Species of Beaver Island*" by Dr. Ed Leuck of Centenary College, Shreveport, LA. Both topics are a great way for people of all ages to be educationally entertained.

Come join us for light refreshments at the Peaine Township Hall starting at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to all.



The Living Shore

The Living Shore is a 16 minute video that has been purchased and donated to the Beaver Island District Library by BIPOA. During our investigation of developing a property owner's manual, we found that the University of Minnesota had for purchase this video about best practices for shoreline care and maintenance. The video discusses the opportunities and benefits to individual property owners and their lake dwelling neighbors. Whether we live on Lake Michigan or an inland lake, how we ultimately care for and develop our property affects us all.

Suggestions are presented on the video which range from erosion control to helping increase fish populations. Many property owners have purchased property that was developed in the 60's. At that time, developers may not have had the benefit of current studies when creating small tracts of cottage lots.

This video also discusses restoration. With a firm understanding and time, damaged areas can heal to create a healthy

living shoreline. It has been suggested never to move native plants around the shoreline since it may cause the transfer of exotic species. If you visit our web site, we have a new link to the Charlevoix Conservation District which offers many helpful suggestions to property owners. The web site is www.charlevoixcd.org. Kelly Martin is our contact person for the Conservation District at (231) 582-6193. To date, they have provided 560,500 plugs of beachgrass to stabilize sand dunes and prevent erosion. Beachgrass can be purchased from the Conservation District. Following this article is a list of nurseries that offer native plants for sale that are recommended by the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association. Ms. Martin also indicated that these nurseries can certify that the stock is collected with appropriate permits and permission.

It gives us all great hope that with help from the Charlevoix Conservation District, the Wildlife

Club of Beaver Island, and individual property owners, we can preserve and create a healthier environment. Please take the time this summer to educate yourself about properly caring for your lakeshore property; we each need to do our part. The video will be available by June 26, 2003.

MNPPA certified nurseries:

Michigan Wildlife Farm
wildflowers@voyager.net

SandHill Farm
cheryl@iserv.net

Nesta Prairie Perennials
(616) 343-1669

The Native Plant Nursery
plants@nativeplant.com

Wetland Nursery
JewelRichardson@earthlink.net

Wildtype Nursery
wildtype@msu.edu

Letters to the Editor: Stewardship of Our Natural Resources

Eric Myers and his wife have been enjoying Beaver Island for many years and in May are calling it home. He has contacted us and offered his assistance with the upcoming property owner's manual concerning stewardship of our natural resources. Eric recently completed his PhD in Forestry, plant breeding, and genetics from Michigan State University. Congratulations Eric!

Webster's dictionary defines stewardship as "the individuals' responsibility to manage their life and property with regard to the rights of others." Stewardship is the concept of responsibly maintaining all of our resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

This concept is especially necessary on Beaver Island, a distinct, isolated, and unique place. Beaver Island has been a place of beauty before any of us were on this earth; and as property owners, we are simply caretakers of the resources. Therefore, it is our responsibility to protect and improve all our resources so they are available for the use and enjoyment of others. As good stewards, we need to set goals for ourselves as to how we use, monitor, and improve those resources. As stewards of Beaver Island, we can not have only broad goals such as "maintain the natural environment" because to meet a goal, we need a clear, stepwise plan designed to achieve these goals. Some goals should have deadlines for completion; others will need to be maintained and evaluated indefinitely.

A list of potential goals could include:



1.) Educate and empower current and future property owners in terms of monitoring and inventorying the natural resources on Beaver Island.

2.) Promote communication and cooperation among land owners.

These two goals can be very important for successful stewardship. The first steps to good stewardship involve taking inventory and monitoring the natural community. This includes monitoring the wildlife such as birds and other animals, as well as the number and type of plants in natural areas. Ways this can be done include having people record the number and type of wildlife and plants found on their property or on public areas. A potentially fun way to do this is recording the type and number of birds at bird feeders. This includes recording the time of arrival of migratory birds. Furthermore, many people on Beaver Island watch and feed other types of wildlife for personal enjoyment. By recording the number, type, and time the animals are seen, many people can contribute to monitoring and understanding the natural community throughout Beaver Island.

Gathering information about current wildlife and plants found on

Beaver Island today is crucial to monitoring the long-term prosperity of Beaver Island's natural communities. The task of monitoring and inventorying natural communities can be expensive and time consuming. However, with many land owners putting in a small amount of time and energy, huge amounts of information can be gathered. This information can be invaluable when evaluating land use decisions. For example, written records will make it possible to determine if development or other land use decisions have helped or hindered the wildlife on Beaver Island. An obvious sub-goal would be to develop forms for recording data that are easy to use and allow any individual to understand the data recorded. Also, it will be necessary to have people volunteer to collate all the data collected.

3.) Consider Beaver Island as one whole system, not several parts

4.) Have present and future land use mimic natural environmental processes which persisted on Beaver Island prior to European settlement.

5.) In all land use decisions, enhance the remaining natural communities of the Island such as forests, lakes, dunes, and marshes.

It is important to prevent development from disrupting the movement of wildlife and the normal flow of nutrients around and through the natural communities of Beaver Island. Although the property development potential, monetary value, and use of areas of Beaver Island may differ between lake shore, hardwood lots, and cedar swamps, the many organisms that live on Beaver Island do not designate such differences. When trying to protect the natural

resources, it is difficult or impossible to determine which individual type of area is most important, so it is critical to maintain all areas as a whole.

6.) Have each owner volunteer to preserve a minimum of 10% of their land in a purely natural state (no human activity, ever.)

7.) Reduce the use of non-renewable resources such as oil, gas, and pesticides.

8.) Maximize the efficiency of homes in order to minimize energy usage and the impact on the environment.

9.) Plan for 100 years in the future in 10 year increments.

It is important that the Beaver Island property owners discuss and break down long term goals to determine the best way to accomplish and maintain them.

Financial gain can be an

objective of stewardship programs, as long as it does not result in a loss of value in other goals. Proper stewardship is not an easy objective. Circumstances can change so that the importance of certain goals are altered. Most often, goals of stewardship involve having land available for recreational and leisure activities. After all, we all have common goals to drink, swim, and fish in clean water; to hike and hunt through pristine forests. However, even seemingly common goals can have potential conflicts; certain types of outdoor recreation can impair or



destroy the habitat of plants and animals, which may contradict a primary

concern for other stewards. It is important that we have common goals for an Island-wide stewardship program to work. For this to be accomplished, it is imperative that all members understand that the prosperity of Beaver Island is more important than any one person's needs.

Some people may wonder, "Why is it necessary to establish a stewardship program?" Perhaps a better question is, "What is the alternative?" Failing ourselves or our children.... To quote Theodore Roosevelt, "To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness will result in the undermining in the days of our children and the very prosperity which we ought by right hand down to them, amplified and developed." —Eric Myers

Letters to the Editor: Air Ambulance Costs & Reimbursement

Over the winter, a thorough search on ambulance runs for the last four years revealed over thirty different insurance companies, including HMOs were involved in the contacts by BIEMS attempting to get reimbursement for emergency runs. Those patients who were unfortunate enough to become ill or injured and needed emergent care were transported by BIEMS in a professional manner. The biggest roadblock that these patients encountered was the refusal of payment for the 32 mile air transport provided by Island Airways even though this cost was approximately one-eighth of the cost of the only currently licensed air ambulance in Northern Michigan, Northflight out of Traverse City.

In most cases, these patients were ill enough to need immediate transport to the closest appropriate hospital and could not wait the 40 minutes it would take for Northflight to gather a fixed-wing crew and take off with Beaver Island as the destination. In all these cases, BIEMS was able to have the patient in the emergency room at Charlevoix Area Hospital or at the Traverse City Airport within this 40 minute dispatch window for Northflight. This all points out the need for an Island-based and licensed air ambulance.

Even though all insurance plans do not automatically cover air ambulance transportation, the insurance companies would not even look at the bill from Island Airways. Each one was returned

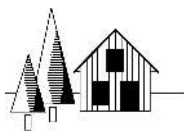
with a claim denial letter because Island Airways is not a licensed air ambulance agency. What I propose is the continuation of care by BIEMS from the scene of the home of an ill or injured patient all the way to the hospital Emergency Room. I propose the following:

1.) A lease of one of the aircraft owned by Island Airways to be dedicated as an air ambulance.

2.) The staffing and equipping of the air ambulance to be provided by BIEMS.

Would Beaver Island Property Owners support this project financially?

— Submitted by Joe Moore,
joem@beaverisland.k12.mi.us
or 448-2416



BIPOA

Membership Application

Beaver Island Property Owners Association

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Update Address

* 2003 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 62

Beaver Island, MI 49782

Letters to the Editor: Air Charter

BIPOA does not endorse, advocate, or promote this service, but merely presents it as information of potential interest to BIPOA members.

Ann Arbor and Southeast Michigan to Beaver Island in just 90 minutes!

How would you like to cut your travel time to the Island to just 90 minutes? Want to spend 8 to 10 more hours per weekend enjoying your Island home? How would you like to avoid the long drive north or south on I-75? How would you like to sit back and enjoy a light snack and favorite drink while you travel to the Island instead of fighting traffic?

AAAir Charter LLC can make all of this possible! We do the work and you get more time at your Island home and arrive relaxed and ready for fun.

For years, we have been looking for a way to provide regular and affordable flights to the Island and the northwest Michigan resort areas. And now, thanks to the Internet, we have a means to provide that service. After a recent request for a price quote for the Island, I discovered the BIPOA web site and contacted Pam Grassmick to see about writing this article for your newsletter.

The key factor in providing regular flight service to the Island and other destinations including Charlevoix, Harbor Springs, and Boyne City, is finding enough people willing to tweak their schedules and share a flight in order to make flights more affordable. The affordability in aviation is flying with the seats full. Now, through the magic of modern communication we may be able to coordinate our schedules so that flights become economical for all.

My question to the members of the BIPOA is this: Is there enough interest in flights to the Island to make it worth pursuing this idea further? I need to hear in order to determine if this is possible. You can contact me at jheinold@provide.net or give me a call at (734) 730-4271.

While AAAir Charter is based at the Ann Arbor Municipal Airport, passengers can be picked up at many airports in southeast Michigan such as Oakland-Troy, Pontiac, and Adrian. And in addition to Beaver Island, passengers could utilize other resort points such as Charlevoix, Harbor Springs, Boyne City, and many others. We can provide flexibility for your travel needs, but we need to know what your needs are! So just contact AAAir Charter and let's see if we can find a better way to enjoy northwest lower Michigan.

—Jim Heinold, President, AAAir Charter LLC



Thanks to all BIPOA members, and welcome to our new members

BIPOA board members send a *BIG THANK YOU* to our yearly member supporters. Your membership enables us to accomplish the tasks that we have undertaken. We wish to welcome our newest members:

David and Barbara Lucas
Larry and Kay McDonough
Patricia Meixsell
Eric Myers
Richard and Louise Schmidt
John and Janice Terry



Friends of the Trails

The Friends of the Trails are busy with signs to help identify further tracts of land for public use. This summer the group plans to continue work and are looking for volunteers who can donate time. Anyone interested should contact Krysl Lyle

Museum Week

The Beaver Island Historical Society has released a draft of its schedule for Museum Week. In the morning there will be three special Nature Walks. The afternoons will feature the Art Show from Wednesday through Friday, two Antje Price openings of the Protar Home, a Mary Blocksma book signing, Saturday's Pet Show, and Jim Gillingham's mesmerizing *Amazing Reptiles and Amphibians*. Plus, noted world-class bead-maker Dan Chingwa will discuss his craft, and Mary Ann Moore and Madeleine Jones, dressed in period costume, will tell period stories to children

The evening schedule opens with *Music on the Porch* on Monday at the Print Shop. Well-known Native American historian Simon Otto will talk about Indian history, culture, and lore on Tuesday. On Wednesday Robert Cole will discuss the ongoing Oral History project and show some segments from the interviews he's been conducting – which have produced 2,000 pages of transcripts so far, with an equal volume of material waiting to be set down.

On Thursday evening Mary Anne Moore and Madeleine Jones of Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association will talk about life at the Whiskey Point Light – in costume. Pinky's *Bingo!* will give our gamblers a chance on Friday, followed by a concert on Saturday, with a presentation on the Arranmore Trip during intermission. Check with the Print Shop for tickets and further details, 448-2254.

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Recreation Resource Project

The grant from the Great Lakes Aquatic Network Fund will enable us to make some real progress on the long-term recreation resource project this summer. I have been doing some preliminary Global Information and Terraserver prints of the targeted Lake Michigan shoreline public tracts to explore the possibilities. My hope, however, is to get a higher level of expertise from CMU students. The grant will enable us to cover their expenses. Also, early in the summer I plan to

enlist Jeff Cashman's photography skills to get better aerial photos of the sites.

The more time-intensive aspect of the project will involve on-the-ground assessment of the terrain, drainage, and habitats, and to begin to develop recommendations for long-term management. The first draft of a report may be ready for the BIPOA annual meeting late in the summer as well as for review by the townships and other groups. At that point, communication with the

state DNR will be critical.

The hope for funding for 2004 from MDEQ has us on hold as I undergo some reorganization. I will continue to try to keep in contact with that possibility.

There will be opportunities for amateur hiker/naturalists to do exploration on the various sites during the summer. In some cases, work will require off-trail hiking. Any volunteers for this can contact me at 448-2524 or e-mail me at jr-kelly@uiuc.edu

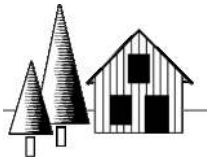
Moving? Please Keep Us Updated

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

remove your name from the mailing list. We have received several newsletters back over the past year with no forwarding address. If you would clip off your name from the address area and

return it to us when you are moving, we will attempt to get the newsletter off to you promptly.

You may also e-mail us via the BIPOA web site - www.beaverisland.net/bipoa



B I P O A

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