

# *The Beaver Island Association*

*Supporting Environmental and  
Economic Sustainability*

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## ***Minutes Beaver Island Association board meeting Friday September 27, 2013 – 1:00 p.m.. Peaine Twp Hall***

Meeting called to order at 1:15

Attendees: Bob Anderson, Ken McDonald, Jim Jones, Pam Grassmick, Peter Igoe, Craig Schrottenboer , Taffy Raphael, Beth Lueck

1. Website enhancements (Jim Jones)
  - a. Jim presented recommended additions to the website to include information relevant to homeowners, invasive species information.
  - b. The Stones would develop the website
  - c. A mobile app, would be built from the new website.
  - d. Hosting is \$30.00 / month
  - e. App cost is \$200
  - f. Additional pages are \$25.00 each for 20 pages, with base price of \$500 and a total of \$1000.
  - g. Secondary Discussion relates to a webpage that could be added and its connection to the need for a property management company on the island.
2. Birding Trail (Pam/Beth)
  - a. Bird trail dedication will occur on Friday at 5:00 through Saturday at 5:00, May 24, 2014. The BIA board was committed to inviting representatives of the wide range of constituencies who serve to benefit from the new birding trail.
  - b. Beth and Pam will work on a brief focused on “frequently asked questions.”
3. Initiatives to improve the economy (Jeff)
  - a. Described Scott Slezak of Annie’s Heirloom Seeds as an example of hope for how businesses can be brought to the island.
  - b. Checklist of items that BI can offer
    - i. Natural Resources
    - ii. Culture
    - iii. Safety
    - iv. School, Medical Center – elements that are attractive to newcomers

- c. What hinders growth
  - i. Small numbers hinder economic growth – lack of critical mass. Need items that are marketable beyond BI
  - ii. Large amount of subsidized business base relative to private base. Need to consider how to expand the businesses that do not depend on funding at mainland rates but scheduled on island pace.
  - iii. Long season without customer base
  - iv. Low level of cellular and internet services that cannot support business in timely and reliable ways
  - v. Poor economic health of hotels, many homes for sale
- d. There are efforts today such as the poultry initiative, and issues to be addressed such as expanded freight shipment through the winter.
- 4. BIA's presentation at the State of Lake Michigan Conference in WI. (Craig)
  - a. October presentation by Craig (Beth is unable to go because of schedule). It will cost Craig about \$850.00 to do a 20 minute presentation.
- 5. 2014 Archipelago Planning Meeting (team)
  - a. Need to reconsider the venue as the numbers attending have outgrown the space.
- 6. Phragmites treatment results (Pam)
  - a. Cindy Ricksgers is going to chair for the next two years.
  - b. Treatment is done for this year
  - c. \$9000.00 for phragmites treatment, \$3500 for High. Next year need to treat Hog Island (cost \$35K)
- 7. Suggestions for new board members (All)
  - a. Names were discussed for recruiting to run for the Board
- 8. New property tax legislation (Bob)
  - a. January 1 legislation would allow inherited property to maintain the same property tax levels.
- 9. NRESC (Pam)
  - a. Appears to be continuing and BIA will continue to be a part of it as long as it is in place.
- 10. Road Improvements
  - a. Kings Highway is planned for next summer, 2014
  - b. Garage surfacing is still being planned but site has not yet been determined
  - c. Road Commission and Townships may not agree on the solution for dust control.
- 11. Newsletter subjects/assignments (to mail mid/late October)
  - a. Peter laid out several items that have already been created for the upcoming newsletter.
- 12. Treasurer's Report: Total between CD and checking account is \$12,165.75
- 13. Adjourned at 2:40