

The Beaver Island Association

*Supporting Environmental and
Economic Sustainability*

Minutes for Beaver Island Association Board Meeting Tuesday, August 22, 2017 1:30 – 4:00pm

Attending: Bob Anderson, Kevin Boyle, Don Fix, Pam Grassmick, Jim Jones, Beth Leuck, Ken McDonald,
Sheri Richards, Bob Tidmore; off-island Taffy Raphael & Alana Vicstein

1. Kevin reviewed our financial status. \$1500 from CD has been rolled into the checking account. Pam will check with the BIBT website supplier to identify where online registration fees for the spring event are located.
2. Moved by Bob A., seconded by Ken M. that Alan Vicstein be elected Treasurer, unanimously supported.
3. Pam reviewed the timing for the Island Fellow arriving the 2nd week of September. A meet and greet will be scheduled in coordination with the Community Center following the arrival of the Fellow that will include a brief presentation on her assignment and reporting relationship.
4. Pam & Kevin reviewed the status of planning for the Sept. 25-26 Island Summit. The pig roast is scheduled for the GL Islands Summit as part of the meet and greet on Monday, September 25th. This will provide an opportunity for the Beaver Island community to meet other islanders from across the Great Lakes. BIA Board members are encouraged to participate if they are available, and need to register at: <https://www.northland.edu/event/islands-summit/>, indicating lodging is not needed. Broad press coverage, local and state-wide, will be pursued. BINN will be asked to broadcast and record much of the proceedings.
5. Kevin reviewed the NMU broadband initiative status. The initial tower load study indicated the equipment for the school link could not be supported as initially planned. An alternative using different mounting heights is being evaluated for feasibility. After this is finalized, next steps can be pursued, including alternative tower options and trying to identify the necessity of all the current components on the St. James tower (ATT & Verizon). Several members discussed the recent survey by a Great Lakes Energy contractor, and press released by TDS about improving BI internet service. Bob A. will try to reach a responsible company agent for both to get details of specifically “what & when” is being planned by each company.
6. Beth & Pam reviewed the Spring BIBT event and plans to include several lecture/presentation events next Spring in addition to the field trips.
7. Pam reviewed the Waterways Trail project, recognizing the work Ed & Beth Leuck did to survey the prospective sites for invasive and endangered species as part of the DNR review process. Final plans are on schedule for DNR approval this calendar year, then funds will be pursued for implementation.
8. Beth & Pam reviewed invasives survey & treatment activities. We need to pursue the township position of Phragmites Coordinator that continues to be vacant and should be our official link to the CAKE organization.
9. The ESA RFP was discussed. Don was off-island when the submissions were received and discussed, but Pam was at the ESA meeting when Brian Meade expressed appreciation for the relationship formed with companies that responded and their willingness to share and help, even without a formal contractual relationship. Related discussion involved the recent action by the BIRHC to not renew the contract with Wendy White for on-island dental service. Bob A. offered to approach the health center board on its plan for getting a new dental partner so we could include it in our Fall newsletter.
10. Ken reviewed the plan for Beach Clean-Up on September 16. Lots of discussion of how to get it more broadly supported, including school participation as community service. Ken will meet with the new principal/superintendent and Sheri offered to help and handle coordination next year.

12. Bob T. reviewed the Planning Commission activities including township adoption of the Master Plan, the upcoming County Planning Commission meeting on BI on Sept. 7, and the lack of progress on the county building (old lumber yard) due to excessive bid costs to modify the building for its intended multiple uses. Issues around gravel and salt storage have been discussed, but at this point no action is underway due to construction cost and lack of anyone at the county level making it a priority.

13. Plans for the Fall newsletter were discussed. It was agreed that the efforts of Kevin and Alan at the annual meeting to update emails for members who renewed have us positioned to use email distribution for those with good addresses, and Sheri will send out a postcard to about thirty who have incorrect addresses on file to see if they can be corrected. Newsletter timing will be mid-late November and highlight our Island Fellow, Island Summit & NMU initiatives.

14. Website cost/hosting/maintenance was discussed, as well as our ability to accommodate electronic payment of dues and activity fees. Jim designed our BIA site using WordPress and it has a private host and manager. The BIBT site was designed and hosted by a contractor who had done other birding sites but uses a different design protocol and generates fees for routine updates on content. A good chunk of our dues is going to web site costs that could be reduced and streamlined. Beth offered to work with Jim and Kevin to learn to transition the BIBT site to WordPress and, including Pam, recommend consolidating hosting in a more cost efficient manner. Ability to accept electronic payments will also be included, and possibly separate bank accounts for those activities with electronic payment.

15. The idea of holding an island-wide meeting of non-profit organizations was discussed. Several issues were dismissed as off-limits, such as coordinating fund raising or member contact information, but there was consensus that we need a better method of communication of who is doing what and when. The WVBI calendar is the closest tool in place so far, but it is not universally used. It was agreed this would be an excellent vehicle for our Island Fellow to get introduced to the island NGO's and give some insight to her project on communication, and will be pursued for later this fall.

Prepared by Bob Anderson