

BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES 7/13/19

I. Attendees

- A. *Officers:* Rick Anderson, Mary Topelian, A.J. Gappa, Kathy Laiter
- B. *Directors:* Diane Blais, Aileen Collura, Rich Linkus, Rik Ritzler, Gayle Smith, Ron Vendl
- C. *Absent:* Cindy Hunter
- D. *# of Property Owners/Guests Attending:* 37

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rick Anderson asked if anyone would like to speak to please raise their hand, be acknowledged, state their name and then make their contribution(s).

II. Minutes

Minutes of the June 1, 2019 Property Owner's meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Mary Topelian with a second by Gayle Smith to approve the minutes. The minutes were "approved" and will be posted on the BLPOA website.

III. Treasurer's Report

The June treasurer's report was reviewed, approved for audit and will be posted on the BLPOA website.

OPERATING FUND/MONEY MARKET:	JUNE
Beginning Balance	35,514.54
Deposits / Trans.	65,000.00
Interest	61.64
Ending Balance	100,576.18
MISC:	
CD	100,000.00
Grant Checking Account	25.00
GENERAL CHECKING ACCOUNT :	
Beginning Balance	52,473.19
Disbursements	73,535.39
Rec'd: Memberships / Rentals / Deposits / Social Committee / Transfers / Directories / Recycling	44,376.00
Ending Balance	23,313.80
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS	223,914.98

IV. Elections

Ballots were distributed. Aileen Collura and Diane Blais thanked the Board and each gave a few departing words. Three of the four candidates running for election introduced themselves and gave some background on themselves. They are Gayle Smith (incumbent), Zac Binkley, Terry Chmiel and the secretary, Kathy Laiter, read a bio on behalf of John Bucher as he was not able to attend. Once done the votes were cast and the two judges, Lois Huntington and Laura Loudember, collected and counted the ballots.

The new Board members for a two year term are Gayle Smith, Zac Binkley and Terry Chmiel. Rick Anderson stated that for personal reasons Cindy Hunter needs to resign from the Board and John Bucher will be appointed to complete her one year term. Rick thank Lois and Laura for their assistance with the election.

V. Guest Speakers

Rick Anderson introduced Detective Lawson who reported on the various types of calls in the County year-to-day and stated there have been 27 over doses in the County year-to-date with 7 fatalities. A question was asked about the number of speeding tickets written around the lake. Detective Lawson stated that overall they have been writing more tickets this year but did not have the exact numbers on the various locations. He advised us that they are down a couple of officers and with vacations they are operating with a lean police force. The Sheriff's Department is in the process of interviewing and hiring additional officers.

Alex Quick, our new DNR Officer, introduced himself and stated this was his second year at Bass Lake. Should anyone need to reach him they are able to contact the Sheriff's Department and they are able to reach him. He stated he has been focusing on sobriety. A question was asked about the new boat stickers and what to do as they are not sticking and fall off/get lost. Alex stated that you can reach out to the BMV and hopefully they will not charge you for a replacement as they are aware of this issue. He further noted that everyone should carry their registration on your boat as you do in your car. A question was asked about boats pulling skiers and wave runners when it was almost dark. Alex stated that he currently works split shifts so he is working days and evenings. The audience recommended he patrol on a Friday or Saturday evening for wave runners and skiers on the lake.

Rick Anderson introduced Pete Callan from Republic. Pete explained the garbage and recycling processes and stated if you need a second can the fee is \$42 per year. The second can needs to be coordinated directly with Republic and not with the BLPOA. Pete noted that a garbage man's job is the sixth most dangerous job. Pete explained that when recyclables go to the recycling facility the items go through a sorting process and items that cannot be used are pulled. Pete noted that if you do not see a triangle/number then toss plastic bottles... "when in doubt throw out". Pete reported that the first recycle pick-up looked pretty good. A question was asked what could be done for someone who is not recycling properly. Pete explained that the driver has a camera on the truck and sees what is being dumped. The driver can put a tag on the can and eventually they will be "flushed out". He explained that there are fliers on the table and invited everyone to take one as it clarifies what can be recycled. We need to remember the motto.... "empty, clean & dry".

VI. Stellar Community

Rik Ritzler and Rick Anderson gave an update on the progress of the Stellar Community effort. They said they would be making a request to the BLPOA Board to commit some money over a four year time period to the project. The success of the project will require organizations and individuals to contribute showing their support. Rick stated we need to

hold a Board meeting and make a presentation to give the Board members a better understanding for the vote at the August meeting. If Starke County wins they would get about \$16M in grant money. If we do not win we will reapply next year and this year the County would still be awarded about \$333,000.

Two projects that directly affect us are an upgrade at Bass Lake beach in the house area to include an 8,000-12,000 sq. ft. rental space, board walk, and floating water park. The deadline to submit everything is in September. Larry Wickert is the Chairman of the Executive Committee. There are several smaller committees to further the project. The County is also making a very large commitment to support a long-term position to manage the beach. The Park Board is working with Rich Callahan to run the beach for the next eight years

Rik explained there are connector projects as well running from Bass Lake to Knox, Knox to North Judson, and North Judson to San Pierre. There will also be a trail to Baileys and the addition of a trail hub to include bathrooms.

Ron Vendl stated that Dan Kager, a local builder, has offered to construct a brick “Welcome to Bass Lake” sign at the intersection that was recently redone (similar to those at Boa Shores). If we come up with a design Dan will do the work for free and the BLPOA would cover the cost for the material. Larry Wickert works with an architectural firm and will ask about creating a design.

VII. Beautification Committee

Gayle Smith advised some of the flower pots around the lake have been upgraded and “Welcome to Bass Lake” added to them. She stated the flowers need watering every day when there is no rain and is looking for assistance. Gayle noted that the Directors’ clean-up day on July 1st was successful. The Directors pitched in cleaning and doing some maintenance around the building. Ron will be refurbishing the lights on the front of the building. They are looking for some new ideas for next year so should you have anything please reach out directly to Gayle. A question was asked about the small lake by the new three way stop sign on CR 210. Rik Ritzler stated that once it dries up the County will return to clean up and fill in the area but cannot do so until it dries up.

VIII. Social Committee

Rick Anderson stated the annual bike ride would be next weekend. There was some confusion as to the meeting time and Rick clarified that anyone interested should meet at the BLPOA building at 8 Central/9 Eastern.

Mary Topelian noted that the festival was coming up fast -- the last full weekend of July – and there are schedules on the back table for everyone to pick one up. Mary further explained that the festival is about participation and not just a look and see. There will be one change this year to the run/walk. The walking portion will now be 3K. Volunteers are still needed for events so please consider donating an hour or two of your time. The Miss Bass Lake competition is next Saturday, a week before the festival, and all kids, grandchildren, and neighbors should enter. Mary stated that this year the festival t-shirts are going fast so you need to get yours early as they are running out of sizes.

Mary stated the Soup Social is scheduled for October 19 at 5:00 pm. The cost is \$5 and you are able to taste and vote on your favorite soup. Last year there were about two dozen to try. At the Soup Social the winners of the Falltastic Yard competition will also be voted on and announced.

IX. Building Rentals

Diane Blais advised that we had a last minute rental in June and none in July but the building will be used for the festival. The entire building is rented Labor Day weekend; waiting on payment.

X. Building Maintenance

Ron Vendl stated he will be cleaning the lights out front and replacing bulbs. He noted that the timers on the lights need to be adjusted due to recent power outages.

Ron advised everyone that there will be new Saturday times for the Festival Historical Tram rides. This year they will be at 10, 12, 2 and 4. He explained the main reason for the Saturday change is lack of participation for the 9 a.m. tour. He stated that this year the Historical Society would also offer a 36 page booklet of what will be used on the tour. The cost is \$4 with a tram ticket or \$5 separately.

A question was asked about repainting the handicapped lines in the parking lot as they have faded. It was explained that Rick Anderson and Mary Topelian are in the process of getting quotes. They were to have three but as of today only one has come in. The quote is about \$5,400 and includes cutting out and repairing the front where it floods as well as repainting all lines. We are hoping to have additional quotes by our next meeting.

XI. Neighborhood Watch

Rik Ritzler shared the results from early December and early July for the average daily number of vehicles from 625 E to Sportyz. The December average was 525 vehicles a day of which 52% were going 31 mph or more. The July daily average was 2,400 a day and only 11% went faster than 31 mph. There were a few higher speeds but generally people are driving slower during the summer months. A question was asked if the numbers include golf carts and motorcycles. Rik explained that the monitor is able to tell the difference between trucks, cars and motorcycles but does not capture golf carts. He further explained that this can be requested to be done around the lake. You would need to do it two times a year and it does take some time to retrieve the data.

Ron Vendl stated the next meeting is scheduled for August 5 at 6:00 p.m.

XII. Buoy Update

Gary Laiter stated that things are going well and the DNR confirmed we are doing ok with the placement. He indicated that we are in need for some additional rock and ice buoys. He noted that one buoy broke loose and floated to someone's home. They reached out to him and he retrieved it. Gary asked that should anyone find a loose buoy to contact him. After a discussion regarding additional buoys Aileen Collura made a motion to purchase the needed buoys, seconded by Mary Topelian and approved.

Gary gave a brief overview of buoy placement and the advantage of having a hand held GPS system where all can be tracked and coordinates maintained. The device would cost about \$99 and would be handed from one buoy master to the next. Diane Blais made a motion, seconded by Mary Topelian and approved by the Board to secure the GPS.

XIII. Bass Lake Conservancy District

Larry Collura stated that there is a current rain chart through June on the table for everyone's review. He mentioned that the pump was turned on for the first time since last fall.

Larry reminded us that milfoil is the only invasive plant that the State will let us treat. The BLCD was allowed to treat 3.3 acres by the launch ramp. Larry stated that last year we had 22 acres and only a half-acre was treated. This year we had 62 acres.

Aquatic Control is doing a survey and will report to the conservancy. Larry stated that while the lake is restocked we need to remember that some weeds are needed for the fish. A question was asked how large an area can a homeowner treat. A property owner is allowed to treat 625 sq. feet in front of their home. If anyone is having issues you are asked to email the BLCD.

The BLCD website has been updated and everyone is invited to visit it. Larry stated that their forms are now posted on the website.

XIV. Healthy Lake & Shoreline

Kathy Carrier invited everyone to pick up a summary page located on the back table. She stated that there have been 44 homeowners who have applied for Lake and River Enhancement grant money for glacial stone refacing projects for their shoreline. We will find out in July or August if we will receive funding from the State. All improvements would take place between the time the grant monies are announced and the expiration date which could be the end of next year or later.

The Indiana Lakes Management Society Conference was very informative. Volunteers met from various lakes. Our Healthy Shoreline work was the topic of the DNR presentation; Bass Lake attendees were proud!

This is our second year in the Indiana University Clean Lakes program. Rick Anderson, Kathy Carrier, Rich Linkus, Phil Woolery from Purdue and other volunteers collect samples on a monthly basis and turn the data into IU. This scientific study adds credibility to our Healthy Shoreline work. There will be an information table at the Bass Lake Festival to further educate our property owners about Healthy Shoreline issues.

The Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams is located in Warsaw and is a well-funded research center. They have a very large staff; their focus is solely to study the lakes in Kosciusko County. They assist Bass Lake regularly with our work, answering our questions, supplying articles for our newsletter, and participating in occasional scientific studies here at Bass Lake. The Lilly Center is a great partner for us.

We are also part of a new group which is a grass roots organization studying and providing education on invasive species plants in the lake.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m. The next meeting will be August 24 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Laiter
Secretary, BLPOA