

The Beaver Island Association

*Supporting Environmental and
Economic Sustainability*

beaverislandassociation@gmail.com
P.O. Box 390
Beaver Island, Michigan 49782

Beaver Island Association –Annual Meeting, July 11, 2016 Minutes

Meeting called to order 4:06 by President, Peter Igoe, at the BI Community Center. Introduced the current Board of Directors: Bob A., Kevin, Keith, Mark (in abstentia), Jim J, Pam, Beth, Ken, Patrick, Taffy, Bob T.

Meeting was broadcasted by Joe Moore, with appreciation (recognition for Joe through applause from attendees).

Opening comments: Peter Igoe shared background of BIA

- Founded as BIPOA in 1988, BIA became a non-profit in 2003, renamed BIA to broaden its focus, currently over 200 members (approximately 130 households)
- BIA focused on the importance of continuing to develop relationships with other non-profits and the two Township Boards to achieve successful initiatives (e.g., designation of Beaver Island as part of national birding trail)

Agenda and Outcomes

- Election of new directors & financial report
 - Re-elected Beth Leuck for 3 year term: Moved, seconded, passed
 - Elected 3 new directors: Moved, seconded, passed
 - Don Fix
 - Sheri Richards
 - Alan Vicstein
 - Financial report by Bob Anderson (see attached):
 - Maintained positive balance, but expenses are higher than income by approximately \$1000.00. Suggested solution for downward trend in annual balance of raising the dues from \$20.00 to \$25.00. Discussion of other possibilities included raising the dues to \$30.00, no responses supporting maintaining current level
 - Suggested an option to 'opt out' of snail mail delivery of newsletter for those who prefer electronic version.
 - Suggested a PayPal donation button be added to BIA website.
- BI roads (Bob Anderson report)
 - BIA serves as an advocate for the island for improving road conditions (full time grader, paving Kings Highway, new operations site to be converted from old Power's Hardware lumber yard building).

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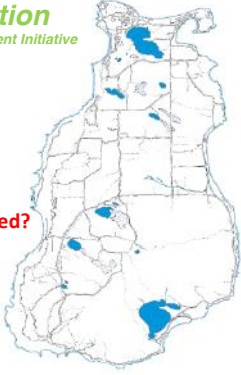
- Road signs – BIA is working with County Road Commission who will make the signs and install primary and secondary intersections. Anticipated completion in Summer 2017.
- Concern was raised for St James curve that is dangerous at 35 mph; discussed legal options such as a warning sign since mph cannot be changed.
- Noted that this year, roads generally are in excellent shape.
- Island Institute Project update (Pam Grassmick report)
 - Office of Great Lakes and Island Institute is ongoing since 2015, with support from Comer Foundation.
 - Representatives from BI who went to meetings in Maine were: Ernie Martin, Bill McDonough, Kitty McNamara, Patrick McGinity, Pam Grassmick.
 - Project kick-off on September 22, 2015 (led by Jon Allen) identified top priorities: broadband, healthcare, K-12 education, affordable work force.
 - Description of value of the Main visit, activities BI has engaged in, and next steps based on lessons learned; see the attach slides from Pam G.
- Island trails (birding, waterways, dark sky)
 - Four sets: birding, waterways, born learning, DNR
 - Brings new people to the island, and increases recognition of the island through awards and festival participation.
 - Reaches a range of audiences (e.g., early childhood learning signs, CMU students reviewing trails and mapping for general public, invasive species, endangered species)
- Broadband Internet for Beaver Island (Kevin Boyle report)
 - Presentation provided analysis of what focus will involve addressing short, mid-, and long-term issues.
 - Insert PP slide for content.
- BIA Organizational Proposal (Taffy Raphael)
 - Attendees agreed that in principle, worth moving forward with structure to involve community members in committees, chaired by BIA board member (See the draft BIA brochure).
- Meeting adjourned, 6:00 p.m. followed by Refreshments and robotic demonstration

BEAVER ISLAND ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FISCAL YEAR 7/1/2015 TO 6/30/2016 / Rev070616

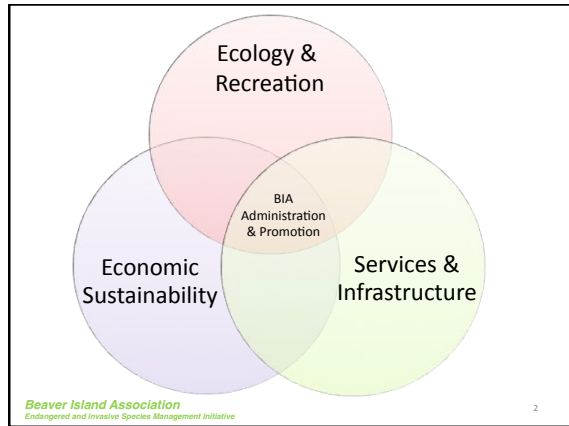
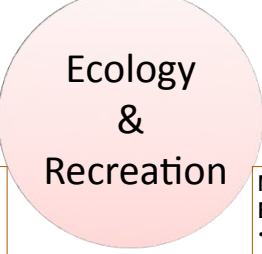
Beginning balances 7/1/15:		
Checking account general fund	3,657.70	
Certificate of deposit general fund	5,427.60	
7/1/14 total on hand:		9,085.30
Income:		
Dues 2015-16	2,385.00	
Dues 2016-17	335.00	
CD interest	10.89	
Beaver Island Birding Trail (BIBT) gifts	100.00	
Island Institute Initiative CCCF Grant	4,025.00	
Island Institute Initiative State of MI Grant	3,135.09	
Island Institute Initiative State of MI Grant	2,332.00	
Total Income:		12,322.98
Expenses:		
Island Institute Initiative		
September 2015 Beaver Island visit	408.00	
November 2015 Maine visit	5,449.24	
April 2016 Beaver Island visit	3,714.18	9,571.42
Newsletters		
Fall 2014	406.74	
Island Institute Update	396.35	
Spring 2015	422.11	1,225.20
Administrative		
State of Michigan filing	20.00	
Postage	246.31	
Web site domains	1,078.00	
Beach clean-up initiative	48.71	
Insurance	235.00	
Emergency Services Recognition Event	500.00	2,218.02
Advertising & Partner Memberships		
B.I. Chamber of Commerce	150.00	
Beaver Island News on the Net	150.00	
Charlevoix Chamber of Commerce	160.00	
Conservation Resource Alliance	100.00	
Island Institute	100.00	
Baroque on Beaver BIBT sponsor	100.00	
B.I. Historical Society sponsor	50.00	
Saving Birds Thru Habitat	50.00	
Mich. United Conservation Clubs	30.00	890.00
Total Expenses:		13,814.64
Ending balances 6/30/15:		
Checking account general fund		2,155.15
Certificate of deposit general fund		5,438.49
6/30/15 total on hand:		7,593.64

Beaver Island Association
 Endangered and Invasive Species Management Initiative



**What is BIA Working on?
 How is the Association organized?**
 Draft June 25, 2016

1

Ecology & Recreation

Economic Sustainability


Support Recreation:

- Birding
- Waterways
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Biking
- Dark Sky
- Camp Sites

Maintain & Preserve Environment

- Beaches
- Forests
- Endangered Species
- Invasive Species
- Nature Preserves
- Wildlife

Beaver Island Association
 Endangered and Invasive Species Management Initiative



Economic Sustainability

Services & Infrastructure


Maine Institute Project

Communication
 Internet, cell phone coverage, radio, television

Collaboration
 NGOs, Townships, Charlevoix Count, Tribes, State Agencies, Universities, Community Center

Property Tax Monitoring

Beaver Island Association
 Endangered and Invasive Species Management Initiative



Services & Infrastructure

Ecology & Recreation

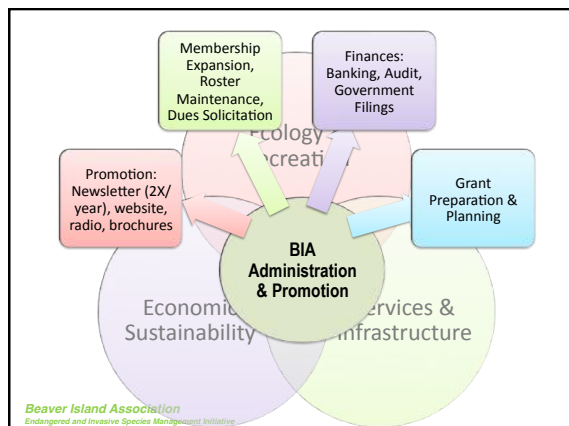
Healthcare
 BI Rural Health Center, BI Emergency Medical Services, Charlevoix Area Hospital, Munson Hospital, telemedicine, aging-in-place

Education
 Beaver Island Community School, mentoring, tutoring, teaching, virtual technology, early childhood education, coastal resilience, CMU, permaculture

Other Services
 Fire department, police, transfer station, zoning, road maintenance and signage.

Infrastructure
 Airport, marina, government buildings, EMS vehicles, affordable housing.

Beaver Island Association
 Endangered and Invasive Species Management Initiative



BROADBAND UPDATE

By Kevin Boyle

Beaver Island Association Annual Meeting 2016

Some background

- Availability of “good” broadband identified as a key island issue during community meetings in connection with Island Institute visits.
- BIA formed informal working group to evaluate options and consider approaches.
- There are questions about how much bandwidth is good enough.
- There are also questions about the best means to make bandwidth available.

Two clear points

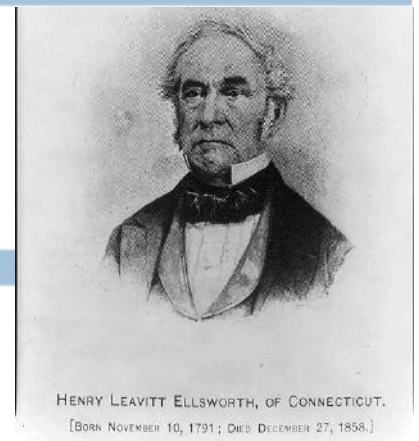
- Broadband service on the island is inadequate
 - Never sufficient to operate any meaningful uplink service
 - Examples: video conferencing, VPNs, off-site backup, large file sharing such as pictures from modern phones
 - Frequently so congested that basic web services and email are unusable
 - Subject to hours or days long outages with no explanation or service credits
- Service failures extend to voice and E911

How much is enough?

"The advancement of the arts, from year to year, taxes our credulity and seems to presage the arrival of that period when human improvement must end."

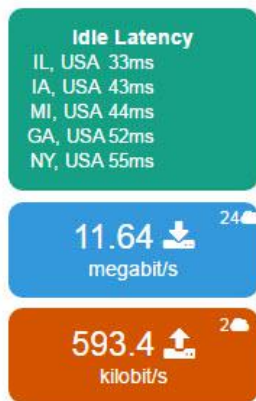
Broadband on Beaver Island

- Island was “excited” to have 45-48 kbps in 2002.
- Even more excited when DSL delivered 3 mbps in 2008 —but only on the north end.
- Island-wide (95%) with 10 mbps down and 768 kbps up in 2010
- Delivered speeds at peak times have deteriorated since then.
- Even at full speed, we are falling behind,



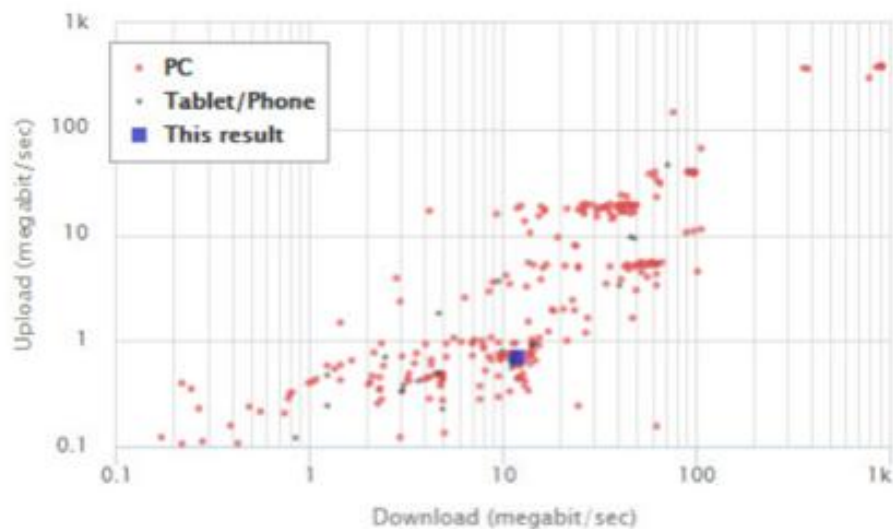
Poor report card

DSL Reports Speed Test run at 4:00 a.m. at Greenes Bay graded against average cable delivered internet service in US



Falling behind

DSL Reports Speed Test run at 4:00 a.m. at Greenes Bay graded against average cable delivered internet service in US



Speed faster download than 12% on Cable in united states

Falling behind

- Average speed in D.C. was 24 mbps in 1Q2016
 - Up 13% from prior quarter and 48% from prior year
- Average peak speed (based on large file downloads) in DC was 93 mbps in 1Q2016
- Nationwide average speed in 1Q2016 was 15.3 mbps
 - Up 7.7% QoQ and 29% YoY
- Nationwide average peak speed was 67.8 mbps
 - Up 24% QoQ and 38% YoY

Mobile data usage

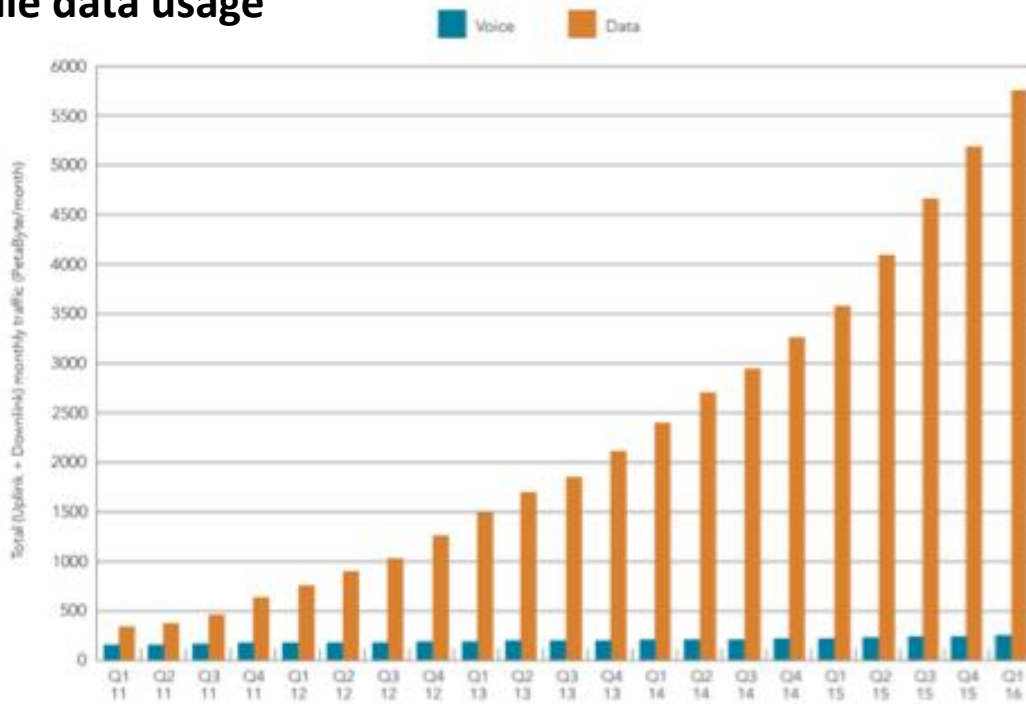


Figure 41: Total Monthly Mobile Voice and Data Traffic as Measured by Ericsson

Chokepoints



Plan for Beaver Island

Island needs to consider:

- Near term solution to alleviate bottle-neck across the lake
- Medium term solution to move speeds to keep pace with averages on mainland
- Long term solution to assure that service here remains competitive with mainland solutions available to our visitors and needs of those who might choose to live here

Examples to consider

- CMU has constructed their own microwave link to the mainland to deliver service to their facilities, BICS and other non-profits on the island
- WVBI operates a 100 mbps microwave internet service to deliver programming from its studio to its transmitter
- NMU deploying 4gLTE service at 25 mbps
- Islesboro, Maine has plan to implement fiber to the home project to deliver 1gbps internet to all island residents

Gigabit speed !?! Who needs that?

Consider...

- Work anywhere professionals
- Modern workplace trends
 - Not location based
 - Not time based
- Internet based island businesses
- Needs of vacationers
- Video delivery trends
- Economic future of the island

Next steps

- BIA is contacting TDS about state of current service in general and recent failures in particular
 - Follow up through state and federal elected officials & regulators
- Looking at options to provide near-term solution to over the lake bottleneck
- Studying medium and long-term solutions

"Sharing Solutions between Beaver Island, Michigan and Maine Island Communities

Building Local Capacity through Community Exchanges."



July 11, 2016
Beaver Island Community Center
Patrick McGinnity and Pam Grassmick

BIA's Decision to Move Forward



How did we get here? OGL offered connections, grants, and public input.

Why go to Maine?

- ◆ Ernie Martin
- ◆ Bill McDonough
- ◆ Kitty McNamara
- ◆ Patrick McGinnity
- ◆ Pam Grassmick



Task 1: Project Kick-off September 22, 2015



Task 2: Knowledge Exchange #1, Islesboro and Vinalhaven Islands (Maine) November 9-13, 2015 Patrick McGinnity

Maine Island Trip Debriefing Summary And Soliciting Volunteers

- ◆ Broadband/ cell phone service
- ◆ Healthcare/EMS
- ◆ Quality K-12 education
- ◆ Affordable Work Force Housing
- ◆ Improved Marketing
- ◆ Other lessons: Aging in Place, Island Fellows Program, and Young child program

Community Brain Storming Ideas to Consider 1/16/2016

- ◆ Marketing focused specifically on art
- ◆ Chamber of Tourism
- ◆ Island Manager/Township Manager
- ◆ Child Care/ possible use of space at school
- ◆ Summer Island Leadership Meeting-all boards coming together
- ◆ Housing/Zoning update to include "micro" housing
- ◆ CMU/other public universities-work with communities
- ◆ Develop an Island Asset list-What we have?
- ◆ Rename "affordable housing" with something more positive
- ◆ Improve communications with EMS/Health Center

Task #3 Knowledge
Exchange: Maine
Islanders to Beaver
Island
April 26-29, 2016



Lessons Learned and Path Forward

We are ready!

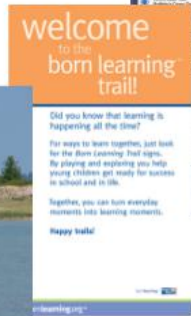
- ◆ Comments from each of the Beaver Islanders regarding a valuable lesson learned from exchange expressed at various venues.
- ◆ Based on perspective from the Beaver Island community initiate enthusiastic Work Groups and Enlist Volunteers.
- ◆ Complete Beaver Island Asset Summary-other additions?
- ◆ Regularly Scheduled Public Updates on Priority Issue Progress.
- ◆ Continued Collaboration with OGL/Island Institute on tangible list of tasks through monthly conference calls with Island Institute's Community Development and OGL.
- ◆ Continue to develop the idea and pursue funding for an Island Fellowship program here on Beaver Island.
- ◆ Set stage for transferring lessons learned and broader engagement.



Beaver Island Priority Areas: Seasonal and Year-around
Islanders working together for a brighter future!

The Trials of Trails Beaver Island Association-- 2016

- Beaver Island Birding Trail
- Waterways Trail
- Born Learning Trail
- DNR Trails



Beaver Island Birding Trail-- 2016 Warblers on the Water 27-29 May 2016

- 50 attendees (some new)
- 4 Saturday, 2 Sunday field trips
- windshield birding/Birding 101/ mist netting
- all field trips filled
- web site/Facebook very active
- fall 2015 pelagic tour

FUTURE PLANS

- interactive web site
 - photos of all birding sites
- more field trips
 - grant to fund transportation?
 - small charge for field trips?

BIBT accolades

Saving Birds Thru Habitat
Conservation Partner of the Year--
the Beaver Island Community



Tawas Birding Festival

Invitation to present on BIBT and
Phragmites control efforts

*You are invited to attend
Saving Birds Thru Habitat's
Nest Builders' Appreciation Reception
Time 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Thursday, July 21
Nest Builders' Appreciation Reception
Special Conservation Partner of the Year
The Community of Beaver Island
Address: 5090 North Putnam Omena, Michigan
Please R.S.V.P.
Refreshments will be served.*



Michigan Great Lakes Water Trails



Development of Beaver Island Waterways Trail:

- \$10,000 recreational grant from Charlevoix County/held by Peaine TWP
 - used for matching funds for larger grant
- \$42,000 grant to MI DEQ Coastal Zone Management Program
 - Land Information Access Association (LIAA) help
 - elevated camp sites, fire pits, plant surveys, interpretive signs on DNR land
 - signage to showcase botany, cultural history, dark skies
 - should know soon if grant awarded



Born Learning Trail
United Way public engagement campaign
for early childhood education



- funding from Leadership Charlevoix and United Way
- signs at Jewel Gillespie Park, BICC, and Beaver Island Library
- volunteers needed to put up signs (contact Pam Grassmick)



DNR Trails

- two CMU students hired by DNR
- trail surveys (GPS)
- minor trail clean-up
- invasive species documentation
- recommendations to DNR

2016 Piping Plovers on High Island

- one pair/ 4 chicks hatched/banded
- one unpaired male

